Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary

N-Z

Volume 2

Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary

VOLUME 2

N–Z

Funk & Wagnalls Corporation

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N

n, N (en) *n. pl.* **n's** or **ns, N's** or **Ns, ens** (enz) **1.** The fourteenth letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *n*, a voiced, alveolar nasal. — *symbol* **1.** *Printing* An en. **2.** *Chem.* Nitrogen (symbol N). **3.** *Math.* An indefinite number.

nab (nab) *v.t.* **nabbed, nab·bing** *Informal* **1.** To catch or arrest, as a fugitive or criminal. **2.** To take or seize suddenly; snatch. [Prob. of Scand. origin]

na·bob (nā′bob) *n.* **1.** A European who has become rich in India. **2.** Any very rich or powerful man. [< Hind. *nawwāb* < Arabic *nuwwab*, pl. of *nā'ib* viceroy]

na·celle (nə·sel′) *n. Aeron.* A separate enclosure on an aircraft, esp. one for an engine. [< F, small boat]

na·cre (nā′kər) *n.* Mother-of-pearl. [< F < Ital. *naccara* < Arabic *naqqāra* drum]

na·cre·ous (nā′krē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Containing, resembling, or producing nacre. **2.** Iridescent; pearly.

Na-Dene (nə·dēn′) *n.* A group of related North American Indian languages. Also **Na-Dé·né′** (-dā·nā′).

na·dir (nā′dər, -dir) *n.* **1.** The point of the celestial sphere directly beneath the position of an observer, and opposite to the zenith. **2.** The lowest possible point: opposed to *zenith*. [< MF < Arabic *nazīr* (*as-samt*) opposite (the zenith)]

nae (nā) *adj. & adv. Scot.* No; not.

nag[1] (nag) *v.* **nagged, nag·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To bother or annoy by repeatedly urging, scolding, carping, etc. — *v.i.* **2.** To urge, scold, carp, etc., continually. — *n.* One who nags. [< Scand.] — **nag′ger** *n.* — **nag′ging·ly** *adv.*

nag[2] (nag) *n.* **1.** A pony or small horse used for riding. **2.** An old, broken-down, or worthless horse. [ME *nagge*]

Na·hua·tl (nä′wät′l) *n.* **1.** The Uto-Aztecan language of the Aztecs and certain other Indian peoples. **2.** The peoples whose native language is Nahuatl. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Nahuatl or the people who speak it.

Na·hua·tlan (nä′wät·lən) *n.* **1.** A branch of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family of North and Central American Indians, including the Aztec dialects. **2.** Nahuatl. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Nahuatl or Nahuatlan.

Na·hum (nā′əm, -hum) Seventh-century B.C. Hebrew prophet. — *n.* A book of the Old Testament containing his prophecies. [< Hebrew, comfort]

nai·ad (nā′ad, nī′-) *n. pl.* **·ads** or **·a·des** (-ə·dēz) **1.** In classical mythology, one of the water nymphs believed to dwell in and preside over fountains, springs, rivers, lakes, and wells. **2.** *Entomol.* The aquatic nymphal stage in the life cycle of certain insects. [< L < Gk. *Naias, -ades.*]

na·if (nä·ēf′) *adj. French* Masculine form of NAIVE. Also **na·if′**.

nail (nāl) *n.* **1.** A slender piece of metal, usu. pointed at one end and broadened at the other, used for dirving into or through wood, etc., so as to hold or fasten one piece to another or to project as a peg. **2.** Something resembling a nail in shape or function. **3.** A thin, horny plate growing on one side of the ends of the fingers and toes of men and other primates. **4.** An animal part corresponding to the nail of a primate, as a claw, talon, or hoof. — **hard as nails** **1.** In good physical condition; rugged. **2.** Not to be moved by sentiment, pity, etc. — **to hit the nail on the head** To do or say something exactly to the point. — *v.t.* **1.** To fasten or fix in place with a nail or nails. **2.** To close up or shut in by means of nails: often with *up*. **3.** To secure or make certain through quick or decisive action: often with *down*. **4.** To fix firmly or immovably: Terror *nailed* him to the spot. **5.** *Slang* To catch or arrest; intercept. **6.** *Slang* To expose, as a lie or liar. [OE *nægl*, orig., fingernail.]

nail file A small, fine file for shaping the fingernails.

nail·fold (nāl′fōld′) *n. Anat.* The cuticle (def. 3).

nail polish A clear or colored lacquer or other substance applied to the nails to give a glossy finish. Also **nail enamel.**

nail·set (nāl′set′) *n.* A punch for driving the head of a nail below or even with a surface. Also **nail set.**

nain·sook (nān′sōōk, nan′-) *n.* A soft, lightweight cotton fabric. [< Hind. *nainsukh*, lit., pleasure of the eye]

na·ive (nä·ēv′) *adj.* **1.** Having an unaffected or simple nature that lacks worldly experience; artless. **2.** Lacking or revealing the lack of deliberate or careful analysis; uncritical: a *naive* idea. **3.** Uninstructed: a *naive* observer. Also **na·ïve′**. [< F, fem. of *naïf* < L *nativus* natural, inborn] — **na·ive′ly** *adv.* — **na·ive′ness** *n.*

na·ive·té (nä·ēv′tā′, nä·ēv′tā) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being naive. **2.** An incident, remark, etc., of a naive character. Also **na·ïve′té′, na·ive·ty** (nä·ēv′tē). [< F]

na·ked (nā′kid) *adj.* **1.** Having no clothes on; nude. **2.** Having no covering, or lacking the usual covering; exposed. **3.** Bare or stripped, as of vegetation, furnishings, ornaments, etc. **4.** Without addition, adornment, or qualification; stark: the *naked* truth. **5.** Unaided by an optical instrument: the *naked* eye. **6.** Open or exposed to view: a *naked* sword. **7.** Without defense or protection; vulnerable. **8.** Being without means of sustenance; destitute. **9.** *Bot.* **a** Not enclosed in an ovary or case: said of seeds. **b** Without protective scales: said of buds. **c** Without a perianth: said of flowers. **d** Without leaves: said of stalks. **e** Having no hairs; smooth: said of leaves. **10.** *Zool.* Lacking fur, hair, feathers, etc. [OE *nacod*] — **na′ked·ly** *adv.* — **na′ked·ness** *n.*

nam·by-pam·by (nam′bē·pam′bē) *adj.* **1.** Full of or exhibiting weak sentimentality; insipid. **2.** Timid and irresolute. — *n. pl.* **·bies** One who is namby-pamby. [< The title of a satiric poem by Henry Carey, died 1743.]

name (nām) *n.* **1.** A word or group of words by which a person, thing, animal, class, or concept is distinctively known or referred to; esp., the proper appellation of a person or family. **2.** A usu. derogatory word or phrase evaluating character or quality: to call someone *names*. **3.** Popular or general reputation. **4.** A famous or important person, organization, or thing: a big *name* in industry. **5.** Mere semblance or outward form: a wife in *name* only. **6.** Fame or distinction. — **by the name of** Named. — **in the name of** **1.** For the sake of. **2.** By the authority of. — **to make a name for oneself** To achieve distinction or fame. — **to one's name** Of one's own: He hasn't a friend *to his name*. — *v.* **named, nam·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give a name to; call. **2.** To mention or refer to by name; cite. **3.** To identify. **4.** To fix or determine: to *name* the day. **5.** To nominate; appoint. — *adj.* **1.** Having or known by a name. **2.** *U.S. Informal* Famous. [OE *nama*] — **nam′er** *n.*

name day The feast day of the saint for whom one is named.

name·less (nām′lis) *adj.* **1.** Undistinguished or obscure: a *nameless* multitude. **2.** That cannot be named; indescribable: *nameless* terror. **3.** Not fit to be spoken of; unmentionable: *nameless* atrocities. **4.** Unmentioned by name. **5.** Having no name; esp., having no legal name; illegitimate. — **name′less·ly** *adv.* — **name′less·ness** *n.*

name·ly (nām′lē) *adv.* That is to say; to wit.

name·sake (nām′sāk′) *n.* One who is named after or has the same name as another.

nan·keen (nan·kēn′) *n.* **1.** A buff-colored Chinese cotton fabric. **2.** *pl.* Clothes made of nankeen. Also **nan·kin′** (-kēn′). [after *Nanking*, where originally made]

nan·ny (nan′ē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** *Informal* A female goat: also **nanny goat.** **2.** *Brit.* A child's nurse. [after *Nanny*, a personal name, dim. of *Ann*]

nano- *combining form* **1.** Exceedingly small. **2.** In the metric system and in technical usage, one billionth of (a specified unit). Also, before vowels, **nan-**. [< Gk. *nānos* dwarf]

Nantes, Edict of (nants, *Fr.* nänt) An order granting political equality to the Huguenots, issued by Henry IV of France in 1598 and revoked by Louis XIV in 1685.

Na·o·mi (nā·ō′mē, nā′ə·mē, -mī) In the Bible, the mother-in-law of Ruth. *Ruth* i 2. [< Hebrew, my delight]

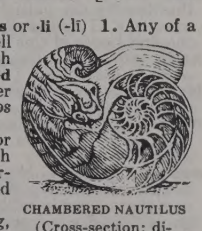
nap[1] (nap) *n.* A short sleep; doze. — *v.i.* **napped, nap·ping** **1.** To take a nap; doze. **2.** To be unprepared or off one's guard. [OE *hnappian* to doze]

nap[2] (nap) *n.* **1.** The short fibers forming a downy or fuzzy surface on flannel and certain other fabrics. **2.** A covering resembling this, as upon some plants. — *v.t.* **napped, nap·ping** To raise a nap on. [< MDu. *noppe*]

na·palm (nā′päm) *n.* A jellylike mixture that is combined with gasoline to form an incendiary fuel, as in bombs, flame throwers, etc. [< *na*(*phthenic*) and *palm*(*itic*) *acids*, chemical compounds used in its manufacture]

nape (nāp) *n.* The back of the neck. [Origin uncertain]
na·per·y (nā′pər·ē) *n. pl.* **·per·ies** Household linen, esp. napkins, tablecloths, etc. [See NAPKIN.]
Naph·ta·li (naf′tə·lī, -lē) In the Old Testament, a son of Jacob and Bilhah, Rachel's maid. *Gen.* xxx 7–8. — *n.* **1.** A tribe of Israel. **2.** The land occupied by the tribe of Naphtali. [< Hebrew, my wrestling]
naph·tha (naf′thə, nap′-) *n.* **1.** A volatile, colorless petroleum distillate intermediate between gasoline and benzene, used as a solvent, cleaning fluid, fuel, etc. **2.** Any similar substance obtained from another source, as from coal tar. **3.** Petroleum. [< L < Gk., prob. < Persian *naft* petroleum]
naph·tha·lene (naf′thə·lēn, nap′-) *n. Chem.* A colorless, odorous coal-tar compound, $C_{10}H_8$, used in the making of dyes, moth balls, etc. Also **naph′tha·line** (-lin, -lēn).
naph·thol (naf′thōl, -thol, nap′-) *n. Chem.* Either of two compounds, $C_{10}H_7OH$, derived from naphthalene and used in making dyes. Also **naph·tol** (naf′tol, -tōl, nap′-).
nap·kin (nap′kin) *n.* **1.** A small, usu. square cloth or paper, used at meals for wiping the hands and mouth or protecting the clothes. **2.** A small piece of toweling. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* A diaper. [ME *napekyn*, < L *mappa* a cloth]
na·po·le·on (nə·pō′lē·ən, *Fr.* nà·pō·lā·ôn′) *n.* **1.** A rich pastry composed of layers of puff paste filled with cream, custard, etc. **2.** A former French gold coin. **3.** A card game. [after *Napoleon* Bonaparte]
Na·po·le·on·ic (nə·pō′lē·on′ik) *adj.* Characteristic of, pertaining to, or suggesting Napoleon Bonaparte.
Napoleonic Wars See table for WAR.
nappe (nap) *n.* **1.** The sheet of water overlying the top of a weir. **2.** *Geom.* In a cone, one of the two conical surfaces divided by the vertex. [< F, sheet]
nap·per[1] (nap′ər) *n.* One who takes naps.
nap·per[2] (nap′ər) *n.* One who or that which raises a nap.
nap·py[1] (nap′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** **1.** Having or coated with nap. **2.** Having a coarse or kinky quality, as hair.
nap·py[2] (nap′ē) *n. pl.* **·pies** *Brit. Informal* A baby's diaper. Also **nap′pie.** [< NAPKIN]
nar·cis·sism (när′sis·iz·əm, när·sis′iz·əm) *n.* **1.** Excessive admiration for or fascination with oneself. **2.** *Psychoanal.* The infantile stage of development in which the self is the object of one's erotic interest. Also **nar·cism** (när′siz·əm). [< NARCISSUS] — **nar′cis·sist** *n.* — **nar′cis·sis′tic** *adj.*
nar·cis·sus (när·sis′əs) *n. pl.* **·cis·sus·es** or **·cis·si** (-sis′ī) Any of various bulbous flowering plants of the amaryllis family, including the daffodil and jonquil.
Nar·cis·sus (när·sis′əs) In Greek mythology, a youth who fell in love with his own image in water and pined away for it until he died and changed into the narcissus.
narco- *combining form* Torpor; insensibility. Also, before vowels, **narc-**. [< Gk. *narkē* numbness]
nar·co·sis (när·kō′sis) *n.* Deep stupor produced by a drug.
nar·co·syn·the·sis (när′kō·sin′thə·sis) *n. Psychiatry* Therapy using narcotics to enable the patient to recall and relive painful experiences and minimize their hidden effects.
nar·cot·ic (när·kot′ik) *n.* **1.** A drug, as opium or morphine, that relieves pain and induces sleep, but may be habit-forming. **2.** One who is addicted to the use of narcotics. **3.** Anything that deadens or soothes. — *adj.* **1.** Capable of producing narcosis or stupor. **2.** Pertaining to, like, or induced by a narcotic or narcotics. **3.** Of, relating to, or for narcotic addicts or their treatment. [< L < Gk. < *narkē* torpor] — **nar·cot′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
nar·co·tism (när′kə·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** Addiction to narcotics. **2.** Narcosis.
nar·co·tize (när′kə·tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** To bring under the influence of a narcotic; stupefy. — **nar′co·ti·za′tion** *n.*
nard (närd) *n.* **1.** Spikenard. **2.** Any of several aromatic plants or roots formerly used in medicine. [< OF < L < Gk. *nardos*, prob. < Semitic]
nar·es (nâr′ēz) *n. pl. of* **nar·is** (nâr′is) *Anat.* Openings into the nasal cavities; esp., the nostrils. [< L, nostrils] — **nar·i·al** (nâr′ē·əl), **nar·ine** (nâr′in, -īn) *adj.*
nar·ghi·le (när′gə·lā) *n.* A hookah. Also **nar′gi·le, nar′gi·leh.** [< F < Persian < *nārgil* coconut]
Nar·ra·gan·set (nar′ə·gan′sit) *n. pl.* **·set** or **·sets** **1.** One of a tribe of North American Indians of Algonquian stock, formerly inhabiting Rhode Island. **2.** The language of this tribe. Also **Nar′ra·gan′sett.**
nar·rate (na·rāt′, nar′āt) *v.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To tell or relate, as a story. **2.** To speak in accompaniment and explanation of (a motion picture, television program, etc.). — *v.i.* **3.** To tell a story, etc. [< L *narratus*, pp. of *narrare* to relate] — **nar·ra·tor** or **nar·rat·er** (na·rāt′ər, nar′ā·tər) *n.*
nar·ra·tion (na·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of narrating. **2.** A narrative. **3.** An account that narrates, as in fiction, etc.
nar·ra·tive (nar′ə·tiv) *n.* **1.** Something narrated, as an account, story, or tale. **2.** The act, art, or process of narrating. — *adj.* Of the nature of, pertaining to, or dealing with narration: a *narrative* poem. — **nar′ra·tive·ly** *adv.*
nar·row (nar′ō) *adj.* **1.** Having little width, esp. in comparison with length: not broad. **2.** Limited or small, as in extent or scope: *narrow* ambition. **3.** Narrow-minded. **4.** Nearly unsuccessful or disastrous: a *narrow* escape. **5.** Exhibiting or characterized by small means or resources. **6.** Minute or detailed; painstaking: *narrow* search. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become narrow or narrower, as in width or scope. — *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* A narrow passage; esp., the narrowest part of a strait, isthmus, etc. **2.** A narrow or contracted part, as of a street or valley. [OE *nearu*] — **nar′·row·ness** *n.*
nar·row-gauge (nar′ō·gāj′) *adj.* Designed for or having a width of railroad track less than 56½ inches. Also **nar′row-gage′, nar′row-gaged′, nar′row-gauged′.**
narrow gauge A narrow-gauge railway, locomotive, or car.
nar·row·ly (nar′ō·lē) *adv.* **1.** Barely; hardly. **2.** So as to be narrow. **3.** In a narrow manner.
nar·row-mind·ed (nar′ō·mīn′did) *adj.* Having or characterized by narrow views or sentiments; illiberal; bigoted. — **nar′row-mind′ed·ly** *adv.* — **nar′row-mind′ed·ness** *n.*
nar·whal (när′wəl -hwəl) *n.* A large, arctic cetacean having in the male a long, straight, spiral tusk, and valued for its oil and ivory. Also **nar′wal, nar·whale** (när′wāl′, -hwāl′). [< Dan. or Sw. *narhval*]
na·sal (nā′zəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the nose. **2.** *Phonet.* Produced with the voice passing partially or wholly through the nose, as (m), (n), and (ng), and the French nasal vowels. **3.** Characterized by or suggestive of a sound so produced. — *n.* **1.** *Phonet.* A nasal sound. **2.** *Anat.* A part of the nose, as a bone. [< NL < L *nasus* nose] — **na·sal·i·ty** (nā·zal′ə·tē) *n.* — **na′sal·ly** *adv.*
na·sal·ize (nā′zəl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give a nasal sound to. — *v.i.* **2.** To produce nasal sounds instead of oral ones. — **na′sal·i·za′tion** *n.*
nas·cent (nā′sənt, nas′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Beginning to exist or develop; newly conceived. **2.** *Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or being in the nascent state. [< L *nascens, -centis*, ppr. of *nasci* to be born] — **nas′cence, nas′cen·cy** *n.*
nascent state *Chem.* The uncombined condition of an atom in its most active state at the moment of its liberation from a compound. Also **nascent condition.**
naso- *combining form* **1.** Nose. **2.** Nasal and. [< L *nasus* nose]
na·stur·tium (nə·stûr′shəm) *n.* **1.** Any of various garden plants with funnel-shaped flowers, commonly yellow, orange, or red. **2.** A rich yellow or reddish orange color. [< L, cress < *nasus* nose + *tortus*, pp. of *torquere* to twist]
nas·ty (nas′tē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** **1.** Offensive to the sense of taste or smell; disgusting. **2.** Indecent; obscene: *nasty* language. **3.** Disagreeable; unpleasant: *nasty* weather. **4.** Mean, spiteful, or ill-natured: a *nasty* remark. **5.** Serious or painful: a *nasty* cut. [< Du. *nestig* or Sw. *naskug* filthy] — **nas′ti·ly** *adv.* — **nas′ti·ness** *n.*
-nasty *combining form Biol.* An automatic response to a (specified) stimulus, or in a (specified) direction or character. [< Gk. *nastos* close-pressed]
na·tal (nāt′l) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to one's birth. **2.** *Poetic* Native: said of a place. [< L *nasci* to be born]
na·ta·to·ry (nā′tə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or adapted for swimming. Also **na′ta·to′ri·al.**
Natch·ez (nach′iz) *n. pl.* **Natch·ez** One of a tribe of North American Indians of Muskhogean stock, formerly inhabiting the lower Mississippi valley.
Na·than (nā′thən) In the Bible, a prophet who denounced David for the death of Uriah. II *Sam.* xii 1. [< Hebrew *nāthān* he gave]
Na·than·a·el (nə·than′ē·əl, -than′yəl) A disciple of Jesus. *John* xxi 1. [< Hebrew, gift of God]
na·tion (nā′shən) *n.* **1.** A body of persons associated with a particular territory, usu. organized under a government, and possessing a distinctive cultural and social way of life. **2.** A body of persons having a common origin and language. **3.** A tribe or federation, esp. of American Indians. [< F < L *nasci* to be born]
— **Syn.** **1.** A *nation* is primarily the people under one government; a *state* is an independent *nation*. The words are often interchanged, but *nation* stresses ethnic unity, while *state* stresses political autonomy. We may speak of the many *nations* that made up the ancient Roman *state*. *Country* is primarily geographical, a region of the earth distinct from others by its topographical features or political character; Montenegro is a *country*, but no longer a *state*.
na·tion·al (nash′ən·əl, nash′nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, belonging to, or representative of a nation as a whole. **2.** Characteristic of or peculiar to a particular nation. — *n.* A subject or citizen of a nation. [< F] — **na′tion·al·ly** *adv.*
national bank *U.S.* A commercial bank organized by federal statute and chartered by the national government. **2.** A bank associated with the national finances.
National Guard An organized militia force of a State, a Territory, or the District of Columbia, maintained in part by the U.S. government and subject to federal service in

national emergencies.
na·tion·al·ism (nash′ən·əl·iz′əm, nash′nəl-) *n.* **1.** Devotion, often chauvinistic, to one's own nation. **2.** The belief or doctrine that among nations the common welfare is best served by independent rather than collective or cooperative action. **3.** A desire or movement for national independence. — **na′tion·al·ist** *adj. & n.* — **na′tion·al·is′tic** *adj.* — **na′tion·al·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
na·tion·al·i·ty (nash′ən·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A body of people having the same traditions, language, or ethnic origin, and potentially or actually constituting a nation. **2.** The state or fact of being related to a particular nation, as by birth or citizenship. **3.** National character or quality. **4.** The fact or quality of existing as a nation.
na·tion·al·ize (nash′ən·əl·iz′, nash′nəl-) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To place (the industries, resources, etc., of a nation) under the control or ownership of the state. **2.** To make national, as in character or scope. **3.** To accept as a national; naturalize. Also *Brit.* **na′tion·al·ise′.** — **na′tion·al·i·za′tion** *n.* — **na′tion·al·iz′er** *n.*
National League See under MAJOR LEAGUE.
National Socialism See under NAZI.
Nation of Islam See under BLACK MUSLIM.
na·tion-wide (nā′shən·wīd′) *adj.* Extending throughout the nation.
na·tive (nā′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Born in a particular place or region: a *native* New Yorker. **2.** Linked to one by birth or by conditions existing at the time and place of one's birth: *native* language. **3.** Produced, originated, or grown in a particular region or country; indigenous. **4.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of any particular area or its inhabitants. **5.** Natural rather than acquired; inborn: *native* shrewdness. **6.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the original inhabitants, chiefly nonwhites, of areas recently discovered or settled by foreigners: *native* ritual. **7.** Occurring in nature in a pure state: *native* copper. — *n.* **1.** A permanent or lifelong resident of a country or region. **2.** One who was born in a specified country or place. **3.** An original inhabitant of a country or region; aborigine. **4.** An animal, plant, or mineral found only in a specified country or place. [< F < L < *nasci* to be born.] — **na′tive·ly** *adv.* — **na′tive·ness** *n.*
— **Syn.** (adj.) **1, 3.** indigenous, endemic.
na·tive-born (nā′tiv·bôrn′) *adj.* Born in the region or country specified.
na·tiv·i·ty (nā·tiv′ə·tē, nə-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Birth, esp. with regard to the time, place, or circumstances surrounding it. **2.** In astrology, a horoscope taken at the time of one's birth. [< OF < L *nativitas*]
Na·tiv·i·ty (nā·tiv′ə·tē, nə-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The birth of Christ: with *the*. **2.** A representation in a painting, drama, etc., of the birth of Christ. **3.** Christmas Day.
NATO (nā′tō) North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
na·tri·um (nā′trē·əm) *n.* Sodium. [< NL < F, ult. < Gk. *nitron* niter]
nat·ty (nat′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** Neat and smart, as in dress or appearance: a *natty* vest. [? Akin to NEAT[1]] — **nat′ti·ly** *adv.* — **nat′ti·ness** *n.*
nat·u·ral (nach′ər·əl, nach′rəl) *adj.* **1.** Produced by or existing in nature; not artificial. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or involving nature or the study of nature. **3.** Derived from or defined by nature: *natural* day. **4.** Belonging to or existing in one's nature; innate: *natural* talent. **5.** Being so because of one's inherent ability, disposition, etc.: a *natural* athlete. **6.** Conforming to nature or to its usual or expected course: death from *natural* causes. **7.** Closely resembling nature; lifelike: a *natural* pose. **8.** Untouched by man or by the influences of civilization; wild. **9.** Free from affectation or awkwardness: *natural* manner. **10.** Derived from or consistent with the nature or essence of a thing; expected: *natural* conclusion. **11.** *Music* **a** Not sharped or flatted. **b** Denoting a scale or mode that is unaltered by accidentals. **12.** Physical or actual, as distinguished from spiritual, etc.: *natural* man. **13.** Determined by innate moral conviction: *natural* rights. **14.** Related by blood rather than through adoption: *natural* mother. **15.** Founded upon reason rather than faith: *natural* religion. **16.** Born out of wedlock. — *n.* **1.** *Music* **a** A note that is affected by neither a sharp nor a flat. **b** A character (♮) that cancels a sharp or flat at a specific line or space on the staff. **2.** In keyboard musical instruments, a white key. **3.** *U.S. Informal* One who or that which is naturally gifted, esp., well suited to some purpose, or obviously destined for success. [< F < L< *natura* nature, character] — **nat′u·ral·ness** *n.*
natural gas A gas consisting chiefly of methane, generated naturally in underground oil deposits and used as a fuel.
natural history The observation and study of the phenomena of the material universe, esp. the biological and earth sciences.
nat·u·ral·ism (nach′ər·əl·iz′əm, nach′rəl-) *n.* **1.** Close adherence to nature or human life in literature, painting, etc. **2.** *Philos.* The doctrine that all phenomena are derived from natural causes and can be explained by scientific laws. **3.** Action or thought derived exclusively from natural desires and instincts.
nat·u·ral·ist (nach′ər·əl·ist, nach′rəl-) *n.* **1.** One who is versed in natural history, as a zoologist or botanist. **2.** An adherent of the doctrine of naturalism.
nat·u·ral·is·tic (nach′ər·əl·is′tik, nach′rəl-) *adj.* **1.** Of, according to, or characteristic of naturalism. **2.** In accordance with or closely resembling nature. **3.** Of or pertaining to naturalists or natural history.
nat·u·ral·ize (nach′ər·əl·iz′, nach′rəl-) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To confer the rights and privileges of citizenship upon, as an alien. **2.** To adopt (a foreign word, custom, etc.) into the common use of a country or area. **3.** To adapt (a foreign plant, animal, etc.) to the environment of a country or area. **4.** To explain by natural laws: to *naturalize* a miracle. **5.** To make natural or lifelike. — *v.i.* **6.** To become as if native; adapt. **7.** To observe or study nature. Also *Brit.* **nat′u·ral·ise′.** — **nat′u·ral·i·za′tion** *n.*
nat·u·ral·ly (nach′ər·əl·ē, nach′rəl·ē) *adv.* **1.** In a natural, normal, or expected manner. **2.** By inherent nature. **3.** Of course; certainly.
natural number *Math.* A positive integer, as 1, 2, 3, etc.
natural philosophy. **1.** The study of nature in general. **2.** The physical sciences collectively.
natural resource *Usu. pl.* **1.** A source of wealth provided by nature, as forests, minerals, and water supply. **2.** Any natural ability or talent.
natural science **1.** The sciences collectively that deal with the physical universe. **2.** Any one of these sciences, as biology, chemistry, or physics.
natural selection *Biol.* The process whereby individual variations advantageous to an organism in a certain environment tend to become perpetuated in later generations; survival of the fittest forms.
na·ture (nā′chər) *n.* **1.** The essential character of something: the *nature* of democracy. **2.** *Sometimes cap.* The overall pattern or system of natural objects, existences, forces, events, etc.; also, the principle or power that appears to guide it: laws of *nature*. **3.** The entire material universe and its phenomena. **4.** The basic character or disposition of a person or animal. **5.** *Sometimes cap.* A force, drive, or tendency that influences or determines the behavior or condition of a person or thing; instinct. **6.** Sort; kind; variety: nothing of that *nature*. **7.** A wild, naked, or uncivilized condition. **8.** That which is within the accepted or legal limits of morality: an act against *nature*. **9.** Natural aspect or appearance, as of a person or scene. — **by nature** By birth or disposition. [< OF < L < *nasci* to be born]
-natured *combining form* Possessing a (specified) nature, disposition, or temperament: *good-natured*.
naught (nôt) *n.* **1.** Nothing. **2.** A cipher; zero; the character *0*. Also spelled *nought*. [OE < *nā* not + *wiht* thing]
naugh·ty (nô′tē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** **1.** Mischievous; disobedient; bad. **2.** Indecent or improper: a *naughty* word. — **naugh′ti·ly** *adv.* — **naugh′ti·ness** *n.*
nau·se·a (nô′zē·ə, -zhə, -sē·ə, -shə) *n.* **1.** A sick feeling in the stomach accompanied by an impulse to vomit; queasiness. **2.** Strong disgust or loathing. [< L < Gk. *nausia, nautia* seasickness]
nau·se·ate (nô′zē·āt, -sē-, -zhē-, -shē-) *v.t. & v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To affect with or feel nausea or disgust.
nau·seous (nô′shəs, -zhē·əs, -zē·əs, -sē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Affected with nausea; queasy; sick. **2.** Nauseating; disgusting. — **nau′seous·ly** *adv.* — **nau′seous·ness** *n.*
nau·ti·cal (nô′ti·kəl) *adj.* Pertaining to or involving ships, seamen, or navigation. — **Syn.** See MARINE. [< L < Gk. < *naus* ship] — **nau′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
nau·ti·lus (nô′tə·ləs) *n. pl.* **·lus·es** or **·li** (-lī) **1.** Any of a group of mollusks with a spiral shell whose chambers are lined with mother-of-pearl; esp., the **chambered** or **pearly nautilus.** **2.** The paper nautilus. [< L < Gk. *nautilos sailor*]


CHAMBERED NAUTILUS (Cross-section; diameter to 10 inches)

Nav·a·ho (nav′ə·hō) *n. pl.* **hos** or **·hoes** or **·ho** One of a tribe of North American Indians now living on reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Also **Nav′a·jo.**
na·val (nā′vəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, involving, or having a navy: a *naval* power. **2.** Of or pertaining to ships: a *naval* convoy. — **Syn.** See MARINE. [< L < *navis* ship]
nave[1] (nāv) *n. Archit.* The main body of a church, situated

between the side aisles [< L *navis* ship]
nave[2] (nāv) *n.* The hub of a wheel. [OE *nafu*]
na·vel (nā′vəl) *n.* **1.** The depression on the abdomen where the umbilical cord was attached; umbilicus. **2.** A central part or point. [OE < *nafu* nave[2]]
navel orange An orange, usu. seedless, having a navellike depression that contains a small, secondary fruit.
nav·i·cert (nav′ə·sûrt) *n. Brit.* A safe-conduct authorizing a vessel of a friendly or neutral nation to pass through a naval blockade.
nav·i·ga·ble (nav′ə·gə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being navigated; as: **a** Broad or deep enough to admit of passage: said of a body of water. **b** Capable of being steered. — **nav′·i·ga·bil′i·ty, nav′i·ga·ble·ness** *n.* — **nav′i·ga·bly** *adv.*
nav·i·gate (nav′ə·gāt) *v.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To travel or move across, over, on, or through, as by ship or aircraft. **2.** To plot the course of (a ship, aircraft, etc.). **3.** To manage or direct the course of; guide: to *navigate* a missile. — *v.i.* **4.** To guide or steer a ship, aircraft, etc. **5.** To compute and plot the course, position, etc., as of a ship or aircraft. **6.** To travel by ship. [< L < *navis* boat + *agere* to direct]
nav·i·ga·tion (nav′ə·gā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or practice of navigating. **2.** The art or science of charting the course of ships, aircraft, etc. — **nav′i·ga′tion·al** *adj.*
navigation light *Aeron.* One of the colored lights on an aircraft, indicating its size, position, and course at night: also called *running light.*
nav·i·ga·tor (nav′ə·gā′tər) *n.* **1.** One who navigates. **2.** One who is trained in or practices navigation. [< L]
nav·vy (nav′ē) *n. pl.* **·vies** *Brit.* A laborer, esp. in construction work on railways, roads, etc. [< NAVIGATOR]
na·vy (nā′vē) *n. pl.* **·vies** **1.** *Often cap.* The entire military sea force of a country, including vessels, servicemen, yards, etc.; also, the agency of government charged with its supervision. **2.** The warships of a nation, taken collectively. **3.** Navy blue. [< OF < L *navis* ship]
navy bean A small, dried, white bean related to the common kidney bean. [from its use in the U.S. Navy]
navy blue A very dark blue: also *navy.*
Navy Cross A decoration in the form of a bronze cross, awarded by the U.S. Navy for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy. See DECORATION.
navy yard A government-owned dockyard for the building, repairing, docking, and equipping of warships.
nay (nā) *adv.* **1.** *Archaic* No. **2.** Not exactly that, but rather: She is a pretty, *nay,* a beautiful woman. — *n.* **1.** A negative vote or voter: opposed to *yea.* **2.** A denial or refusal. [ME < ON < *ne* not + *ei* ever]
Naz·a·rene (naz′ə·rēn) *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Nazareth. **2.** A Christian. **3.** One of a sect of early Christians of Jewish origin who continued to observe much of the Jewish ritual. — **the Nazarene** Jesus Christ. — *adj.* Of Nazareth or the Nazarenes. Also **Naz′a·re′an** (-rē′ən).
Naz·a·rite (naz′ə·rit) *n.* An ancient Hebrew who took vows of abstinence. *Num.* vi. Also **Naz′i·rite.** [< Hebrew < *nāzar* to abstain]
na·zi (nä′tsē, nat′sē, na′zē) *Often cap. n. pl.* **·zis** One who advocates or practices Nazism. — *adj.* Of the nature of, pertaining to, or involving Nazism. [< NAZI]
Na·zi (nä′tsē, nat′sē, na′zē) *n. pl.* **·zis** A member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, founded in 1919, whose fascistic program (called **National Socialism**) was dominant in Germany from 1933 to 1945 under the dictatorship of Hitler. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Nazis or their party. **2.** Caused or committed by Nazis: *Nazi* atrocities. [< G, short for *nationalsozialist* National Socialist] — **Na′zism** or **Na′zi·ism** *n.*
Ne·an·der·thal (nē·an′dər·täl, -thôl, -thol; *Ger.* nä·än′dər·täl) *adj.* Of or characteristic of Neanderthal man.
Neanderthal man *Anthropol.* An extinct species of man that typifies the paleolithic cavedwellers preceding modern man. [< G *Neanderthal,* Neander valley, Germany, where the first bones of this species were found]
neap (nēp) *adj.* Designating or pertaining to a neap tide. — *n.* A neap tide. [OE *nēp-* in *nēpflod* low tide]
Ne·a·pol·i·tan (nē′ə·pol′ə·tən) *adj.* Of, relating to, or characteristic of Naples. — *n.* A native or resident of Naples.
neap tide The tide occurring shortly after the first and third quarters of the moon, when the rise and fall are minimal: also called *neap.*
near (nir) *adv.* **1.** At, to, or within a little distance; not remote in place, time, or degree. **2.** Nearly; almost: a team of *near* championship caliber. **3.** In a close relation; intimately. **4.** Stingily or frugally. — *adj.* **1.** Not distant in place, time, or degree. **2.** Closely approximating; almost achieved: a *near* success. **3.** Narrow; close: a *near* escape. **4.** Closely related, as by blood: someone *near* and dear. **5.** Closely touching one's interests or affections; intimate. **6.** That saves distance or time; short; direct. **7.** Stingy; miserly. **8.** On the left: used in riding or driving: the *near* ox: opposed to *off.* — *prep.* Close by or to. — *v.t. & v.i.* To come or draw near (to); approach. [OE *nēar,* compar. of *nēah* nigh] — **near′ness** *n.*
near·by (nir′bī′) *adj. & adv.* Close by; near; adjacent.
Near East The countries lying east of the Mediterranean, mostly in SW Asia, including Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, etc., and sometimes the Balkans and Egypt.
near·ly (nir′lē) *adv.* **1.** Almost; practically. **2.** Closely, as in distance, time, degree, similarity, etc.
near·sight·ed (nir′sī′tid) *adj.* Able to see distinctly at short distances only; myopic. — **near′sight′ed·ly** *adv.* — **near′sight′ed·ness** *n.*
neat (nēt) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or in a state of orderliness, tidiness, and cleanliness. **2.** Free from sloppiness, vagueness, or embellishment; precise. **3.** Ingeniously done or said; clever: a *neat* trick. **4.** Free from admixture; undiluted, as liquor. **5.** Remaining after all deductions; net. [< OF < L *nitidus* shining] — **neat′ly** *adv.* — **neat′ness** *n.*
'neath (nēth) *prep. Dial.* or *Poetic* Beneath. Also **neath.**
neat's-foot oil (nēts′fo͝ot′) A pale yellow oil obtained by boiling the shinbones and feet of cattle, used as a lubricant and softening agent for leather.
Neb·u·chad·nez·zar (neb′yo͞o·kəd·nez′ər), died 562 B.C., king of Babylonia 605–562 B.C.; conquered Jerusalem. II *Kings* xxiv and xxv. Also **Neb′u·chad·rez′zar** (-rez′ər).
neb·u·la (neb′yə·lə) *n. pl.* **·lae** (-lē) or **·las** *Astron.* Any interstellar mass of cloudlike appearance and vast extent, often luminous, and composed of gaseous matter. [< L, vapor, mist] — **neb′u·lar** *adj.*
nebular hypothesis *Astron.* The hypothesis that the solar system was formed from the consolidation of great masses of matter thrown off by a rotating nebula.
neb·u·lose (neb′yə·lōs) *adj.* Nebulous.
neb·u·los·i·ty (neb′yə·los′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being nebulous. **2.** A nebula.
neb·u·lous (neb′yə·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Vague or confused; hazy. **2.** Cloudlike; misty. **3.** Of, pertaining to, or like a nebula. — **neb′u·lous·ly** *adv.* — **neb′u·lous·ness** *n.*
nec·es·sar·i·ly (nes′ə·ser′ə·lē) *adv.* **1.** As a necessary consequence. **2.** Of necessity; unavoidably.
nec·es·sar·y (nes′ə·ser′ē) *adj.* **1.** Absolutely needed to accomplish a certain result; essential. **2.** Being of such a nature that it must exist or occur; inevitable: a *necessary* belief. **3.** Caused by or acting under obligation or compulsion; required. **4.** That cannot be logically denied. — *n. pl.* **·sar·ies** *Often pl.* That which is indispensable; an essential requisite: the *necessaries* of life.
ne·ces·si·tate (nə·ses′ə·tāt) *v.t.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** **1.** To make necessary. **2.** To compel or oblige: No man is *necessitated* to lie. — **ne·ces′si·ta′tion** *n.* — **ne·ces′si·ta′tive** *adj.*
ne·ces·si·tous (nə·ses′ə·təs) *adj.* **1.** Extremely needy; destitute; poverty-stricken. **2.** Urgent; compelling. — **ne·ces′si·tous·ly** *adv.* — **ne·ces′si·tous·ness** *n.*
ne·ces·si·ty (nə·ses′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** *Often pl.* That which is indispensable or requisite, esp. toward the attainment of some end. **2.** The quality, conditon, or fact of being necessary. **3.** The conditions that make compulsory a particular course of action: to resign out of *necessity.* **4.** Urgent or desperate need, as because of poverty or accident; also, a time of such need. **5.** That which is unavoidable because it is part of an invariable process, as in nature, logic, etc.; also, the process itself. — **of necessity** By necessity; inevitably. [< OF < L *necessitas*]
neck (nek) *n.* **1.** *Anat.* **a** The part of an animal that connects the head with the trunk. **b** Any similarly constricted part of an organ, bone, etc.: the *neck* of the uterus. ◆ Collateral adjective: *cervical.* **2.** The narrowed part of an object, esp. if near one end: the *neck* of a bottle. **3.** Something likened to a neck; as: **a** A narrow passage of water between two larger bodies of water. **b** A narrow strip of land, as a peninsula, isthmus, or cape. **4.** The part of a garment close to or covering the neck. **5.** The part of a violin, guitar, etc., that carries the fingerboard and tuning pegs. **6.** *Archit.* The upper part of the shaft of a column, just below the capital. — **neck and neck** Abreast of one another, as horses in a race. — **neck of the woods** *U.S. Informal* A neighborhood or region. — **to save one's (own) neck** To extricate oneself from difficult or dangerous circumstances, often without concern for others. — *v.i.* **1.** *U.S. Slang* To kiss and caress in lovemaking. — *v.t.* **2.** *U.S. Slang* To make love to (someone) in such a manner. [OE *hnecca*]
neck·band (nek′band′) *n.* **1.** The part of a garment that fits around the neck. **2.** A band around the neck.
necked (nekt) *adj.* **1.** Having a neck or necks. **2.** Having or characterized by (a specified kind of) neck or (a specified number of) necks: used in combination: *long-necked.*
neck·er·chief (nek′ər·chif) *n.* A kerchief for the neck.
neck·ing (nek′ing) *n. U.S. Slang* Kissing and caressing in lovemaking.
neck·lace (nek′lis) *n.* An ornament worn around the neck and usu. consisting of a string of beads, shells gems, etc.

neck·line (nek′līn′) *n.* The line or contour formed by the fit of a garment around the neck.
neck·piece (nek′pēs′) *n.* An article of clothing, usu. of fur, worn around the neck like a scarf.
neck·tie (nek′tī′) *n.* **1.** A strip of material worn knotted around the neck or collar and hanging down the front of a shirt. **2.** Any bow or tie worn under the chin.
neck·wear (nek′wâr′) *n.* Articles worn around the neck, as ties, collars, mufflers, etc.
necro- *combining form* Corpse; the dead; death. Also, before vowels, **necr-**. [< Gk. *nekros* corpse]
ne·crol·o·gy (ne·krol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** A list of persons who have died in a certain place or time. **2.** An obituary notice. — **nec·ro·log·ic** (nek′rə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **nec′ro·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **ne·crol′o·gist** *n.*
nec·ro·man·cy (nek′rə·man′sē) *n.* **1.** The art of divining the future through alleged communication with the dead. **2.** Black magic; sorcery. [ME < OF < L < Gk. <*nekros* corpse + *manteia* divination] — **nec′ro·man′cer** *n.* — **nec′ro·man′tic** *adj.*
nec·ro·phil·i·a (nek′rō·fil′ē·ə) *n.* An abnormal attraction, esp. of an erotic nature, to corpses. — **nec·ro·phile** (nek′rə·fil, -fil) *n.* — **nec′ro·phil′ic** *adj.*
ne·crop·o·lis (ne·krop′ə·lis) *n.* A cemetery. [< Gk. < *nekros* corpse + *polis* city]
ne·cro·sis (ne·krō′sis) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* The death of tissue in a living animal, resulting from infection or burns; gangrene. **2.** *Bot.* A decay and death of plant tissue. [< Gk. *nekrōsis* death] — **ne·crot′ic** (-krot′ik) *adj.*
nec·tar (nek′tər) *n.* **1.** In Greek mythology, the drink of the gods. **2.** Any delicious drink. **3.** *Bot.* The saccharine secretion of plants, collected by bees to make honey. [< L < Gk. *nektar*] — **nec·tar·e·an** (nek·târ′ē·ən), **nec·tar·e·ous** (nek·târ′ē·əs), **nec·tar·ous** (nek′tər·əs) *adj.*
nec·tar·ine (nek′tə·rēn′, nek′tə·rēn) *n.* A variety of peach having a smooth, waxy skin and a firm pulp.
nec·ta·ry (nek′tər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** *Bot.* A gland that secretes nectar.
née (nā) *adj.* Born with the name of: used chiefly to note the maiden name of a married woman: Mrs. Mary Lincoln, *née* Todd. Also **nee**. [< F, pp. fem. of *naître* to be born]
need (nēd) *v.t.* **1.** To have an urgent or essential use for (something lacking); want; require. — *v.i.* **2.** To be in want. **3.** To be obliged or compelled; have to: He *need* not go. — *n.* **1.** The fact, quality, or condition of lacking or feeling the lack of something necessary or desirable. **2.** A desire or longing: the *need* for revenge. **3.** Obligation; necessity: no *need* to be afraid. **4.** A condition of want, danger, or helplessness. **5.** Something wanted or required: modest *needs*. **6.** Poverty; hardship. — **Syn.** See POVERTY. [OE *nīed, nēd*] — **need′er** *n.*
need·ful (nēd′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Needed; requisite; necessary. **2.** *Archaic* Needy. — **need′ful·ly** *adv.* — **need′ful·ness** *n.*
need·i·ness (nē′dē·nis, -di·nis) *n.* The state of being needy; poverty; want.
nee·dle (nēd′l) *n.* **1.** A small, slender, pointed instrument, usu. of steel, with an eye at one end to carry thread through fabric in sewing. **2.** A hypodermic needle. **3.** A pointer or index, as in a gauge or compass. **4.** A small, pointed instrument of steel, diamond, etc., that traverses the grooves of a phonograph record and transmits sound vibrations: sometimes called *stylus*. **5.** A slender, pointed rod of steel, bone, etc., used in knitting; also, a similar, hooked rod used in crocheting. **6.** A needleshaped leaf, as that of a pine tree. **7.** Any object suggesting a needle in shape. **8.** A fine-pointed instrument used in etching. **9.** *Mech.* A needle valve (which see). — **on the needle** *U.S. Slang* Addicted to narcotics. — *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To sew or pierce with a needle. **2.** *Informal* To tease or heckle repeatedly. **3.** *U.S. Informal* To increase the alcoholic content of: to *needle* the beer. — *v.i.* **4.** To sew or work with a needle. **5.** To crystallize in the form of needles. [OE *nǣdle*]
nee·dle·point (nēd′l·point′) *n.* **1.** Embroidery on canvas, as in a tapestry; also, a single stitch. **2.** Lace made with a sewing needle on a paper pattern: also called *point lace*.
need·less (nēd′lis) *adj.* Not needed or necessary; useless. — **need′less·ly** *adv.* — **need′less·ness** *n.*
needle valve *Mech.* A valve having a needlelike plug capable of closely regulating the flow of a liquid or gas.
nee·dle·wom·an (nēd′l·wo͝om′ən) *n. pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) A seamstress.
nee·dle·work (nēd′l·wûrk′) *n.* Work done with a needle.
need·n't (nēd′nt) Need not.
needs (nēdz) *adv. Archaic* Of necessity: often with *must*: He *needs* must go. [OE *nīedes*]
need·y (nē′dē) *adj.* **need·i·er, need·i·est** Being in need, want, or poverty; necessitous.
ne'er (nâr) *adv. Poetic* Never.
ne'er-do-well (nâr′də·wel′) *n.* A worthless, unreliable person. — *adj.* Shiftless; good-for-nothing.
ne·far·i·ous (ni·fâr′ē·əs) *adj.* Extremely wicked; vile. [< L < *ne-* not + *fas* divine law] — **ne·far′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ne·far′i·ous·ness** *n.*
ne·gate (ni·gāt′, nē′gāt) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** **1.** To render ineffective or void; nullify. **2.** To deny; contradict; rule out. [< L *negatus*, pp. of *negare* to deny]
ne·ga·tion (ni·gā′shən) *n.* **1.** The absence or opposite of something: Sleep is the *negation* of consciousness. **2.** The act of denying or contradicting. **3.** That which is negative.
neg·a·tive (neg′ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Expressing, containing, or characterized by negation, denial, or refusal. **2.** Marked by the absence of positive or affirmative qualities: a *negative* attitude. **3.** *Math.* Less than zero; to be subtracted; minus. **4.** *Electr.* Having the kind of electricity exhibited by a resinous object when rubbed with wool. **5.** *Med.* Not indicating the presence of a particular disease, organism, etc.: a *negative* blood test. **6.** *Photog.* Having the lights and darks reversed. — *n.* **1.** *Photog.* An image showing the lights and darks reversed; also, the film or plate on which it appears. **2.** An expression of denial or refusal. **3.** The side of a question that denies or contradicts what the other side affirms, as in a debate. **4.** *Math.* A negative symbol or quantity. **5.** *Electr.* A negative pole, plate, terminal, etc. **6.** *Gram.* A negative particle, as *not*. — *adv.* No; not so: a military usage. — **double negative** *Gram.* The use of two negatives in the same statement, as in "I didn't see nobody." ◆ This usage is now considered nonstandard. Such statements as "I am not unhappy," however, are standard English and have the effect of weak affirmatives. — **in the negative** **1.** By or with an expression of refusal; no. **2.** On the negative or opposing side. — *v.t.* **·tived, ·tiv·ing** **1.** reject; veto. **2.** To deny; contradict. **3.** To prove to be false. **4.** To make ineffective. [< F < L *negare* to deny] — **neg′a·tive·ly** *adv.* — **neg′a·tive·ness, neg′a·tiv′i·ty** *n.*
neg·a·tiv·ism (neg′ə·tiv·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** An attitude characterized by the questioning of traditional beliefs; skepticism. **2.** A tendency to deny, contradict, etc. **3.** *Psychol.* An attitude characterized by resistance to suggestion. — **neg′a·tiv·ist** *n. & adj.* — **neg′a·tiv·is′tic** *adj.*
neg·lect (ni·glekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To fail to heed or take note of; disregard. **2.** To fail to give proper attention to: to *neglect* one's business. **3.** To fail to do or perform; leave undone. — *n.* **1.** Habitual want of attention or care; negligence. **2.** The act of neglecting, or the state of being neglected. **3.** An instance of neglect. [< L < *nec-* not + *legere* to gather] — **neg·lect′er** or **neg·lec′tor** *n.*
neg·lect·ful (ni·glekt′fəl) *adj.* Exhibiting or indicating neglect. — **neg·lect′ful·ly** *adv.* — **neg·lect′ful·ness** *n.*
neg·li·gee (neg′li·zhā′, neg′li·zhā) *n.* **1.** A loose, flowing, usu. decorative dressing gown worn by women. **2.** Any informal attire. Also **neg′li·gée′**, *French* **né·gli·gé** (nā·glē·zhā′). [< F *négligé*, pp. of *négliger* to neglect]
neg·li·gence (neg′lə·jəns) *n.* **1.** The state, quality, or fact of being negligent. **2.** A negligent act or omission. [< OF]
neg·li·gent (neg′lə·jənt) *adj.* **1.** Habitually neglecting to do what ought to be done; neglectful. **2.** Free-and-easy; informal; nonchalant. — **neg′li·gent·ly** *adv.*
neg·li·gi·ble (neg′lə·jə·bəl) *adj.* Not worth considering, as because of trifling size, amount, or extent. — **neg′li·gi·bil′i·ty, neg′li·gi·ble·ness** *n.* — **neg′li·gi·bly** *adv.*
ne·go·ti·a·ble (ni·gō′shē·ə·bəl, -shə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being negotiated. **2.** Open to negotiation. **3.** That can be legally transferred to another party. — **ne·go′ti·a·bil′i·ty** *n.*
ne·go·ti·ate (ni·gō′shē·āt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To confer with another party with the aim of reaching an agreement. — *v.t.* **2.** To arrange or conclude by negotiation. **3.** To transfer (a note, bond, etc.) to another for a value received; sell. **4.** To manage to execute, traverse, or cope with (something difficult): to *negotiate* a steep hill. [< L *negotiari* to do business] — **ne·go′ti·a′tor** *n.*
ne·go·ti·a·tion (ni·gō′shē·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of negotiating. **2.** A conference or discussion designed to produce an agreement.
Ne·gri·to (ni·grē′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** or **·toes** *Anthropol.* One of the Pygmy peoples of the Malay Peninsula, the Philippine Islands, central Africa, and southeast Asia. [< Sp., dim. of *negro* black]
ne·gri·tude (nē′grə·to͞od′, -tyo͞od′) *n. Often cap.* **1.** Awareness of and pride in one's black African heritage. **2.** The fact of being a Negro; Negroness. Also *French* **né·gri·tude** (nā′grə·tüd′). [< F < L *niger* black]
Ne·gro (nē′grō) *n. pl.* **·groes** **1.** A member of the Negroid ethnic division of mankind. **2.** One who is of Negroid stock or has Negro ancestors. — *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or having the characteristics of a Negro or Negroes. **2.** Of Negroid ethnic stock. Also **ne′gro.** [< Sp. < L *niger* black]

Ne·groid (nē′groid) *adj.* **1.** *Anthropol.* Of, pertaining to, or belonging to a major ethnic division of the human species characterized by skin color ranging from dark brown to almost black. **2.** Resembling, related to, or characteristic of Negroes. — *n.* A Negroid person.

Ne·gro·ness (nē′grō·nis) *n.* The fact of being a Negro.

Ne·he·mi·ah (nē′hə·mī′ə) Fifth-century B.C. Hebrew statesman and historian. — *n.* A book of the Old Testament: also, in the Douai Bible, II *Esdras*. [< Hebrew *Nehemyāh* Jehovah comforts]

neigh (nā) *v.i.* To utter the cry of a horse; whinny. — *n.* The cry of a horse. [OE *hnǣgan*; imit.]

neigh·bor (nā′bər) *n.* **1.** One who lives near another. **2.** One who or that which is near another. **3.** *Chiefly Dial.* Friend; mister: a term of address. — *adj.* Living nearby. — *v.t. & v.i.* To live or be near to or next to; adjoin. Also *Brit.* **neigh′bour.** [OE < *nēah* near + *gebur* dweller]

neigh·bor·hood (nā′bər·hŏŏd) *n.* **1.** A comparatively small region possessing some specific quality or character. **2.** The people who live in such a region. **3.** Any region or area; vicinity. Also *Brit.* **neigh′bour·hood.** — **in the neighborhood of 1.** Near. **2.** *Informal* Approximately.

neigh·bor·ing (nā′bər·ing) *adj.* Situated or living nearby.

neigh·bor·ly (nā′bər·lē) *adj* Like a good neighbor; kind, sociable, etc. — **neigh′bor·li·ness** *n.*

nei·ther (nē′thər, nī′-) *adj.* Not the one nor the other; not either. — *pron.* Not the one nor the other: *Neither* of the hats is becoming. — *conj.* **1.** Not either; not: used with the correlative *nor* to list alternatives and to signify their negation: He *neither* reads nor writes. **2.** Nor yet: He cannot write: *neither* can he read. ◆ See usage note under EITHER. [ME *naither, neyther* < OE *nāhwæther*]

nemato- *combining form* Thread; filament: also, before vowels, **nemat-**. Also **nema-**. [< Gk. *nēma, -matos* thread]

nem·a·tode (nem′ə·tōd) *Zool. adj.* Of or belonging to a phylum or class of roundworms, as the hookworm. — *n.* A nematode worm. [< NL *Nematoda*]

nem·e·sis (nem′ə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** An unusually tenacious opponent or antagonist. **2.** An instrument of vengeance. [< Gk., retributive justice]

Nem·e·sis (nem′ə·sis) In Greek mythology, the goddess of retributive justice or vengeance. [< NEMESIS]

neo- *combining form* New; recent; a modern or modified form of. Also, before vowels, usu. **ne-**. [< Gk. < *neos* new]

ne·o·clas·sic (nē′ō·klas′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or denoting a revival of classical style in literature, art, music, etc. Also **ne′o·clas′si·cal.** — **ne′o·clas′si·cism** *n.* — **ne′o·clas′si·cist** *n.*

ne·o·dym·i·um (nē′ō·dim′ē·əm) *n.* A metallic element (symbol Nd) forming rose-colored salts, found in combination with cerium, etc. See ELEMENT. [< NEO- + (DI)DYMIUM]

Ne·o·lith·ic (nē′ə·lith′ik) *adj. Anthropol.* Of or pertaining to the period of human culture following the Mesolithic, characterized by polished stone implements and a settled agriculture. [< Gk. *neos* new + *lithos* stone]

ne·ol·o·gism (nē·ol′ə·jiz′əm) *n.* **1.** A new word or phrase. **2.** The use of new words or of new meanings for old words. Also **ne·ol′o·gy.** [< F *néologisme*] — **ne·ol′o·gist** *n.* — **ne·ol′o·gis′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.*

ne·o·my·cin (nē′ə·mī′sin) *n.* An antibiotic related to streptomycin, used in the treatment of certain infections.

ne·on (nē′on) *n.* A gaseous element (symbol Ne) occurring in the atmosphere in very small amounts. See ELEMENT. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to neon. **2.** Composed of or employing neon. [< NL < Gk., neut. of *neos* new]

ne·o·phyte (nē′ə·fīt) *n.* **1.** A recent convert, esp. in the early Christian Church. **2.** Any beginner. [< LL < Gk. *neophytos* newly planted] — **ne′o·phyt′ic** (-fit′ik) *adj.*

ne·o·plasm (nē′ə·plaz′əm) *n. Pathol.* Any abnormal growth of tissue in the body; a tumor. — **ne′o·plas′tic** *adj.*

ne·o·prene (nē′ə·prēn) *n. Chem.* Any of various types of synthetic rubber. [< NEO- + (CHLORO)PRENE]

Nep·a·lese (nep′ə·lēz′, -lēs′) *adj.* Of Nepal, its people, or their culture. — *n.* A native or inhabitant of Nepal.

ne·pen·the (ni·pen′thē) *n.* **1.** A drug or potion supposed by the ancient Greeks to banish pain and sorrow. **2.** Anything causing oblivion. [< L < Gk. < *nē-* not + *penthos* sorrow]

neph·ew (nef′yōō, *esp. Brit.* nev′yōō) *n.* The son of a brother or brother-in-law or of a sister or sister-in-law. [< OF < L *nepos* grandson, nephew.]

nepho- *combining form* Cloud. Also, before vowels, **neph-** [< Gk. *nephos* cloud]

neph·rite (nef′rīt) *n.* A very hard, compact, white to dark-green mineral formerly worn as a remedy for diseases of the kidney. [< G *nephrit* < Gk. *nephros* kidney]

ne·phrit·ic (ni·frit′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the kidneys or kidneys; renal: also **neph′ric.** **2.** Of, pertaining to, or suffering from nephritis. Also **ne·phrit′i·cal.** — *n.* Any medicine applicable to disease of the kidney.

ne·phri·tis (ni·frī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the kidneys. [< LL < Gk. *nephros* kidney]

nephro- *combining form* A kidney. Also, before vowels, **nephr-**. [< Gk. *nephros* kidney]

ne·phro·sis (ni·frō′sis) *n. Pathol.* Disease of the kidney.

ne plus ul·tra (nē plus ul′trə) *Latin* The extreme or utmost point; perfection; literally, nothing more beyond.

nep·o·tism (nep′ə·tiz′əm) *n.* Favoritism; esp. governmental patronage to relatives. [< F < L *nepos, -potis* grandson, nephew] — **ne·pot·ic** (ni·pot′ik) *adj.* — **nep′o·tist** *n.*

Nep·tune (nep′tōōn, -tyōōn) In Roman mythology, the god of the sea: identified with the Greek *Poseidon*. — *n.* The fourth largest planet and eighth in order from the sun. See PLANET. [< L *Neptunus*] — **Nep·tu′ni·an** *adj.*

nep·tu·ni·um (nep·tōō′nē·əm, -tyōō′-) *n.* A radioactive element (symbol Np), artificially produced from a uranium isotope by neutron bombardment and decaying to plutonium by emission of a beta particle. See ELEMENT.

Ne·re·id (nir′ē·id) *pl.* **Ne·re·i·des** (ni·rē′ə·dēz) or **Ne·re·ids** In Greek mythology, one of the fifty daughters of Nereus.

Ne·reus (nir′ōōs, -ē·əs) In Greek mythology, a sea god, father of the Nereides.

nerve (nûrv) *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* Any of the cordlike bundles of fibers that convey impulses of sensation, etc., between the brain or spinal cord and other parts or organs. **2.** Courage or boldness; daring. **3.** *Informal* Arrogant assurance; brashness. **4.** *Usu. pl.* Unsteadiness of mind and muscle; nervousness: a case of *nerves*. **5.** Muscle; sinew: now only in the phrase **to strain every nerve.** — **to get on one's nerves** *Informal* To irritate; exasperate; upset. — *v.t.* **nerved, nerving** To provide with nerve or nerves. — **to nerve oneself** To summon up one's courage. [< L *nervus* sinew]

nerve cell *Physiol.* A neuron.

nerve center **1.** *Physiol.* An aggregation of neurons having a specific function, as hearing, sight, etc. **2.** The focus of command and communication; headquarters.

nerve impulse *Physiol.* A wave of electrical disturbance along a nerve fiber and continuing until it has been discharged into the appropriate sensory or motor channels.

nerve·less (nûrv′lis) *adj.* **1.** Lacking force; feeble. **2.** Completely controlled and calm in crises; cool. **3.** *Anat.* Having no nerves. — **nerve′less·ly** *adv.* — **nerve′less·ness** *n.*

nerve-rack·ing (nûrv′rak′ing) *adj.* Extremely irritating; harrowing. Also **nerve′-wrack′ing.**

ner·vous (nûr′vəs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or exhibiting restlessness, anxiety, tension, etc.; high-strung; excitable. **2.** Neural. **3.** Caused by or acting on the nerves or nervous system. — **ner′vous·ly** *adv.* — **ner·vos′i·ty** (-vos′ə·tē), **ner′vous·ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** uneasy, fidgety, jittery, skittish.

nervous breakdown Popularly, any severe mental or emotional disturbance, usu. requiring hospitalization.

nervous system *Physiol.* A system in animals that coordinates, controls, and regulates various organic activities by means of the reception and transmission of stimuli.

ner·vure (nûr′vyŏŏr) *n. Biol.* A vein, as on a leaf or an insect's wing. Also **ner′vule** (-vyōōl). [< F < L *nervus* sinew] — **ner·vu·ra·tion** (nûr′vyə·rā′shən) *n.*

nerv·y (nûr′vē) *adj.* **nerv·i·er, nerv·i·est** **1.** *U.S. Informal* Brazen; impudent; brash. **2.** *Brit. Informal* Nervous; jumpy. **3.** Having or requiring courage.

nes·cience (nesh′əns, -ē·əns) *n.* Lack or absence of knowledge; ignorance. [< L < *ne-* not + < *scire* to know] — **nes′cient** *adj. & n.* — **nes′cient·ist** *n.*

-ness *suffix of nouns* **1.** State or quality of being: *darkness*. **2.** An example of this state or quality: to do someone a *kindness*. [OE *-nes(s), -nis(s)*]

nest (nest) *n.* **1.** The habitation prepared or the place selected by a bird for the hatching of its eggs and the rearing of its young. **2.** A place used by fishes, insects, turtles, etc., for laying eggs. **3.** The group of animals, birds, etc., occupying such a place. **4.** A cozy or snug place. **5.** A haunt or den; also, those occupying such a place: a *nest* of thieves. **6.** A series or set of similar things designed to fit into one another, as bowls, boxes, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To place in or as in a nest. **2.** To pack or place one inside another. — *v.i.* **3.** To build or occupy a nest. **4.** To hunt for nests. [OE]

n'est-ce pas (nes pä′) *French* Isn't that so?

nest egg **1.** A sum of money set aside for emergencies, etc. **2.** An artificial egg kept in a nest to induce a hen to lay eggs.

nes·tle (nes′əl) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.i.* **1.** To lie or press closely and snugly; cuddle; snuggle. **2.** To lie or be embedded, or half-hidden. — *v.t.* **3.** To place or press snugly or lovingly. **4.** To place, or shelter in or as in a nest. [OE *nestlian* to nest] — **nes′tler** *n.*

nest·ling (nest′ling, nes′-) *n.* **1.** A bird too young to leave the nest. **2.** A young child. — *adj.* Recently hatched.

Nes·tor (nes′tər) In Greek legend, the oldest and wisest Greek chief in the Trojan War. — *n.* Any wise old man.

net[1] (net) *n.* **1.** A fabric of thread, cord, rope, etc., woven or knotted to form an open pattern or meshwork and used to catch fish, birds, etc. ◆ Collateral adjective: *reticular*. **2.**

Anything that traps or entangles; a snare. **3.** A piece of fine lace. **4.** Any of various devices constructed with meshes: cargo *net*; tennis *net*. **5.** Something resembling a net. — *v.t.* **net·ted, net·ting** **1.** To catch in or as in a net; ensnare. **2.** To make into a net. **3.** To cover, enclose, or shelter with a net. **4.** In tennis, etc., to hit (the ball) into the net. [OE]

net[2] (net) *adj.* **1.** Obtained after deducting all expenses, losses, taxes, etc.: distinguished from *gross*: *net* proceeds. **2.** Free from anything extraneous; fundamental; basic: *net* results. — *n.* A net profit, amount, weight, etc. — *v.t.* **net·ted, net·ting** To earn or yield as clear profit. [< F]

neth·er (neth′ər) *adj.* Situated beneath or below. [OE *nither* < Gmc.]

neth·er·most (neth′ər·mōst′) *adj.* Lowest.

nether world **1.** The world of the dead. **2.** The world of punishment after death; hell.

net·ting (net′ing) *n.* **1.** A net; network. **2.** The act or operation of making net. **3.** The right of using fishing nets.

net·tle (net′l) *n.* **1.** An herb having minute stinging hairs. **2.** Any of various plants having some real or fancied resemblance to this herb. — *v.t.* **·tled, ·tling** **1.** To annoy or irritate; provoke. **2.** To sting like nettle. [OE *netle* < Gmc.]

nettle rash Urticaria. Also **nettle fever.**

net ton A short ton. See under TON[1].

net·work (net′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** A system of interlacing lines, tracks, or channels. **2.** An openwork fabric; netting. **3.** *Telecom.* A chain of broadcasting stations. **4.** Any interconnected system: an espionage *network*.

Neuf·châ·tel (nōō′shə·tel′, *Fr.* nœ·shâ·tel′) *n.* A soft, white cheese produced in Neufchâtel, a town in northern France.

neu·ral (nōōr′əl, nyōōr′-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the nerves or nervous system. [< Gk. *neuron* cord, sinew]

neu·ral·gi·a (nōō·ral′jē·ə, -jə, nyōō-) *n. Pathol.* Acute pain along the course of a nerve. — **neu·ral′gic** *adj.*

neu·ras·the·ni·a (nōōr′əs·thē′nē·ə, -thēn′yə, nyōōr′-) *n.* A condition marked by general debility, depression, and bodily disturbances, formerly believed to be due to weakness or exhaustion of the nervous system. [< NL < Gk. *neuron* cord, sinew + *astheneia* weakness] — **neu′ras·then′ic** (-then′ik) *adj. & n.*

neu·ri·tis (nōō·rī′tis, nyōō-) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of a nerve. — **neu·rit′ic** (-rit′ik) *adj.*

neuro- *combining form* Nerve. Also **neur-** (before vowels), **neuri-.** [< Gk. *neuron* sinew]

neu·rol·o·gy (nōō·rol′ə·jē, nyōō-) *n.* The branch of medicine that deals with the nervous system and its disorders. [< NL *neurologia*] — **neu·ro·log·i·cal** (nōōr′ə·loj′i·kəl, nyōōr′-) *adj.* — **neu·rol′o·gist** *n.*

neu·ron (nōōr′on, nyōōr′-) *n. Physiol.* The fundamental cellular unit of the nervous system, consisting of a nucleus with all its processes and extensions: also called *nerve cell.* Also **neu′rone** (-ōn). [< NL < Gk. *neuron* sinew] — **neu·ron·ic** (nōō·ron′ik, nyōō-) *adj.*

neu·rop·ter·an (nōō·rop′tər·ən, nyōō-) *n.* A neuropterous insect. Also **neu·rop′ter, neu·rop′ter·on** (-on). — *adj.* Neuropterous. Also **neu·rop′ter·oid.**

neu·rop·ter·ous (nōō·rop′tər·əs, nyōō-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to an order of insects having two pairs of membranous net-veined wings and chewing mouth parts. Also **neu·rop′ter·al.** [< NL *Neuroptera*]

neu·ro·sis (nōō·rō′sis, nyōō-) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) *Psychiatry* Any of various emotional disturbances, less severe than the psychoses, and usu. involving anxiety, depression, and unresolved psychic conflicts: also called *psychoneurosis.* [< NL]

neu·rot·ic (nōō·rot′ik, nyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or suffering from neurosis. **2.** Neural. — *n.* A neurotic person.

neu·ter (nōō′tər, nyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** *Gram.* Neither masculine nor feminine in gender. **2.** *Biol.* Having nonfunctioning or imperfectly developed sex organs, as a worker bee. — *n.* **1.** *Biol.* A neuter plant or animal. **2.** A castrated animal. **3.** *Gram.* **a** The neuter gender. **b** A word in this gender. [ult. < L < *ne-* not + *uter* either]

neu·tral (nōō′trəl, nyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Not taking the part of either side in a dispute or war. **2.** Of or belonging to neither side in a dispute, war, etc.: *neutral* territory. **3.** Neither one thing nor the other; indefinite; middling. **4.** Having no decided hue or color; grayish. **5.** *Biol.* Neuter; esp., without stamens or pistils. **6.** *Chem.* Neither acid nor alkaline: a *neutral* solution. **7.** *Electr.* Neither positive nor negative. **8.** *Phonet.* Produced with the tongue in a relaxed, midcentral position, as the *a* in *about.* — *n.* **1.** One who or that which is neutral. **2.** *Mech.* The state in which transmission gears are disengaged: a car in *neutral.* [< L < *neuter* neither] — **neu′tral·ly** *adv.*

neu·tral·ism (nōō′trəl·iz′əm, nyōō′-) *n.* In foreign affairs, the policy of not associating or aligning a nation with any side of a power conflict. — **neu′tral·ist** *adj. & n.*

neu·tral·i·ty (nōō·tral′ə·tē, nyōō-) *n. pl.* **·ties** Neutral condition, status, attitude, policy, etc., as of a nation during a war. [< F < Med.L *neutralitas*]

neu·tral·ize (nōō′trəl·īz, nyōō′-) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To counteract or destroy the force, influence, effect, etc., of. **2.** To declare (a nation, area, etc.) neutral during a war. **3.** *Chem.* To make neutral or inert. **4.** *Electr.* To render electrically neutral by combining equal negative and positive units. [< F *neutraliser*] — **neu′tral·i·za′tion** (-ə·zā′shən, -ī·zā′-) *n.* — **neu′tral·iz′er** *n.*

neu·tri·no (nōō·trē′nō, nyōō-) *n. pl.* **·nos** *Physics* An atomic particle associated with the radioactive emission of beta rays, carrying no electric charge and having a mass approaching zero. [< Ital., little neutron]

neu·tron (nōō′tron, nyōō′-) *n. Physics* An electrically neutral particle of the atomic nucleus having a mass approximately equal to that of the proton.

neutron star *Astron* A hypothetical star of great density that is a source of strong X-rays and believed to be a collapsed large star

nev·er (nev′ər) *adv.* **1.** Not at any time; not ever: also used in combination to form adjectives: *never-ending.* **2.** Not at all; positively not: *Never* fear. [OE *nǣfre*]

nev·er·more (nev′ər·mōr′, -mōr′) *adv.* Never again.

nev·er·the·less (nev′ər·thə·les′) *adv.* Nonetheless; however; yet. — **Syn.** See BUT[1].

ne·vus (nē′vəs) *n. pl.* **·vi** (-vī) A birthmark or congenital mole. [< L *naevus* blemish] — **ne′void** *adj.*

new (nōō, nyōō) *adj.* **new·er, new·est** **1.** Having recently been made, used, developed, etc. **2.** Having never existed, occurred, etc., before. **3.** Recently discovered, observed, etc.: a *new* river. **4.** Different from that which is older or previous: a *new* dispensation. **5.** Unfamiliar; strange. **6.** Not accustomed or experienced: *new* at the job. **7.** Having recently come into a certain place, condition, relationship, etc.: a *new* member. **8.** Built, made, etc., in place of something older: a *new* post office. **9.** Fresh; unspoiled. **10.** Repeated; renewed: a *new* plea. **11.** Additional; increased: a *new* supply. **12.** Rejuvenated; refreshed: a *new* man. **13.** Modern; current; fashionable. **14.** *Usu. cap.* Designating the most recent form or period: said of languages. — *adv.* Newly; freshly; recently. — *n.* That which is new. [OE *nīwe* < Gmc.] — **new′ish** *adj.* — **new′ness** *n.*

new·born (nōō′bôrn′, nyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Just lately born. **2.** Reborn. — *n.* A newborn infant or animal.

New·burg (nōō′bûrg, nyōō′-) See à LA NEWBURG.

new·com·er (nōō′kum′ər, nyōō′-) *n.* One who has recently arrived.

New Deal The political, economic, and social policies of the administration under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

new·el (nōō′əl, nyōō′-) *n. Archit.* **1.** The post that terminates the handrail of a staircase. **2.** The central pillar or upright of a spiral staircase. Also **newel post.** [< OF < LL < L *nux* nut]

New England The NE section of the United States, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. — **New Englander**

new·fan·gled (nōō′fang′gəld, nyōō′-) *adj.* Lately come into fashion; novel: a derogatory term. [ME < *newe* new + *fangel* contrivance, prob. < *fōn* to seize, grasp]

New·found·land (nōō′fənd·lənd, nyōō′-) *n.* A large dog of a breed originating in Newfoundland, having a broad head, square muzzle, and thick, abundant, usu. black coat.

New·gate (nōō′git, -gāt, nyōō′-) Formerly, a London prison.

New Jerusalem The city of God; heaven. *Rev.* xxi 2.

New Latin See under LATIN.

new·ly (nōō′lē, nyōō′-) *adv.* **1.** Very recently; lately. **2.** Once more; anew; afresh. **3.** In a new or different way.

new·ly·wed (nōō′lē·wed′, nyōō′-) *n.* A person recently married.

new moon **1.** The phase of the moon when it is directly between the earth and the sun, its disk then being invisible; also, the first visible crescent of the disk. **2.** The period when the moon is new.

new·mown (nōō′mōn′, nyōō′-) *adj.* Recently mown, as hay.

New Neth·er·land (neth′ər·lənd) The Dutch colony in North America, 1613–1664, near the mouth of the Hudson River; capital, New Amsterdam.

new penny A penny (def. 3).

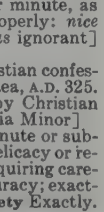
news (nōōz, nyōōz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** Information of a recent event, development, etc., esp. as reported in a newspaper, on the radio, etc. **2.** Any new or unfamiliar information. [< NEW]

news·boy (nōōz′boi′, nyōōz′-) *n.* A boy who sells or delivers newspapers.

news·cast (nōōz′kast′, -käst′, nyōōz′-) *n.* A radio or television broadcast of news. — **news′cast′er** *n.*

news·let·ter (nōōz′let′ər, nyōōz′-) *n.* A brief, specialized, periodical news report or set of reports sent by mail.

news·mag·a·zine (nōōz′mag′ə·zēn, -mag′ə·zēn′, nyōōz′-) *n.* A periodical, especially a weekly, that summarizes the news.
news·man (nōōz′man′, -mən, nyōōz′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-men′, -mən) **1.** A news reporter. **2.** A newsdealer.
news·pa·per (nōōz′pā′pər, nyōōz′-) *n.* **1.** A printed publication usu. issued daily or weekly, containing news, editorials, advertisements, etc. **2.** Newsprint.
news·print (nōōz′print′, -nyōōz′-) *n.* The thin, unsized paper on which the ordinary newspaper is printed.
news·reel (nōōz′rēl′, nyōōz′-) *n.* A short motion picture showing current events.
news·stand (nōōz′stand′, nyōōz′-) *n. U.S.* A stand or stall at which newspapers and periodicals are offered for sale.
New Style See (Gregorian) CALENDAR.
news·worth·y (nōōz′wûr′thē, nyōōz′-) *adj.* Having sufficient importance to be reported in a newspaper or newscast.
news·y (nōō′zē, nyōō′-) *Informal adj.* **news·i·er, news·i·est** Full of news. — *n. pl.* **news·ies** *U.S.* A newsboy.
newt (nōōt, nyōōt) *n.* Any of various semiaquatic salamanders. [Earlier *ewt*; in ME *an ewt* was taken as *a newt*]
New Testament That portion of the Bible containing the life and teachings of Christ and his followers.
New World The Western Hemisphere.
New Year The first day of the year; in the Gregorian calendar, January 1. Also **New Year's Day** (yirz).
New Year's Eve The night of December 31.
New York·er (yôr′kər) An inhabitant of New York; esp., a native or resident of New York City.
New Zea·land·er (zē′lən·dər) **1.** A resident of New Zealand. **2.** Formerly, a Maori.
next (nekst) *adj.* **1.** Coming directly after in time, order, position, etc. **2.** Nearest or closest in space. **3.** Adjacent or adjoining: in the *next* room. — *adv.* **1.** Immediately afterward. **2.** On the first succeeding occasion: when *next* we meet. — *prep.* Nearest to: *next* his heart. — **next door** **1.** The adjacent house, building, apartment, etc. **2.** In, at, or to the adjacent house, etc. — **next to** Almost; nearly: *next to* impossible. [OE *niehst*, superl. of *neah* near]
next of kin The person most closely related to one.
nex·us (nek′səs) *n. pl.* **·us·es** or **·us** **1.** A bond or tie between the several members of a group or series; link. **2.** A connected series. [< L, pp. of *nectere* to tie]
ni·a·cin (nī′ə·sin) *n.* Nicotinic acid.
nib (nib) *n.* **1.** The point of a pen. **2.** The projecting, pointed part of anything; tip. — *v.t.* **nibbed, nib·bing** To furnish with a nib. [Var. of NEB < OE *nebb* beak]
nib·ble (nib′əl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.t.* **1.** To eat with small, quick, gentle bites: to *nibble* grass. **2.** To take little, soft bites of: to *nibble* an ear. — *v.i.* **3.** To eat or bite, esp. with small, gentle bites: often with *at*. — *n.* **1.** A little bit or morsel. **2.** The act of one who or that which nibbles. [< Gmc] — **nib′bler** *n.*
Ni·be·lung (nē′bə·lōōng) *n. pl.* **·lungs** or **·lung·en** (-lōōng′·en) In Teutonic mythology, one of a dwarf people who held a magic ring and a hoard of gold, taken from them by Siegfried.
Ni·be·lung·en·lied (nē′bə·lōōng′ən·lēt′) The lay of the Nibelungs, a Middle High German epic poem written by an unknown author during the early 13th century.
nib·lick (nib′lik) *n.* In golf, a nine iron. [? < Du. < *knepel* club]
Nic·a·ra·guan (nik′ə·rä′gwən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Nicaragua. — *n.* A native of Nicaragua.
nice (nis) *adj.* **nic·er, nic·est** **1.** Agreeable; pleasing; respectable; suitable. **2.** Friendly; kind. **3.** Characterized by, revealing, or demanding discrimination, delicacy, or subtlety: a *nice* distinction. **4.** Precise, accurate, or minute, as an instrument. — **nice and** Gratifyingly; properly: *nice and* dry. [< OF, innocent, foolish < L *nescius* ignorant] — **nice′ly** *adv.* — **nice′ness** *n.*
Ni·cene Creed (nī′sēn, nī·sēn′) *Eccl.* **1.** A Christian confession of faith, adopted by the first Council of Nicaea, A.D. 325. **2.** Any of several other creeds later adopted by Christian churches. [after *Nicaea*, an ancient town in Asia Minor]
ni·ce·ty (nī′sə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** *Usu. pl.* A minute or subtle point, detail, or distinction. **2.** *Usu. pl.* A delicacy or refinement: *niceties* of living. **3.** The quality of requiring careful and delicate treatment. **4.** Precision or accuracy; exactness. **5.** The quality of being nice. — **to a nicety** Exactly.
niche (nich) *n.* **1.** A recessed space or hollow, usu. in a wall, for a statue or the like. **2.** Any position specially adapted to its occupant: to find one's *niche*. — *v.t.* **niched, nich·ing** To put in a niche. [Prob. < F, ult. < L *nidus* nest]


NICHE

Nich·o·las, (nik′ə·ləs, -lus) **Saint** See SANTA CLAUS.
nick (nik) *n.* A slight cut, chip, or indentation on a surface or edge. — **in the nick of time** At the exact or crucial moment. — *v.t.* To make a nick in or on.
nick·el (nik′əl) *n.* **1.** A hard, ductile, malleable, silver-white metallic element (symbol Ni) having a wide variety of uses. See ELEMENT. **2.** A five-cent coin of the U.S., made of an alloy of nickel and copper. — *v.t.* **·eled** or **·elled, ·el·ing** or **·el·ling** To plate with nickel. [< Sw. < G < (*kupfer*)*nickel*, lit., copper demon; because its ore looks like copper]
nick·el·o·de·on (nik′əl·ō′dē·ən) *n. U.S.* **1.** Formerly, a motion-picture theater charging an admission fee of five cents. **2.** Formerly, a jukebox or other automatic music machine. [< NICKEL (def. 2) + *odeon* < F *odéon* theater]
nick·el-plate (nik′əl·plāt′) *v.t.* **·plat·ed, ·plat·ing** To cover with nickel by electroplating.
nickel plate A thin layer of nickel deposited on the surface of objects by electroplating.
nickel silver German silver.
nick·er (nik′ər) *n.* **1.** A neigh. **2.** A neighing laugh. — *v.i.* **1.** To neigh. **2.** To snicker. [Imit.]
nick·nack (nik′nak′) See KNICKKNACK.
nick·name (nik′nām′) *n.* **1.** A familiar form of a proper name, as *Tom* for *Thomas*. **2.** A descriptive name given instead of or in addition to the actual name of a person, place, or thing, as *Honest Abe*. — *v.t.* **·named, ·nam·ing** **1.** To give a nickname to or call by a nickname. **2.** To misname. [ME *ekename* surname, *an ekename* becoming a *nickname*]
nic·o·tine (nik′ə·tēn, -tin) *n.* An acrid, poisonous, oily alkaloid, $C_{11}H_{14}N_2$, contained in the leaves of tobacco. Also **nic′o·tin.** [< F, after Jean *Nicot*, 1530–1600, French courtier, who introduced tobacco into France from Portugal] — **nic·o·tin·ic** (nik′ə·tin′ik) *adj.*
nicotinic acid *Biochem.* A colorless, water-soluble compound, $C_6H_5NO_2$, prepared by the oxidation of nicotine and forming part of the vitamin B complex, used to prevent pellagra: also called *niacin*.
nic·ti·tate (nik′tə·tāt) *v.i.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** To wink. Also **nic′tate.** [< Med.L, freq. of L *nictare* to wink] — **nic′ti·ta′tion** *n.*
nictitating membrane A transparent third eyelid at the inner corner of the eye in various birds, reptiles, etc.
niece (nēs) *n.* The daughter of a brother or sister. [< OF, ult. < L *neptis* niece, granddaughter]
Nie·tzsche·an (nē′chi·ən) *adj.* Of or relating to Friedrich Nietzsche, or to his philosophy. — *n.* A follower of Nietzsche, or of his philosophy. — **Nie′tzsche·an·ism, Nie′tzsche·ism** *n.*
nif·ty (nif′tē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** *Slang* Stylish; pleasing.
nig·gard (nig′ərd) *n.* A stingy person. — *adj.* Niggardly. [? < AF, ? ult. < ON *hnøggr*]
nig·gard·ly (nig′ərd·lē) *adj.* **1.** Stingy; parsimonious. **2.** Meanly insufficient; scanty. — *adv.* In the manner of a niggard. — **nig′gard·li·ness** *n.*
nig·ger (nig′ər) *n.* A Negro or member of any dark-skinned people: a vulgar and offensive term. [See NEGRO.]
nig·gle (nig′əl) *v.i.* **·gled, ·gling** To occupy oneself with trifles; behave trivially. [Cf. dial. Norw. *nigla*]
nig·gling (nig′ling) *adj.* **1.** Fussy; overprecise. **2.** Mean; petty. **3.** Annoying; nagging. — *n.* Overelaborate or overprecise work or behavior. — **nig′gling·ly** *adv.*
nigh (nī) *Chiefly Archaic & Dial.* *adj.* **nigh·er, nigh·est** or **next** **1.** Close; near. **2.** Convenient; direct. — *adv.* **1.** Near in time or place. **2.** Almost: often with *on* or *onto*: *nigh* on a year. — *prep.* Near. — *v.t. & v.i.* To draw near; approach. [OE *nēah, nēh*] — **nigh′ness** *n.*
night (nīt) *n.* **1.** The period from sunset to sunrise, esp. the part that is dark. ◆ Collateral adjective: *nocturnal*. **2.** The period of evening and darkness before midnight of a given day. **3.** Darkness; the dark. **4.** A condition of ignorance, gloom, painful confusion, etc. [OE *niht, neaht*]
night blindness Vision that is abnormally poor in dim light but normal in daylight.
night-bloom·ing ce·re·us (nīt′blōō′ming sir′ē·əs) A tall tropical cactus having large white flowers that open at night.
night·cap (nīt′kap′) *n.* **1.** A cap to be worn in bed. **2.** *Informal* A drink of liquor taken just before going to bed.
night·clothes (nīt′klōz′, -klōthz′) *n.pl.* Clothes to be worn in bed.
night club A restaurant open until late at night, providing entertainment, food, and drink.
night crawler Any large earthworm that emerges at night.
night·fall (nīt′fôl′) *n.* The close of day.
night·gown (nīt′goun′) *n.* A loose gown worn in bed by women and children. Also **night′dress′** (-dres′).
night·hawk (nit′hôk′) *n.* **1.** Any of various birds related to the whippoorwill. **2.** The nightjar.
night·in·gale (nī′tən·gāl, nī′ting-) *n.* A small, Old World migratory bird allied to the thrushes and noted for the melodious song of the male. [OE < *niht* night + *galan* to sing]
night·jar (nīt′jär′) *n.* Any of various goatsuckers of Europe: also called *nighthawk*.
night letter A telegram sent at night, at reduced rates.

night-light (nīt′līt′) *n.* A usu. dim light kept on at night.
night-long (nīt′lông′, -long′) *adj.* Lasting through the night. — *adv.* Through the whole night.
night·ly (nīt′lē) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or occurring each night. **2.** Pertaining to or occurring at night. — *adv.* **1.** By night. **2.** Each night: to take place *nightly*.
night·mare (nīt′mâr) *n.* **1.** A horrible and frightening dream. **2.** Any experience or condition resembling a nightmare. [< NIGHT + MARE²] — **night′mar·ish** *adj.*
night owl One who stays up late.
nights (nīts) *adv. Informal* At night. [OE *nihtes*]
night school A school that holds classes during the evening, esp. for those who cannot attend day school.
night-shade (nīt′shād′) *n.* **1.** Any of various flowering plants typical of a family that includes tobacco, pepper, jimsonweed, the potato, and the tomato. **2.** Belladonna.
night-shirt (nīt′shûrt′) *n.* A long, loose garment worn in bed, usu. by men or boys.
night-spot (nīt′spot′) *U.S. Informal* A night club.
night-stick (nīt′stik′) *n. U.S.* A long, heavy club carried by policemen.
night table A bedside table or stand.
night-time (nīt′tīm′) *n.* The time from sunset to sunrise, or from dark to dawn.
night-walk·er (nīt′wô′kər) *n.* A night crawler.
night watch **1.** A watch or guard kept at night. **2.** A night watchman. **3.** A period of watch or guard.
night-wear (nīt′wâr′) *n.* Nightclothes.
night-y (nī′tē) *n. pl.* **night·ies** *U.S. Informal* A nightgown.
nigri- *combining form* Black. Also, before vowels, **nigr-**. [< L *niger*, *nigris* black]
ni·hil·ism (nī′əl·iz′əm, ni′hil-) *n.* **1.** *Philos.* **a** A doctrine that denies existence. **b** A doctrine that denies any basis for knowledge or truth. **c** Total denial of all traditional principles, values, and institutions. **2.** In politics: **a** A doctrine advocating the destruction of all political, economic, and social institutions. **b** *Usu. cap.* A revolutionary movement in Russia in the 19th century advocating violence and terror. **3.** Any revolutionary movement advocating terror and violence. — **ni′hil·ist** *n.* — **ni′hil·is′tic** *adj.*
Ni·ke (nī′kē) In Greek mythology, the winged goddess of victory: identified with the Roman *Victoria*. — *n.* An anti-aircraft guided missile. [< Gk. *Nikē* victory]
nil (nil) *n.* Nothing. [< L, contr. of *nihil* nothing]
Nile green Any of several light green tints.
nil·gai (nil′gī) *n.* A large, short-maned antelope of India. Also **nil′gau** (-gô), **nil′ghai**, **nil′ghau** (-gô). [< Hind. < *nīl* blue + *gāi* cow]
nim·ble (nim′bəl) *adj.* **·bler**, **·blest** **1.** Light and quick in movement; lively. **2.** Characterized by a quick and ready intellect. [OE *numel* quick at grasping] — **nim′ble·ness** *n.* — **nim′bly** *adv.*
nim·bo·stra·tus (nim′bō·strā′təs, -strat′əs) *n. Meteorol.* A low, formless, dark gray cloud layer, precipitating continuous rain or snow.
nim·bus (nim′bəs) *n. pl.* **·bus·es** or **·bi** (-bī) **1.** A luminous emanation believed to envelop a deity or holy person. **2.** Any atmosphere or aura, as of fame, glamor, etc. **3.** Formerly, a nimbostratus. [< L, cloud]
Nim·rod (nim′rod) Grandson of Ham, described as a mighty hunter. *Gen.* x 8. — *n.* A hunter. Also **nim′rod.**
Ni·ña (nē′nə, *Sp.* nē′nyä) *n.* One of the three ships of Columbus on his first voyage to America.
nin·com·poop (nin′kəm·pōōp) *n.* An idiot; fool. [Origin unknown]
nine (nīn) *n.* **1.** The sum of eight and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 9, ix, IX. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing nine units, as a baseball team, etc. — **the Nine** The Muses. — *adj.* Being one more than eight. [OE *nigon*] — **ninth** *adj. & n.*
nine iron In golf, an iron with an extremely slanted face, used for lofting the ball: also called *niblick*.
nine-pence (nīn′pəns) *n. Brit.* **1.** The sum of nine pennies. **2.** A coin of this value, no longer minted.
nine-pins (nīn′pinz′) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) A bowling game similar to tenpins, using nine large wooden pins.
nine·teen (nīn′tēn′) *n.* **1.** The sum of eighteen and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 19, xix, XIX. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing nineteen units. — *adj.* Being one more than eighteen. [OE *nigontiene*] — **nine′teenth′** *adj. & n.*
nine·ty (nīn′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The sum of eighty and ten: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 90, xc, XC. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing ninety units, as an organization, game token, etc. — *adj.* Being ten more than eighty. [OE *nigontig*] — **nine′ti·eth** *adj. & n.*
Nin·e·veh (nin′ə·və) An ancient city on the Tigris, capital of Assyria. — **Nin′e·vite** (-vīt) *n.*
Ni·o·be (nī′ə·bē) In Greek mythology, the mother whose children were killed by Apollo and Artemis after she had vaunted their superiority. She was turned by Zeus into a stone from which tears continued to flow.
ni·o·bi·um (nī·ō′bē·əm) *n.* A rare, steel gray, metallic element (symbol Nb), valuable as an alloy metal: formerly called *columbium*. See ELEMENT. [< NIOBE]
nip¹ (nip) *v.* **nipped, nip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To pinch or compress between two surfaces; bite. **2.** To sever or remove by pinching, biting, or clipping: usually with *off*. **3.** To check, arrest, or destroy the growth or development of. **4.** To affect painfully or injuriously, as by cold. **5.** *Slang* To steal; pilfer. **6.** *Slang* To catch; take. — *v.i.* **7.** *Brit. Informal* To move nimbly or rapidly: with *off*, *away*, etc. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which nips. **2.** That which is nipped off. **3.** Any small portion: a *nip* of tea. **4.** A sharp, stinging quality. **5.** Severe cold or frost. **6.** A cutting remark. **7.** A sharp, pungent flavor. — **nip and tuck** *U.S.* Very close or even; precariously uncertain. [Cf. Du. *nijpen* to pinch]
nip² (nip) *n.* A small quantity of liquor. — *v.t. & v.i.* To sip (liquor). [? < earlier *nipperkin* a small liquid measure]
nip·per (nip′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which nips. **2.** *pl.* Any of various implements used for nipping, as pliers, pincers, etc. **3.** The large claw of a crab or lobster. **4.** *pl. Slang* Handcuffs. **5.** *Brit. Informal* A small boy; lad.
nip·ple (nip′əl) *n.* **1.** The protuberance on the breasts of higher mammals, esp. that of the female; teat. **2.** The rubber teatlike mouthpiece of a nursing bottle. **3.** Something resembling a nipple, as a short pipe coupling with threaded ends. [Earlier *nible*, ? dim. of NIB]
nip·py (nip′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er**, **·pi·est** **1.** Biting or sharp, as cold weather. **2.** *Brit. Informal* Active; alert. — **nip′pi·ly** *adv.* — **nip′pi·ness** *n.*
nir·va·na (nir·vä′nə, nər·van′ə) *n.* **1.** In Buddhism, the state of absolute felicity attained through the annihilation of the self. **2.** Freedom from care and pain; bliss. [< Skt. *nirvāna* extinction]
Ni·san (nē·sän′, nis′ən) *n.* The seventh month of the Hebrew year. Also **Nis′san.** See (Hebrew) CALENDAR.
Ni·sei (nē·sā) *n. pl.* **·sei** or **·seis** A native American of immigrant Japanese parentage.
ni·si (nī′sī) *conj. Law* Unless: used after the word *order*, *rule*, *decree*, etc., signifying that it shall become effective at a certain time, unless modified or avoided. [< L]
Nis·sen hut (nis′ən, nēs′-) A prefabricated sheet steel building resembling a long half-cylinder lying flat on the ground. [after P. N. *Nissen*, 1871–1930, who invented it]
nit (nit) *n.* **1** The egg of a louse or other parasitic insect. **2.** An immature louse. [OE *hnitu*] — **nit′ty** *adj.*
ni·ter (nī′tər) *n.* **1.** Potassium or sodium nitrate; saltpeter. **2.** *Obs.* Natron. Also **ni′tre.** [< OF < L < Gk. *nitron*]
ni·ton (nī′ton) *n.* Radon. [< L (*nit*)*ere* to shine) + -ON]
nit-pick (nit′pik′) *Informal v.t.* **1.** To fuss over or find fault with. — *v.i.* **2.** To engage in nit-picking. Also **nit′-pick.** [Back formation < NIT-PICKING] — **nit′-pick′er** *n.*
nit-pick·ing (nit′pik′ing) *n. Informal* A fussing over trivial details, often with the aim of finding fault.
ni·trate (nī′trāt) *Chem. n.* **1.** A salt or ester of nitric acid. **2.** Niter. — *v.t.* **·trat·ed**, **·trat·ing** To treat or combine with nitric acid or a compound. [See NITER.]
ni·tric (nī′trik) *adj. Chem.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or obtained from nitrogen. **2.** Containing nitrogen in the higher valence.
nitric acid *Chem.* A colorless, highly corrosive liquid, HNO_3, having strong oxidizing properties.
ni·tride (nī′trīd, -trid) *n. Chem.* A compound of nitrogen with some more electropositive element. Also **ni′trid** (-trid)
ni·tri·fy (nī′trə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied**, **·fy·ing** *Chem.* **1.** To treat or combine with nitrogen. **2.** To convert, as ammonium salts in the soil, into nitrates or nitrites by oxidation. **3.** To treat or impregnate (soil, etc.) with nitrates. [< F *nitrifier*] — **ni′tri·fi′a·ble** *adj.* — **ni′tri·fi·ca′tion** *n.*
ni·trite (nī′trīt) *n. Chem.* A salt of nitrous acid.
nitro- *combining form Chem.* Containing the univalent radical NO_2. Also, before vowels, **nitr-**. Also **nitri-**. [< L *nitrum* < Gk. *nitron*]
ni·tro·ben·zene (nī′trō·ben′zēn, -bən·zēn′) *n. Chem.* A yellow, oily compound, $C_6H_5NO_2$, formed by the nitration of benzene and used in the making of aniline.
ni·tro·gen (nī′trə·jən) *n.* An odorless, colorless, gaseous element (symbol N) forming about four-fifths of the atmosphere by volume and playing a decisive role in the formation of compounds essential to life. See ELEMENT. [< F *nitrogène* < *nitro-* NITRO- + *-gène* -GEN]
nitrogen fixation **1.** The conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into nitrates by soil bacteria. **2.** The production of nitrogen compounds, as for fertilizers and explosives, by processes utilizing free nitrogen. — **ni′tro·gen-fix′ing** *adj.*
ni·trog·en·ize (nī·troj′ən·īz, nī′trə·jən·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized**, **·iz·ing**

To treat or combine with nitrogen.

ni·trog·e·nous (nī·troj′ə·nəs) *adj.* Pertaining to or containing nitrogen. Also **ni·tro·ge·ne·ous** (nī′trō·jē′nē·əs).

ni·tro·glyc·er·in (nī′trō·glis′ər·in) *n. Chem.* A colorless to pale yellow, oily liquid, $C_3H_5(ONO_2)_3$, made by nitrating glycerol, used as an explosive and propellant, etc. Also **ni′·tro, ni′tro·glyc′er·ine.** [< NITRO- + GLYCERIN]

nitro group *Chem.* The univalent NO_2 radical.

ni·trous (nī′trəs) *adj. Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or derived from nitrogen: esp. applied to those compounds containing less oxygen than the nitric compounds.

nitrous oxide A gas, N_2O, used as an anesthetic in dental surgery, etc., and sometimes having an exhilarating effect when inhaled: also called *laughing gas.*

nit·ty-grit·ty (nit′ē·grit′ē) *U.S. Slang n.* The basic questions or details; essence. — *adj.* Down-to-earth; basic.

nit·wit (nit′wit′) *n.* A silly or stupid person.

ni·val (nī′vəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the snow; also, growing under the snow. [< L *nivalis* < *nix, nivis* snow]

nix[1] (niks) *n.* In Germanic mythology, a water sprite.

nix[2] (niks) *Slang n.* 1. Nothing. 2. No. — *adv.* No. — *interj.* Stop! Watch out! — *v.t.* To forbid or disagree with: He *nixed* our suggestions. [< G *nichts* nothing]

Ni·zam (ni·zäm′, -zam′, nī-) *n.* The title of the former hereditary rulers of Hyderabad, India.

no[1] (nō) *adv.* 1. Nay; not so. 2. Not at all; not in any wise: *no* better than the other. 3. Not: used to express an alternative after *or*: whether or no. — *n.* *pl.* **noes** 1. A negative reply; a denial. 2. A negative vote or voter: The *noes* have it. [OE *nā* < *ne* not + *ā* ever]

no[2] (nō) *adj.* Not any; not one. [OE < *ne* not + *ān* one]

no[3] (nō) *n.* *pl.* **no** *Sometimes cap.* The classical drama of Japan, traditionally tragic or noble in theme, having music and dancing: also spelled *noh.* Also **nō.** Compare KABUKI.

No·ah (nō′ə) In the Old Testament, a patriarch who built an ark that saved him, his family, and every kind of animal from the Flood. *Gen.* v-ix. [< Hebrew]

nob[1] (nob) *n.* 1. *Slang* The head. 2. In cribbage, the jack of trumps. [Var. of KNOB]

nob[2] (nob) *n. Slang* One who is rich, influential, etc.

No·bel Prizes (nō·bel′) Any of five prizes founded by the will of Alfred Nobel and awarded annually in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and the furtherance of world peace.

no·be·li·um (nō·bē′lē·əm) *n.* An unstable radioactive element (symbol No) originally produced by the bombardment of curium by an isotope of carbon. See ELEMENT. [after A. B. *Nobel*]

no·bil·i·ty (nō·bil′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** 1. A class in society composed of persons having hereditary title, rank, and privileges. 2. In Great Britain, the peerage. 3. The state or quality of being noble.

no·ble (nō′bəl) *adj.* **·bler, ·blest** 1. Having excellence or dignity; eminent; illustrious; worthy. 2. Characterized by or displaying superior moral qualities. 3. Magnificent and imposing in appearance; grand; stately. 4. Of or pertaining to the nobility; aristocratic. 5. Chemically inert. — *n.* 1. A nobleman. 2. In Great Britain, a peer. [< MF < L *nobilis* noble, well-known] — **no′ble·ness** *n.* — **no′bly** *adv.*

no·ble·man (nō′bəl·mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man of noble rank; in England, a peer.

no·blesse o·blige (nō·bles′ ō·blēzh′) *French* Those of high birth, wealth, or social position must behave generously or nobly toward others; literally, nobility obligates.

no·ble·wom·an (nō′bəl·wo͝om′ən) *n.* *pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) 1. A woman of noble rank. 2. In England, a peeress.

no·bod·y (nō′bod′ē, -bəd·ē) *pron.* Not anybody. — *n.* *pl.* **·bod·ies** A person of no importance or influence.

nock (nok) *n.* 1. The notch for the bowstring on the butt end of an arrow. 2. The notch on the horn of a bow for securing the bowstring. [ME *nocke*]

nocti- *combining form* By or at night. Also, before vowels, **noct-.** [< L *nox, noctis* night]

noc·tu·id (nok′chōō·id) *n.* Any of a large family of medium-sized moths, esp. those whose larvae are destructive. — *adj.* Of this family of moths. [< NL < L *noctua* night owl]

noc·tur·nal (nok·tûr′nəl) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or occurring at night. 2. *Biol.* Active, blooming, etc., by night. [< LL < L *nocturnus* nightly] — **noc·tur′nal·ly** *adv.*

noc·turne (nok′tûrn) *n.* 1. In painting, a night scene. 2. *Music* A composition of a pensive or romantic nature.

nod (nod) *v.* **nod·ded, nod·ding** *v.i.* 1. To lower the head forward briefly, as in agreement, assent, invitation, etc. 2. To let the head fall forward slightly and involuntarily, as when drowsy. 3. To be inattentive or careless. 4. To sway or bend the top or upper part, as trees. — *v.t.* 5. To lower (the head) by nodding. 6. To express or signify (assent, agreement, etc.) by nodding the head. — *n.* The act of one who or that which nods. — **to give** (or **get**) **the nod** *U.S. Slang* To give (or receive) the sign to go ahead, assent, approval, etc. [ME *nodden*] — **nod′der** *n.*

nod·dle (nod′l) *Informal n.* The head; noodle. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** To nod frequently. [Freq. of NOD]

nod·dy (nod′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·dies** 1. A dunce; a fool. 2. One of several terns of the Atlantic coast. [? < NOD]

node (nōd) *n.* 1. A knot, knob, or swelling; protuberance. 2. *Bot.* A joint or knob of a stem. 3. *Math.* A point at which a curve crosses itself. 4. *Astron.* Either of two points at which the orbit of a heavenly body intersects the ecliptic. 5. *Physics* A point, line, or surface in a standing wave system at which some component wave has virtually zero amplitude. 6. *Anat.* A swelling. [< L *nodus* knot] — **nod·al** (nōd′l) *adj.* — **nod′al·ly** *adv.*

nod·ule (noj′o͞ol, nod′yo͞ol) *n.* 1. A little knot or node. 2. *Bot.* A tubercle. [< L < *nodus* knot] — **nod·u·lar** (noj′o͞o·lər), **nod′u·lose** (-lōs), **nod′u·lous** (-ləs) *adj.*

no·ël (nō·el′) *n.* A Christmas carol. Also **no·el′.**

No·ël (nō·el′) *n.* Christmas. Also **No·el′.** [< F < LL (*dies*) *natalis* birthday]

nog (nog) *n.* 1. Eggnog (which see). 2. *Brit. Dial.* A strong ale. Also **nogg.** [Origin unknown]

nog·gin (nog′in) *n.* 1. *Informal* A person's head. 2. A small mug or cup. 3. A measure of liquor equal to about one fourth of a pint or a gill. [Origin unknown]

noh (nō) See NO[3].

no·how (nō′hou′) *adv. Dial.* In no way; not by any means.

noise (noiz) *n.* 1. Loud, confused, or disturbing sound of any kind. 2. In communication theory, any random disturbance that causes a received signal to differ from what was transmitted. — *v.* **noised, nois·ing** *Rare v.t.* 1. To spread, report, or rumor: often with *about* or *abroad.* — *v.i.* 2. To be noisy; make a noise. [< OF, ? < L *nausea*]

— **Syn.** (noun) 1. din, clamor, uproar, hubbub, racket, clatter, blare. See SOUND[1].

noise·less (noiz′lis) *adj.* Causing or making little or no noise; quiet; silent. — **noise′less·ly** *adv.* — **noise′less·ness** *n.*

noise·mak·er (noiz′mā′kər) *n.* A horn, bell, etc., for making noise at celebrations. — **noise′mak′ing** *n. & adj.*

noi·some (noi′səm) *adj.* 1. Offensive or disgusting, esp. in smell; stinking. 2. Injurious; noxious. [ME < *noy* annoyance + OE *-sum* like, resembling] — **noi′some·ly** *adv.* — **noi′some·ness** *n.*

nois·y (noi′zē) *adj.* **nois·i·er, nois·i·est** 1. Making a loud noise. 2. Characterized by or full of noise. — **nois′i·ly** *adv.* — **nois′i·ness** *n.*

no·li·me·tan·ge·re (nō′lī·mē·tan′jə·rē) *n.* A warning against touching or meddling. [< L, touch me not]

nol·le pros·e·qui (noi′ē pros′ə·kwī) *Law* An entry of record in a civil or criminal case, to signify that the plaintiff or prosecutor will not press it. [< L, to be unwilling to prosecute]

no·lo con·ten·de·re (nō′lō kən·ten′də·rē) *Law* A plea by a defendant in a criminal action that has the same legal effect as an admission of guilt but does not debar him from denying the truth of the charges in any other proceedings. [< L, I am unwilling to contend]

nol-pros (nol′pros′) *v.t.* **-prossed, -pros·sing** *Law* To subject to a nolle prosequi. [Short for NOLLE PROSEQUI]

no·mad (nō′mad, nom′ad) *n.* 1. One of a group of people that habitually shifts its abode to find food, avoid drought, etc. 2. One who constantly moves about, usu. without purpose; a wanderer. — *adj.* Nomadic. [< L < Gk. *nomas* < *nemein* to graze] — **no′mad·ism** *n.*

no·mad·ic (nō·mad′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or like nomads. Also **no·mad′i·cal.** — **no·mad′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

no man's land 1. A tract of waste or unowned land. 2. In war, the land between opposing armies. 3. An area of human activity characterized by ambiguity or peril.

nom de guerre (nôn də gâr′) *French* A pseudonym; literally, a war name.

nom de plume (nom′ də plo͞om′, *Fr.* nôn də plüm′) A pen name; a writer's assumed name. — **Syn.** See PSEUDONYM. [< F *nom* name + *de* of + *plume* pen]

no·men·cla·ture (nō′mən·klā′chər, nō·men′klə-) *n.* 1. The system of names used to describe the various elements of a science, art, etc.; terminology. 2. The specific names for the parts or stages of a device, process, etc.

nom·i·nal (nom′ə·nəl) *adj.* 1. Existing in name only; not actual. 2. Slight or inconsiderable; trifling. 3. Of or like a name. 4. *Gram.* Of, pertaining to, or like a noun. [< L < *nomen* name]

nom·i·nal·ism (nom′ə·nəl·iz′əm) *n. Philos.* The doctrine that universals (abstract concepts) exist only as names and without a basis in reality: opposed to *realism.* [< F *nominalisme*] — **nom′i·nal·ist** *adj. & n.*

nom·i·nal·ly (nom′ə·nəl·ē) *adv.* In name only; not actually.

nom·i·nate (nom′ə·nāt) *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** 1. To name or propose as a candidate for elective office. 2. To appoint to some office or duty — *adj.* Having a particular or special name. [< L *nominare* to name] — **nom′i·na′tion** *n.* — **nom′i·na′tor** *n.*

nom·i·na·tive (nom′ə·nə·tiv, nom′ə·nā′-) *adj.* 1. *Gram.*

Designating the case of the subject of a finite verb, or of a word agreeing with or in apposition to the subject. **2.** Appointed by nomination; nominated. — *n. Gram.* **1.** The nominative case. **2.** A word in this case.

nom·i·nee (nom′ə-nē′) *n.* One who receives a nomination.

-nomy *combining form* The science or systematic study of: *astronomy, economy.* [< Gk. *nomos* law]

non- *prefix* Not. [< F < L *non* not]

◆ *Non-* is the Latin negative adverb adopted as an English prefix. It denotes in general simple negation or absence of, as in *nonheroic,* not heroic, *nonattendance,* lack of attendance.

non·age (non′ij, nō′nij) *n.* **1.** The period of legal minority. **2.** A period of immaturity. [< OF < *non* not + *age* age]

non·a·ge·nar·i·an (non′ə-jə-nâr′ē-ən, nō′nə-) *n.* A person between 90 and 100 years of age. — *adj.* **1.** Being ninety years old, or between 90 and 100. **2.** Of or pertaining to a nonagenarian. [< L *nonagenarius* of ninety]

non·a·gon (non′ə-gon) *n. Geom.* A polygon having nine sides and nine angles. [< L *nonus* ninth + Gk. *gōnia* angle]

nonce (nons) *n.* Present time or occasion: now chiefly in the phrase **for the nonce.** [ME *for then ones* for the one (occasion), misread as *for the nones*]

nonce word A word coined for a single occasion.

non·cha·lant (non′shə-lənt, non′shə-länt′) *adj.* Marked by or exhibiting a lack of interest or excitement; casually indifferent. [< F < L *non* not + *calere* to be warm, to be desirous] — **non′cha·lance** *n.* — **non′cha·lant·ly** *adv.*

non·com (non′kom′) *U.S. Informal n.* A noncommissioned officer. — *adj.* Noncommissioned.

non·com·bat·ant (non′kəm-bat′ənt, non′kom′bə-tənt, -kum′-) *n.* **1.** One whose duties as a member of a military force do not entail fighting, as a chaplain or medical officer. **2.** A civilian in wartime.

non·com·mis·sioned (non′kə-mish′ənd) *adj.* Not holding a commission: said of certain grades of the armed forces.

noncommissioned officer *Mil.* An enlisted man appointed to a noncommissioned grade, as from corporal to sergeant major in the U.S. Army. See table for GRADE.

non·com·mit·tal (non′kə-mit′l) *adj.* Not involving or revealing a commitment to any particular attitude, opinion, etc. — **non′com·mit′tal·ly** *adv.*

non·com·pli·ance (non′kəm-plī′əns) *n.* Failure or neglect to comply. — **non′com·pli′ant** *adj. & n.*

non compos mentis (non kom′pəs men′tis) *Law* Not of sound mind; mentally unbalanced: often **non compos.** [< L]

non·con·duc·tor (non′kən-duk′tər) *n.* A substance that offers resistance to the passage of some form of energ , as of heat or electricity. — **non′con·duct′ing** *adj.*

non·con·form·ist (non′kən-fôr′mist) *n.* **1.** One who does not conform to an approved manner of behaving or thinking. **2.** *Often cap.* An English Protestant who refuses to conform to the Church of England. — **non′con·form′ing** *adj.* — **non′con·for′mi·ty** *n.*

non·co·op·er·a·tion (non′kō-op′ə-rā′shən) *n.* Failure to cooperate; esp., resistance to a government through civil disobedience, including the refusal to pay taxes. — **non′co·op′er·a′tion·ist** *n.* — **non′co·op′er·a·tive** (-kō-op′rə-tiv, -kō-op′ə-rā′tiv) *adj.* — **non′co·op′er·a′tor** *n.*

non·de·script (non′di-skript) *adj.* Not distinctive enough to be described; lacking individual character. — *n.* A nondescript person or thing: often used disparagingly. [< NON- + L *descriptus,* pp. of *describere* to describe]

none (nun) *pron.* (*construed as sing. or pl.*) **1.** Not one; no one. **2.** No or not one (specified person or thing); not any (of a class of things). **3.** No part or portion; not any: It is *none* of my business. — *adv.* By no means; not at all: He is *none* too bright. [OE < *ne* not + *an* one]

non·ef·fec·tive (non′i-fek′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Not effective. **2.** Unfit or unavailable for active service or duty, as in the army or navy. — *n.* A noneffective soldier, sailor, etc.

non·en·ti·ty (non·en′tə-tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** One who or that which is of little or no account; a nothing. **2.** That which does not exist, or exists solely in the imagination. **3.** The negation of being; nonexistence.

nones (nōnz) *n.pl.* **1.** In the ancient Roman calendar, the ninth day before the ides. **2.** *Often cap. Eccl.* Prescribed prayers constituting the fifth of the seven canonical hours. [< OF < L *nonae,* fem. pl. of *nonus* ninth]

none·such (nun′such′) *n.* **1.** One who or that which has no equal; nonpareil. **2.** A variety of apple. Also *nonsuch.*

none·the·less (nun′thə-les′) *adv.* In spite of everything; nevertheless. Also **none the less.**

non·fea·sance (non·fē′zəns) *n. Law* The nonperformance of some act that one is legally bound to perform. — **non·fea′sor** *n.*

non·fer·rous (non·fer′əs) *adj.* Not containing iron; esp., pertaining to metals other than iron, as copper, tin, platinum, etc.

non·fic·tion (non′fik′shən) *n.* Prose literature other than fiction, as historical works, biographies, etc. — **non′fic′tion·al** *adj.* — **non′fic′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

non·flam·ma·ble (non′flam′ə-bəl) *adj.* Not flammable.

no·nil·lion (nō-nil′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand octillions, written as 1 followed by thirty zeros: a cardinal number. **2.** *Brit.* A million octillions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by fifty-four zeros: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a nonillion in number. [< MF < L *nonus* ninth + F (*m*)*illion* million] — **no·nil′lionth** (-yənth) *adj. & n.*

non·in·ter·ven·tion (non′in·tər·ven′shən) *n.* **1.** The refusal or failure to intervene; esp., the policy or practice of a nation of not intervening in the affairs of other nations. **2.** An instance of this. — **non′in·ter·ven′tion·ist** *adj. & n.*

non·join·der (non·join′dər) *n. Law* An omission to join an action or suit, as by a person who should be a party to it.

non·ju·ror (non·jōōr′ər) *n.* One who refuses to take an oath, as of allegiance, supremacy, or abjuration. [< NON- + JUROR, in obs. sense "one who takes an oath"]

non·met·al (non·met′l) *n. Chem.* Any element, as nitrogen, carbon, or sulfur, that has acid rather than basic properties.

non·mor·al (non·môr′əl, -mor′-) *adj.* Having no relation to morals; neither moral nor immoral. — **non′mo·ral′i·ty** *n.*

non·ob·jec·tive (non′əb-jek′tiv) *adj.* Not objective; esp., denoting a style of nonrepresentational art.

non·pa·reil (non′pə-rel′) *adj.* Having no equal; unrivaled. — *n.* **1.** One who or that which has no equal; a paragon. **2.** Any of various brilliantly colored finches of the southern U.S. **3.** *Printing* A size of type, 6 points, between agate and minion. [< MF < *non* not + OF *pareil equal*]

non·par·ti·san (non·pär′tə-zən) *adj.* Not partisan; esp., not controlled by, associated with, or in support of the interests of any one political party. Also **non·par′ti·zan.**

non·plus (non·plus′, non′plus) *v.t.* **·plused** or **·plussed, ·plus·ing** or **·plus·sing** To cause to be at a loss; baffle; perplex. — *n.* A mental standstill; bewilderment, esp. as causing speechlessness or indecision. [< L *non plus* no further]

non·pro·duc·tive (non′prə-duk′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Not productive; esp., pertaining to that part of the labor force that does not directly contribute to the production of goods, as office workers, salesmen, etc. **2.** Unproductive. — **non′pro·duc′tive·ly** *adv.* — **non′pro·duc′tive·ness** *n.*

non·prof·it (non·prof′it) *adj.* Not organized or maintained for the making of a profit: *nonprofit* charities.

non·pros (non·pros′) *v.t.* **·prossed, ·pros·sing** *Law* To enter judgment against (a plaintiff who fails to prosecute). [Short for NON PROSEQUITUR]

non pro·seq·ui·tur (non prō·sek′wi·tər) *Law* A judgment entered against a plaintiff who fails to prosecute an action. [< L, lit., he does not prosecute]

non·rep·re·sen·ta·tion·al (non′rep′ri·zen·tā′shən·əl) *adj.* Not representational; esp., denoting a style of art that does not seek to represent objects as they appear in nature.

non·res·i·dent (non·rez′ə·dənt) *adj.* Not resident; esp., not residing permanently in the locality where one works, owns property, attends school, etc. — *n.* One who is nonresident. — **non·res′i·dence, non·res′i·den·cy** *n.*

non·re·sis·tant (non′ri·zis′tənt) *adj.* **1.** Not resistant; esp., incapable of resistance, as to infection. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a nonresistant. — *n.* One who is passive in the face of violence. — **non′re·sis′tance** *n.*

non·re·stric·tive (non′ri·strik′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Not restrictive. **2.** *Gram.* Denoting a word or word group, esp. an adjective clause, that describes its antecedent, but may be omitted without loss of essential meaning, as *which is for sale* in *Our house, which is for sale, needs repairs.*

non·sec·tar·i·an (non′sek·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* Not restricted to or associated with any one religion, sect, or faction.

non·sense (non′sens, -səns) *n.* **1.** That which is without sense, or without good sense; esp., words or actions that are meaningless or absurd. **2.** Things of no importance or use; trifles. **3.** Foolish or frivolous conduct. — **non·sen′si·cal** *adj.* — **non·sen′si·cal·ly** *adv.* — **non·sen′si·cal·ness** *n.*

non seq·ui·tur (non sek′wə·tər) **1.** *Logic* An inference that does not follow from the premises. **2.** Any comment not relevant to what has preceded it. [< L, it does not follow]

non·skid (non′skid′) *adj.* Having a surface that resists skidding.

non·stan·dard (non′stan′dərd) *adj.* **1.** Varying or deviating from the standard. **2.** *Ling.* Designating those usages or varieties of a language that differ from the standard.

nonstandard English *Ling.* Those usages in English that differ from standard English: also *substandard English.*

non·stop (non′stop′) *adj.* Making, having made, or scheduled to make no stops: a *nonstop* flight; *nonstop* train.

non·such (nun′such′) See NONESUCH.

non·suit (non′sōōt′) *Law v.t.* To order the dismissal of the suit of. — *n.* **1.** The abandonment of a suit. **2.** A judg-

ment dismissing a suit, when the plaintiff either abandons it or fails to establish a cause of action.

non·sup·port (non′sə·pôrt′, -pōrt′) *n.* Failure to provide for the support of a legal dependent.

non trop·po (non trop′ō) *Music* Not too much. [< Ital.]

non·un·ion (non·yōōn′yən) *adj.* **1.** Not belonging to or associated with a trade union. **2.** Not recognizing or contracting with any trade union; also, not employing the members of any union: *nonunion* shop. **3.** Not produced or maintained by union labor.

non·un·ion·ism (non·yōōn′yən·iz′əm) *n.* Opposition to trade unions. — **non·un′ion·ist** *n.*

non·white (non′hwīt′) *n.* One who is not a member of the Caucasoid ethnic division of mankind. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to nonwhites. **2.** Not white.

noo·dle[1] (nōōd′l) *n.* **1.** A simpleton. Also **noo′dle·head′** (-hed′). **2.** *Informal* The head. [? < NOD]

noo·dle[2] (nōōd′l) *n.* A thin strip of dried dough, usu. containing egg, used in soup, etc. [< G *nudel*]

nook (nōōk) *n.* **1.** An interior corner or angle, as in a room. **2.** Any narrow or retired place, as a recess. [ME *nok* corner]

noon (nōōn) *n.* **1.** The middle of the day; twelve o'clock in the daytime. **2.** The highest or culminating point; zenith: the *noon* of life. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or ocurring at or about noon. [OE < L *nona* (*hora*) ninth (hour)]

noon·day (nōōn′dā′) *n.* Noon. — *adj.* Of or at noon.

no one Not any person; nobody.

noon·time (nōōn′tīm′) *n.* **1.** Midday. **2.** The culminating point or period. Also *Archaic* **noon′tide′**. [OE *nōntīd*]

noose (nōōs) *n.* **1.** A loop furnished with a running knot, as in a hangman's halter or a snare. **2.** Anything that entraps, restrains, or binds. — *v.t.* **noosed, noos·ing** **1.** To capture or secure with a noose. **2.** To make a noose in or with. [< Provençal < L *nodus* knot]

Noot·ka fir (nōōt′kə) The Douglas fir.

no-par (nō′pär′) *adj.* Having no par or face value, as certain stock.

nope (nōp) *adv. Chiefly U.S. Slang* No.

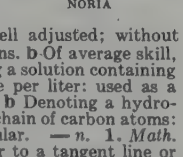
nor (nôr) *conj.* And not; likewise not. ◆ *Nor* is used chiefly as a correlative of a preceding negative, as *neither, not,* or *never*: He is neither tall *nor* short; He has not come, *nor* will he. *Nor* is also used to introduce a clause following an affirmative clause: He hates me, *nor* does he hide it. [Contr. of ME *nother* neither]

Nor·dic (nôr′dik) *adj. Anthropol.* Pertaining or belonging to the tall, long-headed, blond-haired subdivision of the Caucasian ethnic stock, distributed mainly in NW Europe. — *n.* A Nordic person. [< NL *nordicus*]

nor′·east·er (nôr·ēs′tər), etc. See NORTHEASTER, etc.

Nor·folk jacket (nôr′fək) A loose-fitting men's jacket with a belt and two box pleats at the back and front.

no·ri·a (nō′rē·ə) *n.* An undershot water wheel having buckets on its rim to raise water, used in Spain and the Orient: also called *Persian wheel.* [< Sp. < Arabic *nā'ūrah*]



NORIA

norm (nôrm) *n.* **1.** A pattern, model, or standard regarded as typical of a specified group. **2.** *Psychol.* The standard of performance in a given function or test, usu. the average achievement for the group concerned. **3.** *Stat.* The mode. [< L *norma* rule]

nor·mal (nôr′məl) *adj.* **1.** Conforming to or consisting of a pattern, process, or standard regarded as usual or typical; natural. **2.** *Psychol.* **a** Well adjusted; without marked or persistent mental aberrations. **b** Of average skill, intelligence, etc. **3.** *Chem.* **a** Denoting a solution containing one gram equivalent weight of solute per liter: used as a unit, as *two normal, three normal,* etc. **b** Denoting a hydrocarbon having a straight, unbranched chain of carbon atoms: *normal* butane. **4.** *Math.* Perpendicular. — *n.* **1.** *Math.* A perpendicular; esp., a perpendicular to a tangent line or plane at the point of tangency. **2.** The common or natural condition, form, degree, etc. **3.** The usual or accepted rule or process. [< L < *norma* rule] — **nor′mal·cy, nor·mal·i·ty** (nôr·mal′ə·tē), **nor′mal·ness** *n.*

normal curve *Stat.* A bell-shaped curve representing the distribution of a series of values of a variable.

normal distribution *Stat.* A frequency distribution represented by a normal curve.

nor·mal·ize (nôr′məl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To bring into accord with a norm or standard form; make normal. — **nor′mal·i·za′tion** *n.* — **nor′mal·iz′er** *n.*

nor·mal·ly (nôr′mə·lē) *adv.* **1.** As a rule; usually: The mail *normally* comes before noon. **2.** In a normal manner.

normal school A school that prepares secondary-school graduates to become teachers.

Nor·man (nôr′mən) *n.* **1.** One of the Scandinavian people who conquered Normandy in the tenth century. **2.** One of the people of mixed Scandinavian and French descent who conquered England in 1066. **3.** A resident of Normandy. **4.** Norman French. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Normandy or the Normans. [< OF *Normans* Northmen]

Norman Conquest The subjugation of England by William the Conqueror in 1066. See table for WAR.

Norman French **1.** The dialect of French spoken by the Normans in the Middle Ages. **2.** The legal parlance of England from the Norman Conquest to the 17th century. **3.** The dialect of French spoken in Normandy. Also *Norman.*

nor·ma·tive (nôr′mə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or based upon a norm, esp. one regarded as a standard or rule of usage. **2.** Implying, supporting, or establishing a norm.

Norse (nôrs) *adj.* **1.** Scandinavian. **2.** Of or pertaining to Norway, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands; West Scandinavian. — *n.* **1.** The Scandinavians or West Scandinavians collectively: used with *the.* **2.** The Scandinavian or North Germanic group of the Germanic languages; esp., Norwegian. **3.** The West Scandinavian languages. — **Old Norse** **1.** The ancestor of the North Germanic languages, best represented by Old Icelandic: also called *Old Scandinavian.* **2.** Old Icelandic: see under ICELANDIC. [< Du. < MDu. *nordsch, nortsch* northern]

Norse·man (nôrs′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A Scandinavian of Viking times.

north (nôrth) *n.* **1.** The direction along a meridian that falls to the left of an observer on earth facing the sun at sunrise. **2.** One of the four cardinal points of the compass, directly opposite *south* and 90° counterclockwise from *east.* See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any direction near this point. **4.** *Sometimes cap.* Any region north of a specified point. — **the North** In the U.S.: **a** The population or territory of the northern or northeastern States; esp., the region north of Maryland, the Ohio River, and Missouri. **b** The Free States opposed to the Confederacy (*the South*) in the Civil War. — *adj.* **1.** To, toward, facing, or in the north. **2.** Coming from the north. — *adv.* In or toward the north. [OE]

North American Indian An Indian of any of the tribes formerly inhabiting North America north of Mexico, now the United States and Canada. Abbr. *N.Am.Ind.*

North Atlantic Drift The terminal current of the Gulf Stream system, flowing from near Newfoundland northeast to Western Europe. Also **North Atlantic Current.**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization A military and naval alliance of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the U.S., and West Germany, organized under the **North Atlantic Treaty** of Washington, Apr. 4, 1919. Abbr. *NATO*

north·bound (nôrth′bound′) *adj.* Going northward. Also **north′-bound′.**

north·east (nôrth′ēst′, *Naut.* nôr·ēst′) *n.* **1.** The direction midway between north and east. **2.** A point on the mariner's compass, four points or 45° clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any region lying in or toward this point. — *adj.* **1.** To, toward, facing, or in the northeast. **2.** Coming from the northeast. — *adv.* In or toward the northeast. — **north′east′ern** *adj.*

north·east·er (nôrth′ēs′tər, *Naut.* nôr·ēs′tər) *n.* **1.** A gale or storm from the northeast. **2.** A sailor's hat with a sloping brim worn in stormy weather. Also spelled *nor'easter.*

north·east·er·ly (nôrth′ēs′tər·lē, *Naut.* nôr·ēs′tər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, of, or toward the northeast. **2.** From the northeast, as a wind. — *adv.* Toward or from the northeast. — *n.* A wind or storm from the northeast. Also spelled *nor'easterly.*

north·east·ward (nôrth′ēst′wərd, *Naut.* nôr·ēst′wərd) *adv.* Toward the northeast. Also **north′east′wards** (-wərdz). — *adj.* To, toward, facing, or in the northeast. — *n.* Northeast.

north·east·ward·ly (nôrth′ēst′wərd·lē, *Naut.* nôr·ēst′wərd·lē) *adj. & adv.* Toward or from the northeast.

north·er (nôr′thər) *n.* **1.** A gale or storm from the north. **2.** *U.S.* A violent, cold north wind blowing over the plains of the SW States.

north·er·ly (nôr′thər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, of, toward, or pertaining to the north. **2.** From the north, as a wind. — *adv.* Toward or from the north. — *n.* A wind or storm from the north. — **north′er·li·ness** *n.*

north·ern (nôr′thərn) *adj.* **1.** To, toward, or in the north. **2.** Native to or inhabiting the north: a *northern* species. **3.** *Sometimes cap.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the north or the North. **4.** From the north, as a wind.

north·ern·er (nôr′thər·nər) *n.* **1.** One who is native to or lives in the north. **2.** *Usu. cap.* One who lives in or comes from the North.

northern lights The aurora borealis.

north·ern·most (nôr′thərn·mōst′) *adj.* Farthest north.

Northern Spy A large, yellowish red variety of apple.

north·land (nôrth′lənd) *n.* A land or region in the north. [OE] — **north′land·er** *n.*

North·man (nôrth′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A Scandinavian; esp., a Scandinavian of the Viking period. [OE]

North Star Polaris.

North·um·bri·a (nôr·thum′brē·ə) An ancient Anglo-Saxon kingdom, extending from the Humber to the Firth of Forth.
North·um·bri·an (nôr·thum′brē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Northumbria or to its inhabitants. **2.** Of or pertaining to the Old English dialect used in Northumbria. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Northumbria. **2.** The Old English Northumbrian dialect.
north·ward (nôrth′wərd, *Naut.* nôr′thərd) *adv.* Toward the north. Also **north′wards** (-wərdz). — *adj.* To, toward, facing, or in the north. — *n.* A northward direction or point; also, a northern part or region.
north·ward·ly (nôrth′wərd·lē, *Naut.* nôr′thərd·lē) *adj.* & *adv.* **1.** Toward the north. **2.** Coming from the north.
north-west (nôrth′west′, *Naut.* nôr·west′) *n.* **1.** The direction midway between north and west. **2.** A point on the mariner's compass, four points or 45° counterclockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any region, lying in or toward this point. — *adj.* **1.** To, facing, or in the northwest. **2.** Coming from the northwest. — *adv.* In or toward the northwest. — **north′west′ern** *adj.*
north·west·er (nôrth′wes′tər, *Naut.* nôr·wes′tər) *n.* A gale or storm from the northwest: also spelled *nor'wester.*
north·west·er·ly (nôrth′wes′tər·lē, *Naut.* nôr·wes′tər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, of, or toward the northwest. **2.** From the northwest, as a wind. — *adv.* Toward or from the northwest.
north·west·ward (nôrth′west′wərd, *Naut.* nôr·west′wərd) *adv.* Toward the northwest. Also **north′west′wards.** — *adj.* To, toward, or in the northwest. — *n.* Northwest.
north·west·ward·ly (nôrth′west′wərd·lē, *Naut.* nôr·west′·wərd·lē) *adj.* & *adv.* Toward or from the northwest.
Nor·way maple (nôr′wā) A tall European maple.
Nor·we·gian (nôr·wē′jən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Norway, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Norway. **2.** The North Germanic language of Norway. [< Med.L < ON < *nor(thr)* north + *vegr* way]
nor′·west·er (nôr·wes′tər), etc. See NORTHWESTER, etc.
nose (nōz) *n.* **1.** The part of the face or forward end of an animal that contains the nostrils and the organ of smell, and that in man encloses cavities used in the respiratory process. ◆ Collateral adjectives: *nasal, rhinal.* **2.** The sense of smell or the power of smelling; scent. **3.** The ability to perceive or discover by or as if by the sense of smell: a *nose* for scandal. **4.** Something resembling a nose, as a spout or nozzle. **5.** *Aeron.* The forward part of an aircraft. **6.** The prow of a ship. **7.** *Informal* The nose (def. 1), considered as its owner's agent for prying or interfering: Keep your *nose* out of this. — **by a nose** *Slang* By a narrow margin. — **on the nose** *Slang* **1.** Designating a racing bet on a horse, etc., to win. **2.** Exactly; precisely. — **to pay through the nose** *Slang* To pay an excessively high price. — *v.* **nosed, nos·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To nuzzle. **2.** To make (one's way) carefully with the front end foremost. **3.** To perceive or discover by or as if by smell; scent. — *v.i.* **4.** To pry or interfere; snoop: with *around* or *about.* **5.** To move forward, esp. carefully. **6.** To smell; sniff. — **to nose out** To defeat by a narrow margin. [OE *nosu*]
nose·band (nōz′band′) *n.* The part of a bridle that passes over the nose of a horse: also called *nosepiece.*
nose·bleed (nōz′blēd′) *n.* Bleeding from the nose.
nose cone *Aerospace* The cone-shaped forward section of a rocket or missile, separable from the main body and carrying the payload, and able to withstand great heat.
nose-dive (nōz′dīv′) *v.i.* **-dived, -div·ing** To take a nose dive; plunge downward.
nose dive **1.** A steep, downward plunge of an aircraft, nose end foremost. **2.** Any steep, sudden drop.
nose·gay (nōz′gā′) *n.* A small bunch of flowers; bouquet. [< NOSE + GAY, in obs. sense "a pretty thing"]
nose·piece (nōz′pēs′) *n.* **1.** Any piece or part, as of a helmet, that covers or protects the nose. **2.** A noseband.
nos·ey (nō′zē) See NOSY.
nos·tal·gi·a (nos·tal′jə, -jē·ə) *n.* **1.** A longing for familiar or beloved circumstances that are now remote or irrecoverable. **2.** Any longing for something far away or long ago. **3.** Severe homesickness. [< NL < Gk. *nostos* return home + *algos* pain] — **nos·tal′gic** *adj.*
nos·tril (nos′trəl) *n.* One of the external openings of the nose. [OE < *nos(u)* nose + *thyrel* hole]
nos·trum (nos′trəm) *n.* **1.** A medicine of one's own preparation; also, a quack medicine. **2.** A favorite remedy or plan. **3.** A cure-all. [< L *noster* our own]
nos·y (nō′zē) *adj.* **nos·i·er, nos·i·est** *Informal* Prying; snooping; inquisitive: also spelled *nosey.*
not (not) *adv.* In no way, or to no extent or degree: used to note the absence, reverse, or opposite of something or to express negation, prohibition, or refusal. [OE < *ne* not + *ā·ever* + *wiht* thing however small]
not- Var. of NOTO-.
no·ta·ble (nō′tə·bəl) *adj.* Worthy of note; remarkable; distinguished. — *n.* One who is distinguished, famous, etc. [< OF < L *nota* mark] — **no′ta·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **no′ta·ble·ness** *n.* — **no′ta·bly** *adv.*
no·ta·rize (nō′tə·rīz) *v.t.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** To attest to or authenticate as a notary public. — **no′ta·ri·za′tion** *n.*
no·ta·ry public (nō′tə·rē) *pl.* **no·ta·ries public** One who is legally authorized to administer oaths, certify contracts, etc. Also **notary.** — **no·tar′i·al** (-târ′ē·əl) *adj.*
no·ta·tion (nō·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** A system of signs, figures, or abbreviations used for convenience in recording a quantity, relation, process, etc.: musical *notation;* algebraic *notation.* **2.** The act or process of using notation. **3.** A note or comment. [< L < *notare* to note] — **no·ta′tion·al** *adj.*
notch (noch) *n.* **1.** A V-shaped cut in a surface. **2.** A nick cut into a stick, etc., as for keeping count. **3.** A narrow passage between mountains; a defile. **4.** *Informal* A degree; level: He is a *notch* above the others. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a notch or notches in. **2.** To record by or as if by notches; score. [Prob. ME < OF *oschier* to notch]
note (nōt) *n.* **1.** *Often pl.* A brief record or summary of facts set down for future study or reference: to take *notes.* **2.** A brief account or jotting to aid the memory. **3.** *Music* **a** A symbol representing a tone or sound of a given duration and pitch. **b** A tone or sound of a definite pitch. **c** A key of the keyboard. **4.** Any more or less musical sound, as the call of a bird. **5.** Any distinctive vocal sound, as the cry of an animal. **6.** A distinctive mark: a *note* of sadness; a *note* of spring in the air. **7.** A piece of paper currency issued by a government or authorized bank and negotiable as money: a bank *note.* **8.** A promissory note (which see). **9.** A formal, written communication of an official or diplomatic nature. **10.** A brief letter, esp. of an informal character. **11.** *pl.* A record of impressions, observations, reflections, etc. **12.** A marginal comment amending, criticizing, or explaining a passage in a book, etc.; annotation. **13.** Distinction; importance; reputation: a gentleman of *note.* **14.** Notice; attention: worthy of *note.* **15.** *Archaic* or *Poetic* A melody or song. — *v.t.* **not·ed, not·ing** **1.** To become aware of; observe. **2.** To pay attention to; heed carefully: to *note* well. **3.** To make special mention of. **4.** To set down for remembering; make a note of. **5.** To point out or indicate. [< OF < L < *nota* mark] — **no′ter** *n.*
note·book (nōt′bo͝ok′) *n.* **1.** A book with blank pages on which notes may be entered. **2.** A book in which notes of hand are registered; bill book.
not·ed (nō′tid) *adj.* **1.** Well known by reputation; famous. **2.** Taken note of. — **not′ed·ly** *adv.* — **not′ed·ness** *n.*
note paper Paper for writing notes or letters.
note·wor·thy (nōt′wûr′thē) *adj.* Remarkable; significant. — **note′wor′thi·ly** *adv.* — **note′wor′thi·ness** *n.*
noth·ing (nuth′ing) *n.* **1.** Not anything; naught. **2.** No part or element: He knew *nothing* of it. **3.** One who or that which is of little or no importance. **4.** Insignificance or unimportance: to rise from *nothing.* **5.** Zero. **6.** A state of nonexistence; also, that which is nonexistent. — **for nothing** **1.** Without charge; free. **2.** To no avail. **3.** Without cause. — *adv.* In no degree; not at all: now only in the expression **nothing like.** [ME < OE *nān thing*]
noth·ing·ness (nuth′ing·nis) *n.* **1.** The condition, quality, or fact of being nothing; nonexistence. **2.** Utter worthlessness or insignificance. **3.** That which is petty, trivial, or nonexistent. **4.** Unconsciousness.
no·tice (nō′tis) *v.t.* **·ticed, ·tic·ing** **1.** To pay attention to or become aware of. **2.** To refer to or comment on. **3.** To treat courteously or with favor. — *n.* **1.** The act of noticing or observing. **2.** Announcement; information; warning. **3.** A formal announcement: to give *notice.* **4.** A written or printed communication publicly displayed. **5.** A short advertisement or review. **6.** Respectful treatment; civility. [< OF < L *notitia* fame, renown]
no·tice·a·ble (nō′tis·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** That can be noticed; perceptible. **2.** Worthy of notice. — **no′tice·a·bly** *adv.*
no·ti·fi·ca·tion (nō′tə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of notifying. **2.** Notice given. **3.** A sign, advertisement, etc., by which notice is conveyed.
no·ti·fy (nō′tə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To give notice to; inform. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* To make known. [< OF < L < *notus* known + *facere* to make] — **no′ti·fi′er** *n.*
no·tion (nō′shən) *n.* **1.** A general idea or impression; a vague conception. **2.** An opinion, belief, or idea. **3.** Intention; inclination. **4.** *pl. U.S.* Small miscellaneous articles for sale. — **Syn.** See IDEA. [See NOTIFY.]
no·tion·al (nō′shən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, expressing, or consisting of notions or concepts. **2.** Existing in imagination only. — **no′tion·al·ly** *adv.*
noto- *combining form* Back. Also, before vowels, *not-.* [< Gk. *nōton* back]

no·to·chord (nō′tə·kôrd) *n. Biol.* In invertebrate embryos, a flexible rod of cells along the median line on the dorsal side, a precursor of the spinal column.
no·to·ri·e·ty (nō′tə·rī′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or character of being notorious. **2.** One who or that which is notorious.
no·to·ri·ous (nō·tôr′ē·əs, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Widely known and generally disapproved of or deplored. **2.** Generally known; acknowledged. [< Med.L < *noscere* to know] — **no·to′ri·ous·ly** *adv.*
no-trump (nō′trump′) *n.* **1.** In bridge, a bid calling for play without a trump suit. **2.** Play without a trump suit. — *adj.* Of or denoting a bid or play of no-trump.
not·with·stand·ing (not′with·stan′ding, -with-) *prep.* In spite of: He left *notwithstanding* your orders. — *adv.* All the same; nevertheless: Though closely guarded, he escaped *notwithstanding.* — *conj.* In spite of the fact that; although. — **notwithstanding that** Although.
nou·gat (nōō′gət, *Fr.* nōō·gä′) *n.* A confection made with chopped almonds, pistachios, etc., mixed in a honey or sugar paste. [< F < Provençal]
nought (nôt) See NAUGHT.
noun (noun) *n. Gram.* **1.** A word used as the name of a thing, quality, or action. **2.** Anything that can be used either as subject, object, or appositive, as a noun clause. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to a noun or nouns: also **noun′al.** [< AF, OF < L *nomen* name] — **noun′al·ly** *adv.*
noun clause *Gram.* A dependent clause that functions as a noun in a sentence, as *Whoever finds my wallet* in *Whoever finds my wallet will be rewarded.*
nour·ish (nûr′ish) *v.t.* **1.** To furnish food or other material to sustain the life and promote the growth of (a living plant or animal). **2.** To support; maintain; foster. [< OF < L *nutrire* to nourish] — **nour′ish·a·ble** *adj.* — **nour′ish·er** *n.* — **nour′ish·ing·ly** *adv.*
nour·ish·ment (nûr′ish·mənt) *n.* **1.** That which nourishes; nutriment. **2.** The act of nourishing, or the state of being nourished.
nou·veau riche (nōō′vō′ rēsh′) *French pl.* **nou·veaux riches** (nōō′vō′ rēsh′) One who has recently become rich.
no·va (nō′və) *n. pl.* **·vae** (-vē) or **·vas** *Astron.* A star that suddenly flares up and fades away after a period of a few months or years. [< L, fem. of *novus* new]
nov·el (nov′əl) *adj.* New, strange, or unusual. — *n.* A fictional prose narrative of considerable length, usu. having an overall pattern or plot. [< F < Ital. < L *novus* new]
nov·el·ette (nov′əl·et′) *n.* A short novel: also *novella.*
nov·el·ist (nov′əl·ist) *n.* A writer of novels.
nov·el·is·tic (nov′əl·is′tik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, characteristic of, or found in novels. — **nov′el·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
nov·el·ize (nov′əl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To put into the form of a novel. — **nov′el·i·za′tion** *n.*
no·vel·la (nō·vel′ə, *Ital.* nō·vel′lä) *n. pl.* **·vel·las,** *Ital.* **·vel·le** (-vel′lā) **1.** A short tale or narrative, usu. with a moral. **2.** A novelette. [< Ital. See NOVEL.]
nov·el·ty (nov′əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Something novel or unusual. **2.** The quality of being novel or new. **3.** *Usu. pl.* A small manufactured article.
No·vem·ber (nō·vem′bər) The eleventh month of the year, containing 30 days. [< L, ninth month (of the old Roman calendar) < *novem* nine]
no·ve·na (nō·vē′nə) *n.* In the Roman Catholic Church, devotions made on nine successive days, for some special religious purpose. [< Med.L < L *novem* nine]
nov·ice (nov′is) *n.* **1.** A beginner in any occupation; an inexperienced person. **2.** *Eccl.* One who enters a religious order or community on probation. [< F < L *novicius* new]
— **Syn. 1.** *Novice* is a general term, often used as the official designation for those who have yet to demonstrate proficiency in a game or sport. *Beginner* is a homelier synonym for *novice,* sometimes implying depreciation; even more depreciatory is *tyro.*
no·vi·ti·ate (nō·vish′ē·it, -āt) *n.* **1.** The state or period of being a novice. **2.** *Eccl.* **a** The period of probation of a novice in a religious order or community. **b** The quarters occupied by such novices. **3.** A novice (defs. 1 and 2). Also **no·vi′ci·ate.** [< F *novicat* or Med.L *novitiatus*]
No·vo·cain (nō′və·kān) *n.* Proprietary name for a brand of procaine used as a local anesthetic, less toxic than cocaine. Also **no′vo·cain, no′vo·caine, No′vo·caine.**
now (nou) *adv.* **1.** At once. **2.** At or during the present time. **3.** Nowadays. **4.** In the immediate past: He said so just *now.* **5.** In the immediate future: He is going just *now.* **6.** In such circumstances: *Now* we can be sure of getting home. **7.** At this point in the proceedings, narrative, etc.: The war was *now* virtually over. — *conj.* Seeing that; since: *Now* that you've come, stay a while. — *n.* The present time, moment, or occasion. — **now and then** From time to time; occasionally: also **now and again.** [OE *nū*]
now·a·days (nou′ə·dāz′) *adv.* In the present time or age.
no·way (nō′wā′) *adv.* **1.** In no way, manner, or degree. **2.** *U.S. Dial.* By any means. Also **no′ways′** (-wāz′).
no·where (nō′hwâr′) *adv.* In no place; not anywhere. — *n.* No place. Also *U.S. Dial.* **no′wheres′** (-hwârz′).
no·wise (nō′wīz′) *adv.* In no manner or degree.
nox·ious (nok′shəs) *adj.* Causing or tending to cause injury to health or morals; hurtful. — **Syn.** See PERNICIOUS. [< L< *noxa* harm] — **nox′ious·ly** *adv.* — **nox′ious·ness** *n.*
noz·zle (noz′əl) *n.* A projecting spout or pipe serving as an outlet, as of a teapot, hose, or rifle. [Dim. of NOSE]
nth (enth) *adj.* **1.** *Math.* Representing an ordinal equivalent to *n.* **2.** Infinitely or indefinitely large (or small); most extreme: to the *nth* degree.
nu (nōō, nyōō) *n.* The thirteenth letter in the Greek alphabet (N, ν), corresponding to English *n.* See ALPHABET.
nu·ance (nōō·äns′, nōō′äns, nyōō′-; *Fr.* nü·äns′) *n.* A fine or subtle variation, as in color, tone, or meaning; gradation. [< F < OF *nuer* to shade < *nue* cloud]
nub (nub) *n.* **1.** A knob or protuberance. **2.** A small piece, as of coal. **3.** *U.S. Informal* Core; gist; point: the *nub* of the story. [Var. of KNOB] — **nub′by** *adj.*
nub·bin (nub′in) *n. U.S.* **1.** An imperfectly developed fruit or ear of corn. **2.** Anything small or stunted. [< NUB]
nub·ble (nub′əl) *n.* A small protuberance or lump; nub. [Dim. of NUB] — **nub′bly** *adj.*
Nu·bi·an (nōō′bē·ən, nyōō′-) *adj.* Of Nubia, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** A native of Nubia; esp., a member of any of the tribes formerly ruling the territory between Egypt and Abyssinia. **2.** The language of the Nubians.
nu·bile (nōō′bil, nyōō′-) *adj.* Ready or suitable for marriage: said of young women. [< L < *nubere* to wed] — **nu·bil′i·ty** *n.*
nu·cle·ar (nōō′klē·ər, nyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resembling a nucleus or nuclei. Also **nu′cle·al** (-klē·əl). **2.** Of or using atomic energy: *nuclear* reactor. [< F *nucléaire*]
nuclear fission *Physics* Fission.
nuclear fusion *Physics* Fusion.
nuclear physics The branch of physics that investigates the structure and properties of the atomic nucleus.
nuclear reaction *Physics* A change in the properties of one or more atomic nuclei, esp. as a result of a collision between two nuclei.
nu·cle·ase (nōō′klē·ās, nyōō′-) *n. Biochem.* An enzyme that hydrolyzes nucleic acids.
nu·cle·ate (nōō′klē·āt, nyōō′-) *adj.* Having a nucleus. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To form or gather into a nucleus. [< L *nucleare* to form a kernel] — **nu′cle·a′tion** *n.* — **nu′cle·a′tor** *n.*
nu·cle·ic acid (nōō·klē′ik, nyōō-) *Biochem.* Any of a group of complex noncrystalline acids derived from nucleoproteins and containing carbohydrates combined with phosphoric acids and bases derived from purine or pyrimidine.
nu·cle·in (nōō′klē·in, nyōō′-) *n. Biochem.* A colorless, amorphous protein containing nucleic acid, found as a normal constituent of cell nuclei.
nucleo- *combining form* Nucleus. [< L *nucleus* kernel]
nu·cle·o·late (nōō·klē′ə·lāt, nyōō′-) *adj.* Having a nucleolus or nucleoli. Also **nu′cle·o·lat′ed.**
nu·cle·o·lus (nōō·klē′ə·ləs, nyōō-) *n. pl.* **·li** (-lī) *Biol.* A rounded body sometimes found within the nucleus of a cell. Also **nu′cle·ole** (-ōl). For illus. see CELL. [< L, dim. of NUCLEUS] — **nu·cle′o·lar** *adj.*
nu·cle·on (nōō′klē·on, nyōō′-) *n. Physics* Any of the particles composing the nucleus of an atom, as the proton, neutron, neutrino, etc.
nu·cle·on·ics (nōō′klē·on′iks, nyōō′-) *n.pl.* (*usually construed as sing.*) The practical applications of nuclear physics in any field of science, engineering, or technology. — **nu′cle·on′ic** *adj.*
nu·cle·o·plasm (nōō′klē·ə·plaz′əm, nyōō′-) *n. Biol.* The protoplasm of a cell nucleus. — **nu′cle·o·plas′mic** *adj.*
nu·cle·o·pro·te·in (nōō′klē·ə·prō′tē·in, -tēn, nyōō′-) *n. Biochem.* Any of a class of substances found in the nuclei of plant and animal cells, containing one or more protein molecules combined with nucleic acid.
nu·cle·us (nōō′klē·əs, nyōō′-) *n. pl.* **·cle·i** (-klē·ī) **1.** A central point or part around which other things are gathered; core. **2.** A center of growth or development. **3.** *Biol.* A complex spherical body surrounded by a thin membrane and embedded in the protoplasm of most plant and animal cells, containing chromatin and essential to the processes of heredity and to other vital activities of the cell. For illus. see CELL. **4.** *Astron.* The brightest portion in the head of a comet or in the center of a nebula. **5.** *Physics* The central core of an atom, containing nucleons that provide its effective mass and carrying a positive electric charge balanced by the negative charge of the surrounding electrons. **6.** *Chem.* A group or ring of atoms so related structurally that their fundamental arrangement remains intact through a series of chemical changes. [Contr. of L *nuculeus,* dim. of *nux, nucis* nut]
nu·clide (nōō′klīd, nyōō′-) *n. Physics* A specific, relatively stable atom as defined by the composition and properties of its nucleus.

nude (nōōd, nyōōd) *adj.* Without clothing or covering; naked. — *n.* **1.** A nude figure, esp. in painting, sculpture, etc. **2.** The state of being nude. [< L *nudus* naked, bare] — **nude′ly** *adv.* — **nude′ness** *n.*

nudge (nuj) *v.t.* **nudged, nudg·ing** To touch or push gently, as with the elbow, in order to attract attention, etc. — *n.* A gentle push, as with the elbow. [? < Scand.]

nudi- *combining form* Without covering; naked; bare. [< L *nudus* naked]

nud·ism (nōō′diz·əm, nyōō′-) *n.* The doctrine or practice of living in the state of nudity.

nud·ist (nōō′dist, nyōō′-) *n.* One who believes in or practices nudism. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to nudism.

nu·di·ty (nōō′də·tē, nyōō′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or fact of being nude. **2.** A naked part; anything uncovered.

nud·nik (nōōd′nik) *n. U.S. Slang* A pestiferous or annoying person. Also **nud′nick.** [< Yiddish]

nug·get (nug′it) *n.* A lump; esp., a lump of gold found in its native state. [? Dim. of dial. E *nug* lump]

nui·sance (nōō′səns, nyōō′-) *n.* Anything that annoys, bothers, or irritates. [< F < *nuire* to harm]

nuisance tax A tax on various consumer goods and services, etc., regarded as more of a bother than a burden.

null (nul) *adj.* **1.** Of no legal force or effect; void; invalid. **2.** Nonexistent; negative. **3.** Of no avail; useless. — **null and void** Without legal force or effect. [< L < *ne* not + *ullus* any]

nul·li·fi·ca·tion (nul′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of nullifying, or the state of being nullified. **2.** In U.S. history, the refusal of a State to obey an act of Congress, or the doctrine that such refusal is legal.

nul·li·fy (nul′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To make useless or ineffective; undo. **2.** To deprive of legal force or effect. — **Syn.** See ANNUL. [< LL < *nullus* none + *facere* to make] — **nul′li·fi′er** *n.*

nul·li·ty (nul′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being null. **2.** That which is null.

numb (num) *adj.* **1.** Having no sensation; without feeling. **2.** Unable to move, — *v.t.* To make numb. [ME < OE < *niman* to take] — **numb′ly** *adv.* — **numb′ness** *n.*

num·ber (num′bər) *n.* **1.** A specific quantity or place in a sequence, usu. designated by one of a series of symbols or words called *numerals.* **2.** A symbol or word used to designate number; a numeral. **3.** *Often pl.* A sizable collection or grouping: *numbers* of people. **4.** An indefinite quantity or collection: a *number* of facts. **5.** A specific sum or total count. **6.** *pl.* A large group; multitude. **7.** One of a series of things to which numbers are assigned: the March *number* of a magazine. **8.** A part of a program of music or entertainment. **9.** Quantity, as composed of units. **10.** A particular group, esp. of a privileged character. **11.** *Gram.* The representation in a language, by inflection or otherwise, of singleness or plurality. English has the singular and the plural number. **12.** *pl.* In poetry, metrical feet or rhythm; also, verse or verses. **13.** *Informal* An item or article, as of merchandise. Symbol #. — **any number of** A good many; rather a lot. — **beyond** (or **without**) **number** Too numerous to be counted. — **to get** (or **have**) **one's number** *Informal* To have insight into a person's motives, character, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To determine the total number of; reckon. **2.** To assign a number to. **3.** To include as one of a collection or group. **4.** To amount to; total. **5.** To set or limit the number of. **6.** To be (a number of years, etc.) old or older. — *v.i.* **7.** To make a count; total. **8.** To be included, as in a particular group. **9.** To count off or call out numbers. [< OF < L *numerus*] — **num′ber·er** *n.*

num·ber·less (num′bər·lis) *adj.* **1.** Very numerous; countless. **2.** Having no number.

Num·bers (num′bərz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The fourth book of the Old Testament.

num·bles (num′bəlz) *n.pl. Archaic* The entrails of an animal, as a deer. [< OF, ult. < LL *lumbellus,* dim. of L *lumbus* loin]

numb·skull (num′skul′) See NUMSKULL.

nu·mer·a·ble (nōō′mər·ə·bəl, nyōō′-) *adj.* That can be numbered. [< L *numerare* to count]

nu·mer·al (nōō′mər·əl, nyōō′-) *n.* A symbol, letter, or word that is used alone or in combination with others to express a number. — *adj.* **1.** Used in expressing or representing a number. **2.** Of or pertaining to number. [< LL < *numerus* number] — **nu′mer·al·ly** *adv.*

nu·mer·ate (nōō′mə·rāt, nyōō′-) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To enumerate; count. **2.** To read, as a numerical expression. [< L *numerare* to number]

nu·mer·a·tion (nōō′mə·rā′shən, nyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The act, process, or system of reading or naming numbers. **2.** An instance or example of this.

nu·mer·a·tor (nōō′mə·rā′tər, nyōō′-) *n.* **1.** *Math.* The term of a fraction indicating how many of the parts of a unit are to be taken. In a common fraction it appears above or to the left of the line. **2.** One who or that which numbers.

nu·mer·i·cal (nōō·mer′i·kəl, nyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Of or denoting number. **2.** Numerable. **3.** Represented by or consisting of numbers or figures rather than letters. [< NL < L *numerus* number] — **nu·mer′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

nu·mer·ous (nōō′mər·əs, nyōō′-) *adj.* Consisting of a great number of units; being many. — **nu′mer·ous·ly** *adv.* — **nu′mer·os′i·ty** (nōō′mə·ros′ə·tē, nyōō′-), **nu′mer·ous·ness** *n.*

Nu·mid·i·a (nōō·mid′ē·ə, nyōō-) An ancient kingdom and Roman province in northern Africa. — **Nu·mid′i·an** *adj. & n.*

nu·mis·mat·ics (nōō′miz·mat′iks, -mis-, nyōō′-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The study of coins, medals, and related objects, as paper money. [< F < L *numisma* coin < Gk. < *nomos* law] — **nu′mis·mat′ic** *adj.* — **nu·mis′ma·tist** *n.*

num·skull (num′skul′) *n.* A blockhead; dunce: also spelled *numbskull.*

nun (nun) *n.* A woman belonging to a religious order and living in a convent under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. [OE < LL *nonna* child's nurse, fem. of *nonnus,* orig., old man] — **nun′nish** *adj.*

nun·ci·o (nun′shē·ō, -sē·ō, nōōn′-) *n. pl.* **·ci·os** A permanent diplomatic envoy of the Pope to a foreign government. — **Syn.** See AMBASSADOR. [< Ital. < L *nuntius* messenger]

nun·ner·y (nun′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ner·ies** A convent for nuns.

nun's veiling (nunz) A soft, thin fabric, usu. of worsted, used for veiling and as a dress material.

nup·tial (nup′shəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to marriage or the marriage ceremony. — *n. Usu. pl.* A marriage or wedding. [< L *nubere* to marry] — **nup′tial·ly** *adv.*

nurse (nûrs) *n.* **1.** A person who cares for the sick, injured, or infirm; esp., one who is trained to do such work. **2.** One who is a graduate of a school of nursing. **3.** A nursemaid. **4.** One who or that which fosters, nourishes, protects, or promotes. — *v.* **nursed, nurs·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take care of (the sick, injured, or infirm). **2.** To feed (an infant) at the breast; suckle. **3.** To promote the growth and development of; foster; cherish. **4.** To feed and care for, as a child. **5.** To take steps to cure. **6.** To use or operate carefully: to *nurse* a weak wrist. **7.** To preserve or prolong deliberately. **8.** To fondle. **9.** To suckle at the breast of. — *v.i.* **10.** To act or serve as a nurse. **11.** To take nourishment from the breast. **12.** To suckle an infant. [Earlier *nurice* < OF < LL < L *nutrix* nursing mother] — **nurs′er** *n.*

nurse-maid (nûrs′mād′) *n.* A woman employed to care for children. Also **nurs·er·y·maid** (nûr′sər·ē·mād′, nûrs′rē-).

nurs·er·y (nûr′sər·ē, nûrs′rē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** A place where trees, shrubs, etc., are raised, as for sale. **2.** A room or area set apart for the use of children. **3.** A nursery school. **4.** Anything that fosters, breeds, or develops.

nurs·er·y·man (nûr′sər·ē·mən, nûrs′rē-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who raises or cultivates plants in a nursery.

nursery rhyme A simple story, riddle, proverb, etc., presented in rhymed verse or jingle for children.

nursery school A place where children of preschool age regularly meet for training and supervised play.

nursing home A residence for persons who are unable to care for themselves, as the aged or the infirm.

nurs·ling (nûrs′ling) *n.* **1.** An infant or animal in the stage of being nursed. **2.** Anything that is carefully tended or supervised. Also **nurse′ling.**

nur·ture (nûr′chər) *n.* **1.** That which nourishes; food; sustenance. **2.** Training; breeding; education. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** **1.** To feed or support; nourish; rear. **2.** To bring up or train; educate. [< OF < LL < L *nutrire* to nourish]

nut (nut) *n.* **1.** A dry fruit consisting of a kernel or seed enclosed in a woody shell, as a walnut, pecan, acorn, etc. **2.** The kernel of such fruit, esp. when edible. **3.** A small block of metal having an internal screw thread so that it may be fitted upon a bolt, screw, or the like. **4.** A person or matter difficult to deal with; a problem. **5.** *U.S. Slang* A crazy, irresponsible, or eccentric person. **6.** *Slang* The head. **7.** *Usu. pl. Slang* A testicle. — *v.i.* **nut·ted, nut·ting** To gather nuts. [OE *hnutu*] — **nut′ter** *n.*

nut-brown (nut′broun′) *adj.* Of a dark shade of brown suggesting the color of certain nuts, as the walnut.

nut-crack·er (nut′krak′ər) *n.* **1.** *Sometimes pl.* A device for cracking the hard shells of nuts. **2.** Any of certain crow-like birds, as the common nutcracker of Europe.

nut-gall (nut′gôl′) *n.* A nut-shaped gall, as on an oak tree.

nut-hatch (nut′hach′) *n.* A small, short-tailed bird related to the titmouse and feeding on nuts.

nut·meg (nut′meg) *n.* **1.** The aromatic kernel of the fruit of various tropical trees, esp. of the nutmeg tree of the Moluccas Islands. **2.** The tree itself. [ME < OF < *nois* nut + *mugue* musk]

Nutmeg State Nickname of Connecticut.

nut·pick (nut′pik′) *n.* A small, sharp-pointed instrument for picking out the kernels of nuts.
nu·tri·a (nōō′trē·ə, nyōō′-) *n.* The soft brown fur of the coypu, often dyed to resemble beaver. [< Sp., otter]
nu·tri·ent (nōō′trē·ənt, nyōō′-) *adj.* 1. Giving nourishment; nutritious. 2. Conveying nutriment. — *n.* Something that nourishes; food. [< L < *nutrire* to nourish]
nu·tri·ment (nōō′trə·mənt, nyōō′-) *n.* 1. That which nourishes; food. 2. Anything that promotes development. [< L < *nutrire* to nourish] — **nu′tri·men′tal** *adj.*
nu·tri·tion (nōō·trish′ən, nyōō-) *n.* 1. The act or process of nourishing; esp., the processes by which food is converted into tissue in living organisms. 2. That which nourishes. [< L < *nutrire* to nourish] — **nu·tri′tion·al** *adj.* — **nu·tri′tion·al·ly** *adv.* — **nu·tri′tion·ist** *n.*
nu·tri·tious (nōō·trish′əs, nyōō-) *adj.* Promoting growth and repairing the waste of living organisms; nourishing. — **nu·tri′tious·ly** *adv.* — **nu·tri′tious·ness** *n.*
nu·tri·tive (nōō′trə·tiv, nyōō′-) *adj.* 1. Having nutritious properties. 2. Of or relating to nutrition. — **nu′tri·tive·ly** *adv.* — **nu′tri·tive·ness** *n.*
nuts (nuts) *Chiefly U.S. Slang adj.* 1. Crazy; demented; eccentric. 2. Extremely enthusiastic or in love: with *about*. — *interj.* An exclamation of contempt, disappointment, etc. [< pl. of NUT]
nut·shell (nut′shel′) *n.* The shell of a nut. — **in a nutshell** In brief and concise statement or form.
nut·ty (nut′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** 1. Abounding in or producing nuts. 2. Having the flavor of nuts. 3. *Chiefly U.S. Slang* Crazy; nuts. — **nut′ti·ly** *adv.* — **nut′ti·ness** *n.*
nux vom·i·ca (nuks′ vom′i·kə) 1. The silky disklike seed of an Indian tree containing strychnine and other poisons. 2. The tree itself. [< L *nux* nut + *vomere* to vomit]
nuz·zle (nuz′əl) *v.* **·zled, ·zling** *v.i.* 1. To rub, press, or dig with or as with the nose. 2. To nestle or snuggle; lie close. — *v.t.* 3. To push or rub the nose, etc., into or against. 4. To root up with the nose or snout. [Freq. of NOSE, v.]
nycto- *combining form* Night; nocturnal. Also, before vowels, **nyct-**. Also **nycti-**. [< Gk. *nyx, nyktos* night]
ny·lon (nī′lon) *n.* 1. A synthetic material yielding fibers and bristles of great toughness, strength, and elasticity; esp., cloth made from these fibers. 2. *pl. Informal* Stockings made of nylon. [< *Nylon*, a trade name]
nymph (nimf) *n.* 1. In Greek and Roman mythology, any of a class of minor female divinities dwelling in groves, forests, fountains, etc. 2. *Chiefly Poetic.* A young woman or girl. 3. *Entomol.* The young of an insect undergoing incomplete metamorphosis, at which stage the wing pads are first evident: also **nym·pha** (nim′fə). [< OF < L < Gk. *nymphē* nymph, bride] — **nymph′al, nym·phe·an** (nim·fē′·ən) *adj.*
nympho- *combining form* Nymph; bride. Also, before vowels, **nymph-**. [< Gk. *nymphē* bride, nymph]
nym·pho·ma·ni·a (nim′fə·mā′nē·ə, -mān′yə) *n. Psychiatry* An extreme and ungovernable sexual desire in women. — **nym′pho·ma′ni·ac** *adj. & n.*
Nyx (niks) In Greek mythology, the goddess of night.

O

o, O (ō) *n. pl.* **o's** or **os, O's** or **Os, oes** (ōz) 1. The fifteenth letter of the English alphabet. 2. Any sound represented by the letter *o*. 3. Anything shaped like an *O*. — *symbol* 1. *Math.* Zero or nought. 2. *Chem.* Oxygen.
o′ (ō, ə) *prep.* Of: one o'clock, man-o'-war, jack-o'-lantern.
o- Var. of OB-.
O (ō) *interj.* 1. An exclamation used in direct address, as in prayer or invocation: *O* Lord! 2. An exclamation of surprise, disappointment, fear, longing, etc.: *O* dear! — *n. pl.* **O's** An exclamation or lamentation.
O' (ō) A descendant of: *O'*Conor: a patronymic prefix commonly used in Irish surnames, equivalent to the English and Scandinavian suffixes *-son, -sen*. Compare FITZ-, MAC-.
oaf (ōf) *n. pl.* **oafs** or *Rare* **oaves** (ōvz) A stupid, bungling person. [Earlier *auf* < ON *álfr* elf] — **oaf′ish** *adj.* — **oaf′ish·ly** *adv.* — **oaf′ish·ness** *n.*
oak (ōk) *n.* 1. An acorn-bearing tree or shrub of the beech family, valued for the hardness, strength, and durability of its timber. ◆ Collateral adjective: *quercine*. 2. The wood of the oak. 3. Any of various plants resembling the oak. [OE *āc*] — **oak′en** *adj.*
oak apple A rounded gall produced on an oak by an insect. Also **oak gall.**
oak leaf cluster A bronze decoration given to holders of certain U.S. military medals in recognition of further merit.
oak·um (ō′kəm) *n.* Hemp fiber obtained by untwisting and picking out the fibers of old rope, used for caulking seams, etc. [OE *ācumba* < *ā-* out + *cemban* to comb]
oar (ôr, ōr) *n.* 1. A wooden implement for propelling or steering a boat, consisting of a long shaft with a blade at one end. 2. A person using an oar. 3. An oarlike part or appendage, as in certain worms. — *v.t.* 1. To propel with or as with oars; row. 2. To make (one's way) or traverse (water) with or as with oars. — *v.i.* 3. To proceed by or as by rowing; row. [OE *ār*]
oared (ôrd, ōrd) *adj.* Having or equipped with oars.
oar·lock (ôr′lok′, ōr′-) *n.* A device on the side of a boat for keeping an oar in place. Also, *Brit.*, *rowlock*.
oars·man (ôrz′mən, ōrz′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who rows.
o·a·sis (ō·ā′sis, ō′ə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) An area in a desert made fertile by groundwater or by irrigation. [< L < Gk.]
oat (ōt) *n.* 1. *Usu. pl.* A cereal grass widely cultivated for its edible grain. 2. *Usu. pl.* The grain itself. 3. Any similar grass, as the wild oat. 4. A musical pipe made from the stem of an oat. — **to feel one's oats** *Informal* 1. To be exuberant or high-spirited. 2. To feel bold or self-assured. — **to sow one's wild oats** *Informal* To experience the adventures and follies characteristic of youth. [OE *āte*] — **oat′en** *adj.*
oat·cake (ōt′kāk′) *n.* A thin, hard cake of oatmeal.
oath (ōth) *n. pl.* **oaths** (ōths, ōthz) 1. A formal declaration in support of a pledge or promise, usu. based on an appeal to God or some other higher institution or figure; also, the form of the declaration. 2. The careless or profane use of the name of God or other sacred person or thing. 3. A profane or vulgar utterance. [OE *āth*]
oat·meal (ōt′mēl′) *n.* A cereal food made from the cooked meal of oats; also, the meal itself. Also **oat meal.**
ob- *prefix* 1. Toward; to; facing: *obvert*. 2. Against; in opposition to: *object, obstruct*. 3. Over; upon: *obliterate*. 4. Completely: *obdurate*. 5. Inversely: prefixed to adjectives in scientific terms. Also: *o-* before *m*, as in *omit*; *oc-* before *c*, as in *occur*; *of-* before *f*, as in *offend*; *op-* before *p*, as in *oppress*. [< L *ob* toward, for, against]
O·ba·di·ah (ō′bə·dī′ə) Sixth-century B.C. minor Hebrew prophet. — *n.* A book of the Old Testament containing his prophecies.
ob·bli·ga·to (ob′lə·gä′tō, *Ital.* ôb′blē·gä′tō) *Music adj.* Denoting a part or accompaniment essential to the performance of a composition. — *n.* An obbligato part. Also spelled *obligato*. [< Ital. < L *obligare*. See OBLIGE.]
ob·du·rate (ob′dyə·rit, -rāt) *adj.* 1. Unmoved by or hardened against human feelings or moral influence; hardhearted. 2. Difficult to handle or manage; intractable. [< L < *ob-* against + *durare* to harden] — **ob′du·rate·ly** *adv.* — **ob′du·ra·cy** (-rə·sē), **ob′du·rate·ness** *n.*
o·be·di·ence (ō·bē′dē·əns, ə·bē′-) *n.* The act of obeying, or the condition of being obedient; submission; compliance.
o·be·di·ent (ō·bē′dē·ənt, ə·bē′-) *adj.* 1. Complying with or conforming to a command, restraint, etc.; dutiful. 2. Deferring habitually to laws, superiors, etc.; docile; compliant. [See OBEY.] — **o·be′di·ent·ly** *adv.*
o·bei·sance (ō·bā′səns, ō·bē′-) *n.* Courtesy, reverence, or homage; also, an act or gesture expressing this: chiefly in phrases to **do** (**make**, or **pay**) **obeisance.** [< OF < *obeissant*, ppr. of *obeir* to obey] — **o·bei′sant** *adj.*
ob·e·lisk (ob′ə·lisk) *n.* 1. A square shaft of stone with a pyramidal top, usu. tapering, and often used as a monument in ancient Egypt. 2. *Printing* The dagger sign (†), used as a mark of reference: also **ob·e·lus** (ob′ə·ləs). [< L < Gk. *obelos* a spit, hence pointed pillar] — **ob′e·lis′cal, ob′e·lis′·koid** (-koid) *adj.*
O·ber·on (ō′bə·ron) In medieval legend and folklore, the king of the fairies, husband of Titania.
o·bese (ō·bēs′) *adj.* Very fat or corpulent. [< L *obesus* fat] — **o·bese′ly** *adv.*
o·bes·i·ty (ō·bē′sə·tē, ō·bes′ə·) *n.* The condition of being obese; corpulence. Also **o·bese′ness** *n.*

o·bey (ō·bā′, ə·bā′) *v.t.* **1.** To comply with or carry out the command, request, etc., of. **2.** To comply with or execute (a command, request, etc.). **3.** To be guided, controlled, or actuated by. — *v.i.* **4.** To be obedient; comply. [< OF < L *oboedire* to give ear, obey] — **o·bey′er** *n.*

ob·fus·cate (ob·fus′kāt, ob′fəs-) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** **1.** To confuse or perplex; bewilder. **2.** To darken or obscure. [< L *obfuscare* to darken, obscure] — **ob′fus·ca′tion** *n.*

o·bi (ō′bē) *n.* A broad sash tied with a stylized bow or loop in the back, worn by Japanese women. [< Japanese *obi*]

o·bit (ō′bit, ob′it) *n. Informal* An obituary.

ob·i·ter dic·tum (ob′ə·tər dik′təm) *Latin pl.* **ob·i·ter dic·ta** (dik′tə) **1.** *Law* A judicial opinion that is not binding. **2.** Any incidental remark.

o·bit·u·ar·y (ō·bich′ōō·er′ē) *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** A published notice of a person's death, usu. including a biographical sketch. — *adj.* Of or recording a death. [< Med.L < L *obitus* a going down, death]

ob·ject[1] (əb·jekt′) *v.i.* **1.** To offer an argument in opposition or disagreement. **2.** To feel or state disapproval. — *v.t.* **3.** To offer in opposition or criticism. [< L < *ob-* towards, against + *jacere* to throw] — **ob·jec′tor** *n.*

ob·ject[2] (ob′jikt, -jekt) *n.* **1.** Anything that is or may be apprehended by the senses. **2.** The purpose or end of an action. **3.** One who or that which is the focus or center of thought, action, etc. **4.** *Gram.* **a** A substantive that receives or is affected by the action of the verb, called the **direct object** when it receives the direct action, as *pie* in *She gave him the pie,* and the **indirect object** when it receives the secondary action, as *him* in the same sentence. **b** A substantive following a preposition, as *mountain* in the phrase *on the mountain.* — **Syn.** See PURPOSE. [< Med.L *objectum* something thrown in the way]

object glass *Optics* An objective (*n.* def. 3).

ob·jec·ti·fy (əb·jek′tə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To make objective. — **ob·jec′ti·fi·ca′tion** *n.*

ob·jec·tion (əb·jek′shən) *n.* **1.** A statement or feeling of disagreement, opposition, etc. **2.** The cause or reason for disagreement, etc. **3.** The act of objecting.

ob·jec·tion·a·ble (əb·jek′shən·ə·bəl) *adj.* Deserving of disapproval; offensive. — **ob·jec′tion·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **ob·jec′tion·a·bly** *adv.*

ob·jec·tive (əb·jek′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Free from personal feelings, opinions, prejudice, etc.; unbiased. **2.** Pertaining to what is external to or independent of the mind; real: opposed to *subjective.* **3.** Treating of or stressing external or actual phenomena, as distinct from inner or imaginary feelings and thoughts. **4.** *Gram.* Denoting the case of the object of a transitive verb or preposition; accusative. **5.** Pertaining to a goal or end. — *n.* **1.** That which is striven for or aimed at; a goal; end. **2.** *Gram.* **a** The objective or accusative case. **b** A word in this case. **3.** *Optics* A lens or lenses, as in a telescope, that is nearest to the object being viewed: also called *object glass.* — **ob·jec′tive·ly** *adv.*

ob·jec·tiv·i·ty (ob′jek·tiv′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being objective. **2.** Material reality. Also **ob·jec′tive·ness.**

object lesson An example of a principle or moral in a concrete form or striking instance.

ob·jet d'art (ôb·zhe′ där′) *French pl.* **ob·jets d'art** (ôb·zhe′) Any work of artistic value.

ob·jur·gate (ob′jər·gāt, əb·jûr′-) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** To rebuke severely; scold sharply. [< L < *ob-* against + *jurgare* to scold] — **ob′jur·ga′tion** *n.* — **ob′jur·ga′tor** *n.* — **ob·jur·ga·to·ri·ly** (ob·jûr′gə·tôr′ə·lē, -tō′rə·lē) *adv.* — **ob·jur′ga·to′ry** (-tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

ob·late[1] (ob′lāt, ob·lāt′) *adj.* Flattened at the poles. [< NL < L *ob-* towards + (*pro*)*latus* lengthened out] — **ob·late′ly** (ob′lāt·lē, ob·lāt′-) *adv.*

ob·late[2] (ob′lāt, ob·lāt′) *adj.* Consecrated or devoted to a religious life. — *n.* A person so devoted, as in a monastery. [< Med.L *oblatus* < L, pp. of *offerre* to present]

ob·la·tion (ob·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of offering religious worship, sacrifice, etc., esp. in the Eucharist. **2.** That which is offered, esp. the elements of the Eucharist. **3.** Any solemn offering. [See OBLATE[2].] — **ob·la′tion·al** *adj.* — **ob·la·to·ry** (ob′lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

ob·li·gate (ob′lə·gāt; for *adj., also* -git) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** To bind or compel, as by contract, conscience, promise, etc. — *adj.* Bound or restricted. — **ob′li·ga′tor** *n.*

ob·li·ga·tion (ob′lə·gā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of obligating, or the state of being obligated. **2.** The duty, promise, contract, etc., by which one is bound. **3.** Any duty or requirement. **4.** The constraining or binding power of a law, promise, conscience, etc. **5.** What one owes in return for a service, favor, etc.; also, the service or favor itself. [< OF < LL < L *obligare.* See OBLIGE.]

ob·li·ga·tive (ob′lə·gā′tiv) *adj.* Implying or expressing obligation.

ob·li·ga·to (ob′lə·gä′tō, *Ital.* ôb′blē·gä′tō) See OBBLIGATO.

ob·lig·a·to·ry (ə·blig′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, ob′lə·gə-) *adj.* Of the nature of or constituting a duty or obligation; imperative.

o·blige (ə·blīj′) *v.t.* **o·bliged, o·blig·ing** **1.** To place (one) under obligation, as for a service, favor, etc.: with *to.* **2.** To compel, bind, or constrain, as by command, promise, etc. **3.** To do a favor or service for. [< OF < L *obligare,* orig., to tie around] — **o·blig′er** *n.*

o·blig·ing (ə·blī′jing) *adj.* Disposed to do favors; accommodating; kind. — **o·blig′ing·ly** *adv.* — **o·blig′ing·ness** *n.*

ob·lique (ə·blēk′, *in military usage* ·blīk′) *adj.* **1.** Deviating from the perpendicular or horizontal; slanting. **2.** Not direct or straightforward in meaning, expression, etc.: *oblique* praise. **3.** Indirectly aimed at or attained. **4.** *Geom.* Having an acute or obtuse angle. **5.** Not in the direct line of descent; collateral. — *n.* **1.** An oblique thing, as a line. **2.** *Naut.* The act of veering less than ninety degrees. — *v.i.* **·liqued, ·li·quing** To deviate from the perpendicular or horizontal; slant. [< L *obliquus*] — **ob·lique′ly** *adv.* — **ob·liq·ui·ty** (ə·blik′wə·tē), **ob·lique′ness** *n.*

oblique angle *Geom.* An angle not a right angle; an acute or obtuse angle.

ob·lit·er·ate (ə·blit′ə·rāt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To destroy utterly. **2.** To blot or wipe out, as writing. [< L < *obliterare* to efface] — **ob·lit′er·a′tion** *n.* — **ob·lit′er·a′tive** *adj.* — **ob·lit′er·a′tor** *n.*

ob·liv·i·on (ə·bliv′ē·ən) *n.* **1.** The state or fact of being completely forgotten. **2.** The state or fact of forgetting completely. [< OF < L < *oblivisci* to forget]

ob·liv·i·ous (ə·bliv′ē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Not conscious or aware; unmindful: with *of* or *to.* **2.** Forgetful or given to forgetfulness. [< L *oblivi(o)sus*] — **ob·liv′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ob·liv′i·ous·ness** *n.*

ob·long (ob′lông, -long) *adj.* Longer in one dimension than in another: said usually of rectangles. — *n.* An oblong figure, object, etc. [< L *oblongus* somewhat long]

ob·lo·quy (ob′lə·kwē) *n. pl.* **·quies** **1.** Abusive and defamatory language, esp. by a large group of people; vilification. **2.** Disgrace resulting from such abuse. [< LL < *ob-* against + *loqui* to speak]

ob·nox·ious (əb·nok′shəs) *adj.* Highly disagreeable; objectionable; offensive. [< L < *ob-* towards + *noxius* harmful] — **ob·nox′ious·ly** *adv.* — **ob·nox′ious·ness** *n.*

o·boe (ō′bō, ō′boi) *n.* A double-reed woodwind instrument with a conical bore, having a high, penetrating tone. [< Ital. < F *hautbois.* See HAUTBOY.] — **o′bo·ist** *n.*

ob·scene (əb·sēn′, ob-) *adj.* **1.** Offensive or abhorrent to prevailing concepts of morality or decency; indecent; lewd. **2.** Disgusting; loathsome; foul. [< MF < L *obscenus* ill-omened, filthy] — **ob·scene′ly** *adv.* — **ob·scene′ness** *n.*

ob·scen·i·ty (əb·sen′ə·tē, -sē′nə-, ob-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The quality or state of being obscene. **2.** Something obscene.

ob·scur·ant (əb·skyōōr′ənt) *n.* One who or that which obscures, esp. by opposing or hindering educational progress, free thought, etc. — *adj.* **1.** Causing obscurity. **2.** Of an obscurant. [< L < *obscurare* to darken]

ob·scur·ant·ism (əb·skyōōr′ən·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** The act or principles of an obscurant. **2.** Opposition to learning and inquiry. — **ob·scur′ant·ist** *n. & adj.*

ob·scure (əb·skyōōr′) *adj.* **·scur·er, ·scur·est** **1.** Not clear or plain to the mind; hard to understand. **2.** Not clear or distinct to the senses, difficult to discern. **3.** Not readily discovered; hidden; remote. **4.** Without distinction or fame; inconspicuous. **5.** Having little or no light, dark. — *v.t.* **·scured, scur·ing** **1.** To render obscure, vague, indefinite, etc. **2.** To cover or darken so as to make dim, indistinct, etc. [< OF < L *obscurus* covered over] — **ob·scure′ly** *adv.* — **ob·scure′ness** *n.*

ob·scu·ri·ty (əb·skyōōr′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being obscure. **2.** An obscure person or thing.

ob·se·quies (ob′sə·kwēz) *n.pl.* Funeral rites. [< OF *obseques* < Med.L *obsequiae,* pl. funeral rites]

ob·se·qui·ous (əb·sē′kwē·əs) *adj.* Excessively obedient or submissive; sycophantic; servile. [< L < *obsequi* to comply with] — **ob·se′qui·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ob·se′qui·ous·ness** *n.*

ob·serv·a·ble (əb·zûr′və·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being observed; noticeable. **2.** Worthy of notice or mention; noteworthy. **3.** That may or must be observed, as a holiday. — **ob·serv′a·bly** *adv.* — **ob·serv′a·ble·ness** *n.*

ob·ser·vance (əb·zûr′vəns) *n.* **1.** The act of observing a command, law, etc. **2.** The act of celebrating a holiday, ceremony, etc. **3.** A customary rite, ceremony, etc. **4.** Observation; notice; attention. **5.** *Eccl.* The rule or constitution of a religious order.

ob·ser·vant (əb·zûr′vənt) *adj.* **1.** Attentive or quick in observing; heedful; alert. **2.** Strict or careful in obeying or keeping a custom, law, ceremony, etc.: often with *of*: *observant* of ritual. — **ob·ser′vant·ly** *adv.*

ob·ser·va·tion (ob′zər·vā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of observing, or the fact of being observed; also, that which is observed. **2.** Close examination for the purpose of scicntific study. **3.** An opinion or judgment. **— to take** (or **work out**) **an observation** *Naut.* To calculate the latitude and longitude from the altitude and position of the sun or other celestial body. **— ob′ser·va′tion·al** *adj.* **— ob′ser·va′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

ob·ser·va·to·ry (əb·zûr′və·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A building or station for the systematic observation of natural phenomena; esp., one for astronomical observation. **2.** A place affording a panoramic view.

ob·serve (əb·zûrv′) *v.* **·served, ·serv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To see or notice; perceive. **2.** To watch attentively. **3.** To make careful observation of, esp. for scientific purposes. **4.** To say or comment; remark. **5.** To follow or comply with (a law, custom, etc.); abide by. **6.** To celebrate as a holiday. **—** *v.i.* **7.** To make a remark; comment: often with *on* or *upon*. **8.** To take notice. **9.** To look on or attend without taking part, as at a meeting. [< OF <L *observare* to watch] **— ob·serv′er** *n.* **— ob·serv′ing·ly** *adv.*

ob·sess (əb·ses′) *v.t.* To occupy or trouble the mind of to an excessive degree; preoccupy; harass; haunt. [< L *obsidere* to occupy, beseige] **— ob·ses′sive** *adj.* **— ob·ses′sor** *n.*

ob·ses·sion (əb·sesh′ən) *n.* **1.** That which obsesses, as a persistent idea or feeling. **2.** *Psychiatry* An unwanted or compulsive idea or emotion persistently coming to awareness. **3.** The act of obsessing, or the state of being obsessed.

ob·sid·i·an (əb·sid′ē·ən, ob-) *n.* A glassy volcanic rock, usu. black. [< L *obsidianus*]

ob·so·les·cent (ob′sə·les′ənt) *adj.* Growing obsolete. **— ob′so·les′cence** *n.* **— ob′so·les′cent·ly** *adv.*

ob·so·lete (ob′sə·lēt, ob′sə·lēt′) *adj.* **1.** Gone out of fashion; out-of-date. **2.** No longer used or practiced. **3.** *Biol.* Imperfectly developed; atrophied or vestigial. [< L *obsolescere* to wear out] **— ob′so·lete′ly** *adv.* **— ob′so·lete′ness** *n.* **— ob′so·let′ism** *n.*

— Syn. 1. An *obsolete* word is no longer used either in speech or writing, usually because it has been supplanted by a different word. *Archaic* words were current at some time in the past, and appear in the works of Shakespeare, the Bible, etc., but unlike obsolete words they are still used for effect because they have an unmistakable flavor of their period or milieu. *Rare* words may be *archaic* or current, but are little used.

ob·sta·cle (ob′stə·kəl) *n.* That which stands in the way; a hindrance or obstruction. [< OF < L < *ob-* before, against + *stare* to stand]

ob·stet·ric (əb·stet′rik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to obstetrics or childbirth. Also **ob·stet′ri·cal.** [< L *obstetrix, -icis* midwife, lit., one who stands by] **— ob·stet′ri·cal·ly** *adv.*

ob·ste·tri·cian (ob′stə·trish′ən) *n.* A medical and surgical specialist in obstetrics.

ob·stet·rics (əb·stet′riks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of medicine dealing with pregnancy and childbirth.

ob·sti·na·cy (ob′stə·nə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The state or quality of being obstinate. **2.** An obstinate act, feeling, etc.

ob·sti·nate (ob′stə·nit) *adj.* **1.** Unreasonably fixed in one's purpose or opinion; unyielding; stubborn. **2.** Difficult to overcome or cure: an *obstinate* habit. [< L < *obstinare* to persist] **— ob′sti·nate·ly** *adv.* **— ob′sti·nate·ness** *n.*

ob·strep·er·ous (əb·strep′ər·əs) *adj.* Unruly, noisy, or boisterous, esp. in resistance to control, advice, etc. [< L < *ob-* towards + *strepere* to make noise] **— ob·strep′er·ous·ly** *adv.* **— ob·strep′er·ous·ness** *n.*

ob·struct (əb·strukt′) *v.t.* **1.** To stop or impede movement through (a way or passage) by obstacles or impediments; barricade. **2.** To block or retard the progress or way of; impede. **3.** To come or be in front of so as to prevent a clear view. [< L < *ob-* before + *struere* to pile, build] **— ob·struct′er** or **ob·struc′tor** *n.* **— ob·struc′tive** *adj.* **— ob·struc′tive·ly** *adv.* **— ob·struc′tive·ness** *n.*

ob·struc·tion (əb·struk′shən) *n.* **1.** That which obstructs. **2.** The act of obstructing, or the state of being obstructed.

ob·struc·tion·ist (əb·struk′shən·ist) *n.* One who makes a practice of obstructing, esp. in politics, one who obstructs debate, legislation, etc. **— ob·struc′tion·ism** *n.*

ob·tain (əb·tān′) *v.t.* **1.** To gain possession of, esp. by effort; acquire; get. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To be prevalent or in effect. **— Syn.** See GET. [< OF < L < *ob-* towards + *tenere* to hold] **— ob·tain′a·ble** *adj.* **— ob·tain′er** *n.* **— ob·tain′ment** *n.*

ob·trude (əb·trōōd′) *v.* **·trud·ed, ·trud·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To thrust or force (oneself, an opinion, etc.) upon another without request or warrant. **2.** To push forward or out; eject. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To intrude oneself. [< L < *ob-* towards + *trudere* to thrust] **— ob·trud′er** *n.* **— ob·tru′sion** *n.*

ob·tru·sive (əb·trōō′siv) *adj.* Tending to obtrude. **— ob·tru′sive·ly** *adv.* **— ob·tru′sive·ness** *n.*

ob·tuse (əb·tōōs′, -tyōōs′) *adj.* **1.** Lacking acuteness of intellect or feeling; insensible. **2.** Not clear or distinct to the senses; dull, as a sound or pain. **3.** *Bot.* Blunt or rounded at the extremity, as a leaf or petal. [< L *obtusus* blunt, dulled] **— ob·tuse′ly** *adv.* **— ob·tuse′ness** *n.*

obtuse angle *Geom.* An angle greater than a right angle and less than a straight angle.

ob·verse (ob′vûrs; *for adj., also* ob·vûrs′) *adj.* **1.** Turned toward or facing one. **2.** Narrower at the base than at the apex: an *obverse* leaf. **3.** Constituting a counterpart. **—** *n.* **1.** The front or principal side of anything; esp., the side of a coin bearing the main design or device: distinguished from *reverse*. **2.** A counterpart. [< L < *ob-* towards + *vertere* to turn] **— ob·verse′ly** *adv.*

ob·vi·ate (ob′vē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To prevent or counter (an objection, difficulty, etc.) by effective measures; provide for. [< L *obviatus*, pp. of *obviare* to meet, withstand]

— Syn. preclude, forestall, avert.

ob·vi·ous (ob′vē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Immediately evident; palpably true; manifest. **2.** Behaving without equivocation or subtlety. [< L < *ob-* before + *via* way] **— ob′vi·ous·ly** *adv.* **— ob′vi·ous·ness** *n.*

oc- Assimilated var. of OB-.

oc·a·ri·na (ok′ə·rē′nə) *n.* A small musical instrument in the shape of a sweet potato, with a mouthpiece and finger holes, and yielding soft, sonorous notes. [< Ital., dim. of *oca* goose < L *auca*; so called with ref. to its shape]

oc·ca·sion (ə·kā′zhən) *n.* **1.** The particular time of an event or occurrence; also, the event or occurrence itself. **2.** An important or extraordinary event. **3.** A favorable time or condition; opportunity. **4.** The immediate cause or grounds for some action or state: to give one *occasion* to complain. **5.** A need or requirement. **— on occasion** On suitable opportunity; now and then. **— to take the** (**this,** etc.) **occasion** To avail oneself of the (this, etc.) opportunity. **—** *v.t.* To cause or bring about, esp. in an accidental or incidental manner. [< L < *ob-* towards + *cadere* to fall]

oc·ca·sion·al (ə·kā′zhən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Occurring, appearing, etc., irregularly or now and then. **2.** Made, intended, or suitable for a particular occasion: *occasional* verse. **3.** Pertaining to or designating a small chair, table, etc., that is not part of a set. **— oc·ca′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

oc·ci·dent (ok′sə·dənt) *n.* The west: opposed to *orient*. [< OF < L *occidens, -entis* region where the sun sets.]

Oc·ci·dent (ok′sə·dənt) **1.** The countries west of Asia; esp., Europe. **2.** The western hemisphere.

oc·ci·den·tal (ok′sə·den′təl) *adj.* Of or belonging to the west, or to the countries constituting the Occident: distinguished from *oriental*. **—** *n.* One born or living in a western country. Also **Oc′ci·den′tal.**

oc·cip·i·tal (ok·sip′ə·təl) *adj.* Pertaining to the occiput. **—** *n.* The occipital bone.

occipital bone *Anat.* The hindmost bone of the skull, between the parietal and temporal bones.

oc·ci·put (ok′sə·put, -pət) *n. pl.* **oc·cip·i·ta** (ok·sip′ə·tə) *Anat.* The lower back part of the skull. [< L, back of the head < *ob-* against + *caput* head]

oc·clude (ə·klōōd′) *v.* **·clud·ed, ·clud·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To shut up or close, as pores or openings. **2.** To shut in, out, or off. **3.** *Chem.* To take up, either on the surface or internally, but without change of properties. **4.** *Meteorol.* To displace, as a mass of warm air by an advancing front of cold air. **—** *v.i.* **5.** *Dent.* To meet so that the corresponding cusps fit closely together: said of the teeth of the upper and lower jaws. [< L < *ob-* against + *claudere* to close] **— oc·clu′dent** *adj.* **— oc·clu′sion** (ə·klōō′zhən) *n.*

oc·clu·sive (ə·klōō′siv) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or bringing about occlusion or closure. **2.** *Phonet.* Pertaining to a stop. **—** *n. Phonet.* A stop.

oc·cult (ə·kult′, ok′ult) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to various magical arts and practices, as astrology, alchemy, etc. **2.** Beyond human understanding; mysterious. **3.** Not divulged or disclosed; secret. **— Syn.** See MYSTERIOUS. **—** *n.* Occult arts or practices: usu. with *the*. **—** *v.t.* To hide or conceal from view. **—** *v.i.* To become hidden or concealed from view. [< L *occultus*, pp. of *occulere* to cover over, hide] **— oc·cult′ism** *n.* **— oc·cult′ist** *n.* **— oc·cult′ly** *adv.*

oc·cul·ta·tion (ok′ul·tā′shən) *n. Astron.* Concealment of one celestial body by another interposed in the line of vision.

oc·cu·pan·cy (ok′yə·pən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The act of occupying, or the state of being occupied. **2.** *Law* The act of taking possession of something previously unowned. **3.** The condition of being an occupant or tenant. **4.** The time during which something is occupied.

oc·cu·pant (ok′yə·pənt) *n.* **1.** One who occupies a place, position, etc. **2.** A tenant. [See OCCUPY.]

oc·cu·pa·tion (ok′yə·pā′shən) *n.* **1.** One's regular, principal, or immediate business or job. **2.** The act of occupying, or the state of being occupied. **3.** The taking and holding of land by a military force: the *occupation* of Germany.

— Syn. 1. *Occupation* and *vocation* are general terms, meaning little more than line of work. A *profession* requires special knowledge and training: Law and medicine are *professions*. A *business* is usually industrial, commercial, or mercantile, but may also be general: the clothing *business*, the *business* of government. A *trade* requires manual skill, as does a *craft*, but the latter suggests a

greater degree of skill and even artistic creation: the bricklayer's *trade*, the jeweler's *craft*.

oc·cu·pa·tion·al (ok′yə·pā′shən·əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or caused by an occupation. — **oc′cu·pa′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

occupational therapy *Med.* The treatment of nervous, mental, or physical disabilities by means of work designed to promote recovery or readjustment.

oc·cu·py (ok′yə·pī) *v.t.* **·pied, ·py·ing** **1.** To take and hold possession of, as by conquest. **2.** To fill or take up (space or time). **3.** To inhabit; dwell in. **4.** To hold; fill, as an office or position. **5.** To busy or engage; employ. [< OF < L < *ob-* against + *capere* to take] — **oc′cu·pi′er** *n.*

oc·cur (ə·kûr′) *v.i.* **·curred, ·cur·ring** **1.** To happen or take place; come about. **2.** To be found or met with; appear. **3.** To suggest itself; come to mind. [< L < *ob-* towards, against + *currere* to run]

oc·cur·rence (ə·kûr′əns) *n.* **1.** The act or fact of occurring. **2.** That which occurs; an event. — **oc·cur′rent** *adj.*

o·cean (ō′shən) *n.* **1.** The great body of salt water that covers about 70 percent of the earth's surface. **2.** *Often cap.* Any one of the divisions of this body of water, usu. reckoned as five, the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic. **3.** A very large expanse or quantity. [< OF < L < Gk. *ōkeanos*]

ocean current Any of a large number of riverlike masses of water flowing in all oceans, each having a characteristic direction, length, depth, speed, and temperature.

o·ce·an·ic (ō′shē·an′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or living in the ocean; pelagic. **2.** Resembling an ocean; vast.

O·ce·an·ic (ō′shē·an′ik) *n.* A subfamily of the Austronesian family of languages, including the Melanesian languages of the Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, etc., and the Micronesian group of languages.

o·ce·an·og·ra·phy (ō′shē·ən·og′rə·fē, ō′shən·og′-) *n.* The branch of physical geography that treats of oceanic life and phenomena. — **o′ce·an·o·graph′ic** (·ə·graf′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **o′ce·an·o·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

oc·el·lat·ed (os′ə·lā′tid, ō·sel′ā·tid) *adj.* **1.** Having an ocellus or ocelli. **2.** Resembling an ocellus. **3.** Spotted. Also **oc·el·late** (os′ə·lāt, ō·sel′āt). [< L *ocellatus* small-eyed]

o·cel·lus (ō·sel′əs) *n. pl.* **·li** (-lī) **1.** *Biol.* A minute simple eye, as of many invertebrates. **2.** An eyelike spot, as in the tail of a peacock. [< L, dim. of *oculus* eye] — **o·cel′lar** *adj.*

o·ce·lot (ō′sə·lət, -lot, os′ə-) *n.* A large cat of Central and South America, having a spotted yellowish or reddish gray coat. [< F, short for Nahuatl *tlaocelotl* < *tlalli* field + *ocelotl* jaguar]

o·cher (ō′kər) *n.* **1.** A naturally occurring iron oxide mixed with various earthy materials and varying from light yellow to deep orange or red, largely used as a pigment. **2.** A dark yellow color derived from or resembling ocher. Also *Brit.* **o′chre.** [< OF < L < Gk. *ōchra* yellow ocher < *ōchros* pale yellow] — **o′cher·ous, o·chre·ous** (ō′krē·əs), **o′cher·y, o·chry** (ō′krē) *adj.*

·ock *suffix of nouns* Small: *hillock.* [OE *-oc, -uc*]

o'clock (ə·klok′) Of or according to the clock: six *o'clock.*

oct-, octa- See OCTO-.

oc·ta·gon (ok′tə·gon) *n. Geom.* A polygon having eight sides and eight angles. [< L < Gk. < *oktō* eight + *gōnia* angle] — **oc·tag·o·nal** (ok·tag′ə·nəl) *adj.* — **oc·tag′o·nal·ly** *adv.*

oc·ta·he·dron (ok′tə·hē′drən) *n. pl.* **·dra** (-drə) *Geom.* A polyhedron bounded by eight plane faces. [< Gk. < *oktō* eight + *hedra* seat] — **oc′ta·he′dral** *adj.*

oc·tane (ok′tān) *n. Chem.* One of a group of saturated hydrocarbons that have the formula C_8H_{18}.

octane number A measure of the antiknock properties of gasoline, expressed as the percentage, by volume, of isooctane that must be blended with normal heptane until the mixture has the same knock rating as the gasoline under test.

oc·tant (ok′tənt) *n.* An eighth part of a circle; an arc subtending an angle of 45 degrees. [< LL *octans, -antis* an eighth part < L *octo* eight] — **oc·tan′tal** (-tan′təl) *adj.*

oc·tave (ok′tiv, -tāv) *n.* **1.** *Music* **a** The interval between a tone and another having twice as many or half as many vibrations per second. **b** A tone at this interval above or below any other, considered in relation to that other. **c** Two tones at this interval, sounded together; also, the resulting consonance. **d** An organ stop giving tones an octave above those normally corresponding to the keys played. **2.** *Eccl.* The eighth day from a feast day, beginning with the feast day as one; also, the lengthening of a festival so as to include a period of eight days. **3.** Any group or series of eight. **4.** In prosody, an octet. — *adj.* **1.** Composed of eight. **2.** *Music* Producing tones an octave higher. [< L *octavus* eighth < *octo* eight] — **oc·ta·val** (ok·tā′vəl, ok′tə-) *adj.*

oc·ta·vo (ok·tā′vō, -tä′-) *n. pl.* **·vos** **1.** The page size (6 x 9¼ inches except where otherwise specified) of a book made up of printer's sheets folded into eight leaves. **2.** A book consisting of pages of this size. — *adj.* In octavo. Also *eighvo.* Also written **8vo** or **8°**. [< L *in octavo* in an eighth]

oc·tet (ok·tet′) *n.* **1.** A musical composition for eight singers or instrumentalists. **2.** A group of eight singers or instrumentalists. **3.** Any group of eight. Also **oc·tette′.** [< Ital. < L *octo* eight]

oc·til·lion (ok·til′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand septillions, written as 1 followed by 27 zeros: a cardinal number. **2.** *Brit.* A million septillions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by 48 zeros: a cardinal number — *adj.* Being an octillion in number. [< MF < *octo* eight + F (*m*)*illion*]

octo- *combining form* Eight: also, before vowels, *oct-*. Also *octa-*. [< L *octo* and Gk. *oktō* eight]

Oc·to·ber (ok·tō′bər) The tenth month of the year, containing 31 days. [< L, eighth month of early Roman calendar < *octo* eight]

October Revolution See RUSSIAN REVOLUTION under REVOLUTION.

oc·to·dec·i·mo (ok′tə·des′ə·mō) *n. pl.* **·mos** **1.** The page size (approximately 4 x 6½ inches) of a book made up of printer's sheets folded into 18 leaves. **2.** A book consisting of pages of this size. — *adj.* In octodecimo; consisting of pages of this size. Also *eighteenmo.* Also written **18mo** or **18°**. [< L *in octodecimo* in an eighteenth]

oc·to·ge·nar·i·an (ok′tə·jə·nâr′ē·ən) *adj.* Being eighty or from eighty to ninety years of age. — *n.* One between eighty and ninety years of age. Also **oc·tog·e·nar·y** (ok·toj′ə·ner′ē) *adj. & n.* [< L < *octoginta* eighty]

oc·to·pod (ok′tə·pod) *n. Zool.* Any of a group of eight-armed cephalopods, as the octopus.

oc·to·pus (ok′tə·pəs) *n. pl.* **·pus·es** or **·pi** (-pī) or **oc·top·o·des** (ok·top′ə·dēz) **1.** An eight-armed marine mollusk having a large oval head and rows of suckers along the arms; a devilfish. **2.** Any organized power regarded as far-reaching and potentially destructive; esp., a powerful business organization. [< NL < Gk. < *oktō* eight + *pous* foot]

oc·to·roon (ok′tə·rōōn′) *n.* A person who is one-eighth Negro. [< L *octo* eight + (QUAD)ROON]

oc·u·lar (ok′yə·lər) *adj.* Of, like, or related to the eye or sight. — *n.* The lenses forming the eyepiece of an optical instrument. [< L < *oculus* eye] — **oc′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

oc·u·list (ok′yə·list) *n.* A physician skilled in treating diseases of the eye; ophthalmologist. [< MF < L *oculus* eye]

o·da·lisque (ō′də·lisk) *n.* A female slave or concubine in an Oriental harem. Also **o′da·lisk.** [< F < Turkish *ōdalıq* chambermaid]

odd (od) *adj.* **1.** Strange or unusual in appearance, behavior, etc.; peculiar; queer. **2.** Not part of what is regular, usual, required, etc.: an *odd* job. **3.** Constituting a member of an incomplete pair, set, etc.: an *odd* slipper. **4.** Leaving a remainder when divided by two; not even: Five is an *odd* number; also, characterized by such a number. **5.** Additional to a specified round number: seventy *odd* dollars. [< ON *oddī* point, hence, third point of a triangle, hence, odd number] — **odd′ly** *adv.* — **odd′ness** *n.*

odd·i·ty (od′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** One who or that which is odd. **2.** An odd or peculiar quality or trait; an eccentricity. **3.** The state of being odd; singularity; strangeness.

odd·ment (od′mənt) *n. Usu. pl.* A fragment, scrap, or leftover; odds and ends.

odds (odz) *n.pl.* (*sometimes construed as sing.*) **1.** An equalizing allowance or advantage given to a weaker opponent. **2.** The proportion by which one bet differs from that of another. **3.** The ratio between the probability for and the probability against something being true or happening. **4.** A difference to the advantage of one side. — **at odds** At variance; disagreeing. [< plural of ODD]

odds and ends Miscellaneous things; fragments; scraps.

ode (ōd) *n.* A lyric poem often in the form of an elaborate address and usually characterized by loftiness of tone, feeling, and style. [< MF < LL < Gk. *ōidē* song]

-ode[1] *combining form* Way; path: *anode, cathode.* [< Gk. *hodos* way]

-ode[2] *suffix* Like; resembling; having the nature of. [< Gk. *-ōdēs* < *eidos* form]

O·din (ō′din) In Norse mythology, the supreme deity, god of war, art, culture, and the dead.

o·di·ous (ō′dē·əs) *adj.* Exciting hate, repugnance, or disgust; offensive; abhorrent. [< OF < L < *odium* hatred] — **o′di·ous·ly** *adv.* — **o′di·ous·ness** *n.*

o·di·um (ō′dē·əm) *n.* **1.** The state of being odious. **2.** Extreme dislike or aversion; hatred. **3.** The reproach, disgrace, or stigma associated with something hateful; opprobrium. [< L, hatred]

o·dom·e·ter (ō·dom′ə·tər) *n.* A device for measuring distance traveled by a vehicle. [< Gk. < *hodos* way, road + *metron* a measure] — **o·dom′e·try** *n.*

-odont *combining form* Toothed. [< Gk. *odous, odontos* tooth]
odonto- *combining form* Tooth; of the teeth. Also, before vowels, **odont-**. [< Gk. *odous, odontos* tooth]
o·don·tol·o·gy (ō′don·tol′ə·jē) *n.* The body of scientific knowledge that relates to the structure, health, and growth of the teeth. — **o·don·to·log·i·cal** (ō·don′tə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **o·don′to·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **o′don·tol′o·gist** *n.*
o·dor (ō′dər) *n.* **1.** That quality of a substance that renders it perceptible to the sense of smell; smell; scent. **2.** Regard or estimation. **3.** A perfume; incense. — **Syn.** See SMELL. Also *Brit.* **o′dour.** [< OF < L] — **o′dored** *adj.*
o·dor·if·er·ous (ō′də·rif′ər·əs) *adj.* Having or giving off an odor, especially a pleasant odor. [< L < *odor* odor + *ferre* to bear] — **o′dor·if′er·ous·ly** *adv.* — **o′dor·if′er·ous·ness** *n.*
o·dor·less (ō′dər·lis) *adj.* Having no odor. — **o′dor·less·ly** *adv.* — **o′dor·less·ness** *n.*
o·dor·ous (ō′dər·əs) *adj.* Having an odor, esp. a fragrant odor. — **o′dor·ous·ly** *adv.* — **o′dor·ous·ness** *n.*
-odynia *combining form Med.* Pain; chronic pain in a (specified) part of the body. [< Gk. *odynē* pain]
O·dys·seus (ō·dis′yōōs, -ē·əs) In Greek legend, king of Ithaca, one of the Greek leaders in the Trojan War and hero of the *Odyssey*: Latin *Ulysses*.
Od·ys·sey (od′ə·sē) An ancient Greek epic poem attributed to Homer, describing the wanderings of Odysseus during the ten years after the fall of Troy. — *n.* A long, wandering journey: often **od′ys·sey.** — **Od′ys·sey′an** *adj.*
oe- See also words beginning E-.
oe·de·ma (i·dē′mə) See EDEMA.
Oed·i·pus (ed′ə·pəs, ē′də-) In Greek legend, the son of Laius and Jocasta, rulers of Thebes, who unwittingly killed his father and married his mother.
Oedipus complex *Psychoanal.* A strong, typically unconscious attachment of a child to the parent of the opposite sex, esp. of a son to his mother, with antagonism toward the other parent. — **Oed·i·pal** (ed′ə·pəl, ē′də-) *adj.*
o'er (ōr, ōr) *prep. & adv. Poetic* Over.
oe·soph·a·gus (i·sof′ə·gəs) See ESOPHAGUS.
oes·tro·gen (es′trə·jən, ēs′-) See ESTROGEN.
oes·trous (es′trəs, ēs′-) See ESTROUS.
of (uv, ov; *unstressed* əv) *prep.* **1.** Coming from: Anne *of* Cleves; an actor *of* noble birth. **2.** Included among: Is he *of* your party? **3.** Located at: the Leaning Tower *of* Pisa. **4.** Away or at a distance from: within six miles *of* home. **5.** Named; specified as: the city *of* Newark; a fall *of* ten feet. **6.** Characterized by: a man *of* strength. **7.** With reference to; as to: quick *of* wit. **8.** About; concerning: Good is said *of* him. **9.** Because of: dying *of* pneumonia. **10.** Possessing: a man *of* means. **11.** Belonging to: the lid *of* a box. **12.** Pertaining to: the majesty *of* the law. **13.** Composed of: a ship *of* steel. **14.** Containing: a glass *of* water. **15.** From the number or class of: six *of* the seven conspirators. **16.** So as to be without: relieved *of* anxiety. **17.** Produced by: the plays *of* Shakespeare. **18.** Directed toward; exerted upon: a love *of* opera. **19.** During, on, or at a specified time or occasion: *of* recent years. **20.** Set aside for or devoted to: a program *of* music. **21.** *U.S.* Before; until: used in telling time: ten minutes *of* ten. **22.** *Archaic* By: loved *of* all men. [OE, away from, off]
of- Assimilated var. of OB-.
of course **1.** In the usual order of procedure; naturally; as expected. **2.** Doubtless; certainly.
off (ôf, of) *adj.* **1.** Farther or more distant; remote: an *off* chance. **2.** In a (specified) circumstance or situation: to be well *off*. **3.** Not in accordance with the facts; wrong: Your reckoning is *off*. **4.** Not up to standard: an *off* season for roses. **5.** No longer considered active or effective: The deal is *off*. **6.** Away from work; not on duty: *off* hours. **7.** In riding or driving, on the right: opposed to *near*: Pass on the *off* side. **8.** *Naut.* Seaward. — *adv.* **1.** To a distance; so as to be away: My horse ran *off*. **2.** To or at a (specified) future time: to put it *off* for a week. **3.** To or at a (specified) distance: to stand five feet *off*. **4.** So as to be no longer in place, connection, etc.: Take *off* your hat. **5.** So as to be no longer functioning, continuing, or in operation: to break *off* talks. **6.** So as to be away from one's work, duties, etc.: to take the day *off*. **7.** So as to be completed, exhausted, etc.: to kill *off* one's enemies. **8.** So as to deviate from or be below what is regarded as standard: His game dropped *off*. **9.** *Naut.* Away from land, a ship, the wind, etc. — **off and on** Now and then; intermittently. — **to be off** **1.** To leave; depart. **2.** *Informal* To be insane. — *prep.* **1.** So as to be separated, detached, distant, or removed from (a position, source, etc.): twenty miles *off* course. **2.** Not engaged in or occupied with; relieved from: *off* duty. **3.** Extending away or out from; no longer on: *off* Broadway. **4.** So as to deviate from or be below (what is regarded as standard): to be *off* one's game. **5.** On or from (the material or substance of): living *off* nuts and berries. **6.** *Informal* No longer using, engaging in, or advocating: to be *off* drinking. **7.** *Naut.* Opposite to and seaward of: the battle *off* the eastern cape. — **off of** *Informal* Off; from: He fell *off of* the horse. — *n.* The state or condition of being off. [ME]
of·fal (ô′fəl) *n.* **1.** The waste parts of a butchered animal. **2.** Rubbish or refuse of any kind. [ME *ofall* < OFF + FALL]
off-beat (ôf′bēt′, of′-) *n. Music* Any secondary or weak beat in a measure. — *adj. U.S. Slang* Out of the ordinary; strange; unconventional; unusual.
off-Broad·way (ôf′brôd′wā) *adj.* **1.** Not situated in the Broadway entertainment district: an *off-Broadway* theater. **2.** Designating a play that is regarded as experimental, noncommercial, etc. — *n.* Any area in New York City in which off-Broadway plays are produced.
off-cast (ôf′kast′, -käst′, of′-) *adj.* Rejected; castoff. — *n.* Anything thrown away or rejected.
off chance A bare possibility.
off-col·or (ôf′kul′ər, of′-) *adj.* **1.** Unsatisfactory in color, as a gem. **2.** Indelicate or indecent; risqué.
of·fence (ə·fens′) See OFFENSE.
of·fend (ə·fend′) *v.t.* **1.** To give displeasure or offense to. **2.** To be disagreeable to (the sense of smell, sight, etc.). — *v.i.* **3.** To give displeasure or offense; be offensive. [< L < *ob-* against + *fendere* to hit] — **of·fend′er** *n.*
— **Syn. 1.** Insult, affront, exasperate, outrage.
of·fense (ə·fens′; *for defs. 4 & 5, also* ô′fens, of′ens) *n.* **1.** Any violation of a rule, duty, propriety, etc.; esp., a breach of law. **2.** The act of offending or causing displeasure. **3.** That which offends: an *offense* to the ear. **4.** The act of attacking or assaulting; attack. **5.** In football, hockey, etc., the team possessing the ball or puck. — **to give offense** To offend or cause anger, resentment, etc. — **to take offense** To be offended; feel angry, hurt, etc. Also *esp. Brit., offence.*
of·fen·sive (ə·fen′siv) *adj.* **1.** Unpleasant or disagreeable; obnoxious; disgusting. **2.** Causing anger, resentment, etc.; insulting. **3.** Of, pertaining to, or characterized by attack: distinguished from *defensive*. — *n.* The movement, attitude, or position of offense or attack. — **of·fen′sive·ly** *adv.* — **of·fen′sive·ness** *n.*
of·fer (ô′fər, of′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To present for acceptance or rejection. **2.** To suggest for consideration or action; propose. **3.** To make an offering of: often with *up*. **4.** To show readiness to do or attempt; propose or threaten: to *offer* battle. **5.** To attempt to do or inflict; also, to do or inflict. **6.** To suggest as payment; bid. **7.** To present for sale. — *v.i.* **8.** To present itself; appear. **9.** To make an offering in worship or sacrifice. — *n.* **1.** The act of offering. **2.** That which is offered, as a bid, suggestion, etc. [OE *offrian* < L < *ob-* before + *ferre* to bring] — **of′fer·er** or **of′fer·or** *n.*
of·fer·ing (ô′fər·ing, of′ər-) *n.* **1.** The act of making an offer. **2.** That which is offered, as a sacrifice or contribution.
of·fer·to·ry (ô′fər·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, of′ər-) *n. pl.* **·ries** *Eccl.* **1.** *Usu. cap.* A section of the eucharistic liturgy during which the bread and wine to be consecrated are offered, and the alms of the congregation are collected. **2.** Any collection taken during a religious service. **3.** An antiphon, hymn, or anthem sung during this service. **4.** A prayer of oblation said by the celebrant over the bread and wine to be consecrated. [< Med.L *offertorium* < LL, place of offerings]
off-hand (ôf′hand′, of′-) *adv.* Without preparation; unceremoniously; extempore. Also **off′hand′ed·ly.** — *adj.* **1.** Done, said, or made offhand. **2.** Casual; informal; curt. Also **off′hand′ed.**
of·fice (ô′fis, of′is) *n.* **1.** A place in which the business of an individual, corporation, government bureau, etc., is carried out; also, the staff and administrative officials working in such a place. **2.** *Usu. cap. U.S.* An executive branch of the federal government ranking below the departments. **3.** Any post or position held by a person; especially, a position of authority or trust in the government, a corporation, etc. **4.** The duty, charge, or trust of a person. **5.** Any act done or intended to be done for another; a service; favor: through his kind *offices*. **6.** *Eccl.* A prescribed religious or devotional service, as: **a** The canonical hours. **b** The Morning or Evening Prayer. **7.** Any ceremony or rite, esp., a rite for the dead. [< OF < L *officium* service]
of·fice·hold·er (ô′fis·hōl′dər, of′-) *n.* One who holds an office under a government.
of·fi·cer (ô′fə·sər, of′ə-) *n.* **1.** In the armed forces, one appointed to a certain rank and authority; esp., one holding a commission. **2.** One elected or appointed to a position of authority or trust in a corporation, government, institution, etc. **3.** On a merchant or passenger ship, the captain or any of the mates. **4.** One who enforces the law, as a policeman. — *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with officers. **2.** To command; direct; manage.
officer of the day At a military installation, the officer who on a given day is responsible for the performance of the guard, maintenance of order or security, etc.
of·fi·cial (ə·fish′əl, ô-) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to an office or position of authority. **2.** Supported by or derived from authority. **3.** Authorized to carry out some special duty.

4. Formal: *official* banquets. — *n.* One who holds an office or position; esp., one who is authorized to act for a corporation, government agency, etc., in a subordinate capacity. — **of·fi′cial·ly** *adv.*

of·fi·cial·dom (ə·fish′əl·dəm, ō-) *n.* **1.** Officials collectively or as a class. **2.** Rigid adherence to official forms, routines, etc.: also **of·fi′cial·ism.**

of·fi·ci·ate (ə·fish′ē·āt, ō-) *v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing 1.** To act or serve as a priest or minister. **2.** To perform the duties or functions of any office or position. — **of·fi′ci·a′tion** *n.* — **of·fi′ci·a′tor** *n.*

of·fic·i·nal (ə·fis′ə·nəl) *adj.* Prepared and kept in stock by a pharmacy. — *n.* Any drug or medicine kept ready for sale. [< Med.L < L *officina* workshop]

of·fi·cious (ə·fish′əs, ō-) *adj.* Unduly forward in offering one's services or advice; obtrusive; meddling. [< L *officiosus* obliging < *officium* service] — **of·fi′cious·ly** *adv.* — **of·fi′cious·ness** *n.*

off·ing (ôf′ing, of′ing) *n.* **1.** That part of the visible sea offshore but beyond anchorage. **2.** A position some distance offshore. — **in the offing 1.** In sight and not very distant. **2.** Ready or soon to happen, arrive, etc.

off·ish (ôf′ish, of′ish) *adj.* Inclined to be distant in manner; aloof. — **off′ish·ly** *adv.* — **off′ish·ness** *n.*

off·scour·ing (ôf′skour′ing, of′-) *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* Trash; garbage. **2.** A social outcast; wretch.

off·set (*n.* ôf′set′, of′-; *v.* ôf′set′, of′-) *n.* **1.** That which balances or compensates for something else. **2.** That which derives, develops, or springs from something else; offshoot. **3.** *Archit.* A ledge formed along a wall by a reduction in thickness above; setoff. **4.** *Printing* **a** Offset printing. **b** An impression made by offset printing. **5.** A bend or curve made in a pipe, rod, etc., to allow it to pass an obstacle. — *v.* **·set, ·set·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To balance or compensate for. **2.** *Printing* **a** To reproduce by offset printing. **b** To transfer (an impression) by offset printing. **3.** *Archit.* To make an offset in. — *v.i.* **4.** To branch off or project as an offset.

offset printing A method of printing in which the inked impression from a lithographic plate is transferred to a rubber-coated cylinder, and then onto the paper.

off·shoot (ôf′shōōt′, of′-) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* A lateral shoot or branch from the main stem of a plant. **2.** Anything that derives or branches off from a principal source, stock, etc.

off·shore (ôf′shôr′, -shōr′, of′-) *adj.* **1.** Moving or directed away from the shore. **2.** Situated or occurring at some distance from the shore. — *adv.* From or away from the shore.

off·side (ôf′sīd′, of′-) *adj.* In football, in front of the ball before it is put into play: said of a player, team, or play. Also **off side.**

off·spring (ôf′spring′, of′-) *n. pl.* **·spring** or **·springs 1.** The progeny or issue of a person, animal, or plant; descendant. **2.** Any result or product: the *offspring* of his mind.

off·stage (ôf′stāj, of′-) *n.* The area behind or to the side of a stage, out of the view of the audience. — *adj.* In or from this area: *off-stage* dialogue. — *adv.* To this area.

off·white (ôf′hwīt′, of′-) *n.* Oyster white.

oft (ôft, oft) *adv.* Often: archaic or poetic except in certain combinations, as **oft-repeated, oft-recurring,** etc. [OE]

oft·en (ôf′ən, of′-) *adv.* Frequently or repeatedly. [Var. of ME *ofte*, OE *oft*]

oft·en·times (ôf′ən·tīmz′, of′-) *adv. Archaic* Frequently; often. Also **oft·times** (ôf′tīmz′, of′-).

o·gee (ō′jē, ō-jē′) *n. Archit.* **1.** Any S-shaped curve used in a construction. **2.** An arch having two S-shaped curves meeting at the apex: also **ogee arch.** [OF *ogive*]

o·give (ō′jīv, ō-jīv′) *n. Archit.* **1.** A diagonal rib of a vaulted arch or bay. **2.** A pointed arch. [< OF *ogive*]

o·gle (ō′gal, og′əl) *v.* **o·gled, o·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To look at with admiring or impertinent glances. **2.** To stare at; eye. — *v.i.* **3.** To look or stare in an admiring or impertinent manner. — *n.* An amorous or coquettish look. [< LG *oegeln*, freq. of *oegen* to look at < *oege* eye] — **o′gler** *n.*

o·gre (ō′gər) *n.* **1.** In fairy tales, a man-eating giant or monster. **2.** One who is brutal, hideous, or feared. [< F] — **o·gre·ish** (ō′gər·ish), **o·grish** (ō′grish) *adj.* — **o′gress** (-grəs) *n.fem.*

oh (ō) *interj.* An exclamation expressing surprise, sudden emotion, etc. — *n.* The interjection *oh.*

ohm (ōm) *n.* The unit of electrical resistance, equal to the resistance of a conductor carrying a current of one ampere at a potential difference of one volt between the terminals.

ohm·age (ō′mij) *n.* Electrical resistance of a conductor, expressed in ohms.

ohm·me·ter (ōm′mē′tər) *n.* A galvanometer for measuring the resistance of a conductor in ohms.

o·ho (ō·hō′) *interj.* An exclamation expressing astonishment, exultation, etc.

-oid *suffix* Like; resembling; having the form of: *ovoid, hydroid.* [< NL *-oides* < Gk. *-oeidēs* < *eidos* form]

oil (oil) *n.* **1.** A greasy or unctuous, sometimes combustible liquid of vegetable, animal, or mineral origin, soluble in alcohol and ether, but not in water, variously used as food, for lubricating, illuminating, and fuel, and in the manufacture of soap, candles, cosmetics, perfumery, etc. **2.** Petroleum. **3.** An oil color; also, an oil painting. **4.** Anything of an oily consistency. — *v.t.* **1.** To smear, lubricate, or supply with oil. **2.** To bribe; flatter. — *adj.* **1.** Of or resembling oil. **2.** Using, obtained from, or yielding oil. [< OF < L prob. < Gk. *elaion* olive oil]

oil burner A heating unit that operates on oil fuel.

oil cake The mass of compressed seeds of cotton, flax, etc., or coconut pulp from which oil has been expressed, used as food (**oil meal**) for livestock, etc.

oil·cloth (oil′klôth′, -kloth′) *n.* A fabric waterproofed with oils and pigments, used as a covering for tables, etc.

oil color A color or paint made of pigment ground in linseed or other oil, used chiefly by artists.

oil of vitriol Sulfuric acid.

oil painting 1. A painting done in pigments mixed in oil. **2.** The art of painting in oils.

oil·paper (oil′pā′pər) *n.* Paper treated with oil for transparency and resistance against moisture and dryness.

oil·skin (oil′skin′) *n.* Cloth made waterproof with oil, or a garment of such material.

oil slick A smooth area on water caused by a film of oil.

oil·stone (oil′stōn) *n.* A whetstone moistened with oil.

oil well A well that is dug or drilled to obtain petroleum.

oil·y (oi′lē) *adj.* **oil·i·er, oil·i·est 1.** Of, pertaining to, or containing oil. **2.** Coated, smeared, or soaked with oil; greasy. **3.** Smooth or suave in behavior, speech, etc.; unctuous. — **oil′i·ly** *adv.* — **oil′i·ness** *n.*

oint·ment (oint′mənt) *n.* A fatty or unctuous preparation applied to the skin as a medicine or cosmetic; unguent. [< OF *oignement*, ult. < L *unguentum* < *ungere* to anoint]

O·jib·wa (ō·jib′wā, -wə) *n. pl.* **·wa** or **·was 1.** One of a tribe of North American Indians formerly inhabiting the regions around Lake Superior. **2.** Their Algonquian language. Also called *Chippewa*: also **O·jib′way.**

OK (*interj., adj., adv. & n.* ō′kā′; *v.* ō·kā′) *interj., adj., & adv.* All correct; all right: used to express approval, agreement, etc. — *v.t.* To approve, endorse, or agree to; especially, to sign with an *OK.* — *n.* Approval; agreement; endorsement. Also **O.K., o′kay′, o′keh′,** [? < *o(ll) k(orrect)*, humorous misspelling of "all correct," reinforced by *O(ld) K(inderhook)* in the name of a political club (1840) supporting Martin Van Buren of Kinderhook, N.Y.]

o·ka·pi (ō·kä′pē) *n.* An African ruminant related to the giraffe, but with a smaller body and a shorter neck. [< native African name]

O·kie (ō′kē) *n. U.S. Slang* A migrant farmworker, originally one from Oklahoma.

o·kra (ō′krə) *n.* **1.** A tall annual herb of the mallow family. **2.** Its green mucilaginous pods, used in soups and stews, or as a vegetable. **3.** Gumbo. [< West African]

-ol[1] *suffix Chem.* Denoting an alcohol or phenol: *methanol, glycerol.* [< (ALCOH)OL]

-ol[2] *suffix Chem.* Var. of **-OLE**[1], as in *benzol.*

old (ōld) *adj.* **old·er** or **eld·er, old·est** or **eld·est 1.** Living, existing, made, known, etc., for a relatively long time. **2.** Exhibiting the characteristics of advanced life. **3.** Having a specified age or duration: a child two months *old.* **4.** Worn with age or repeated use; shabby. **5.** Familiar through long acquaintance or use: an *old* hand at politics. **6.** Skilled through long experience: an *old* hand at politics. **7.** Belonging to or associated with a relatively remote period in history; ancient. **8.** *Usu. cap.* Denoting the earlier or earliest of two or more things, periods, developments, etc.; *Old* English; the *Old* Testament. **9.** *Informal* Good; cherished; dear: a general term of affection or endearment: *old* buddy of mine. **10.** *Informal* Plentiful; great; wonderful: used to express intense pleasure, excess, etc.: a grand *old* time. **11.** *Geog.* In a late stage of a cycle of development: said of topographic features, streams, etc. — *n.* Past time: days of *old.* [OE *ald*] — **old′ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** (adj.) **1.** *Old* and *aged* mean having lived a long time, but *old* more often suggests feebleness or senility than *aged.* An *elderly* man has passed middle age, but is generally regarded as younger than an *old* man, both in years and in vigor.

Old Bailey The central criminal court of London.

old country The native country of an immigrant, esp. a European country.

old·en (ōl′dən) *adj. Archaic & Poetic* Old; ancient.

Old English *Printing* Black letter.

old·fan·gled (ōld′fang′gəld) *adj.* Having a fondness for what is old-fashioned. [On analogy with NEWFANGLED]

old-fash·ioned (ōld′fash′ənd) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, characteristic of, or favoring former times, old customs, etc.
old fashioned A cocktail of whisky, sugar, fruit, etc.
old fo·gy (fō′gē) One who is extremely conservative or old-fashioned. Also **old fo′gey.** — **old′-fo′gy·ish** *adj.*
Old French See under FRENCH.
Old Glory The flag of the United States.
old guard The conservative element in a community, political party, etc.
old hat *U.S. Slang* Out of style; old-fashioned; obsolete.
Old Hickory Nickname of Andrew Jackson.
Old High German See under GERMAN.
Old Icelandic See under ICELANDIC.
old·ish (ōl′dish) *adj.* Somewhat old.
old lady *Slang* **1.** One's mother. **2.** One's wife.
old-line (ōld′līn′) *adj.* **1.** Traditional or conservative in action or thought. **2.** Long-established; traditional.
Old Line State Nickname of Maryland.
old maid **1.** A spinster. **2.** *Informal* One who is prim, prudish, fastidious, etc.
old man *Slang* **1.** One's father. **2.** One's husband. **3.** Any man in a position of authority, as an employer.
old master Any of the famous painters who lived between the 13th and 16th centuries, esp. in Italy and the Low Countries; also, any of their paintings.
Old Nick The devil.
Old Prussian See under PRUSSIAN.
old rose Any of various shades of grayish or purplish red.
old·ster (ōld′stər) *n. Informal* An old or elderly person.
Old Stone Age The Paleolithic period of human culture.
old-style (ōld′stīl′) *adj.* Of a former or old-fashioned style.
old style *Printing* A style of type having the stems and the serifs of nearly the same thickness.
Old Style See (Gregorian) CALENDAR.
Old Testament The first of the two main divisions of the Bible, divided into the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Hagiographa.
old-time (ōld′tīm′) *adj.* **1.** Of or characteristic of a former time. **2.** Of long standing; long-established.
old-tim·er (ōld′tī′mər) *n. Informal* **1.** One who has been a member, resident, etc., for a long time. **2.** An old-fashioned person.
Ol·du·vai Gorge (ōl′dōō·vī′, ōl′dōō·vī′) A gorge about 100 mi. SE of Lake Victoria in Tanzania; site of fossils of extinct mammals believed to be forerunners of early man.
old-wom·an·ish (ōld′wŏŏm′ən·ish) *adj.* Characteristic of or suitable for an old woman; fussy.
old-world (ōld′wûrld′) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Old World or Eastern Hemisphere. **2.** Ancient; antique.
Old World The Eastern Hemisphere, including Europe, Asia and Africa; esp., Europe.
-ole[1] *suffix Chem.* Denoting a closed-chain compound having a five-membered ring. Also spelled **-ol.** [< L *oleum* oil]
-ole[2] *suffix* Small; little: *nucleole.* [< L *-olus,* dim. suffix]
o·le·a·ceous (ō′lē·ā′shəs) *adj. Bot.* Pertaining or belonging to the olive family of plants and including the lilac, jasmine, and ash. [< NL *oleaceae* < L *olea* olive tree]
o·le·ag·i·nous (ō′lē·aj′ə·nəs) *adj.* Of or pertaining to oil; oily. [< F < L < *olea* olive tree] — **o′le·ag′i·nous·ly** *adv.*
o·le·an·der (ō′lē·an′dər) *n.* An Old World, evergreen shrub, having leaves that yield a poisonous glycoside and clusters of fragrant rose or white flowers. [< Med.L]
o·le·ate (ō′lē·āt) *n. Chem.* A salt or ester of oleic acid.
o·le·ic (ō·lē′ik, ō′lē-) *adj.* Oil, pertaining to, or derived from oil. [< L *oleum* oil + -IC]
oleic acid *Chem.* An oily compound, $C_{17}H_{33}COOH$, contained as an ester in most mixed oils and fats.
o·le·o (ō′lē·ō) Short for OLEOMARGARINE.
oleo- *combining form* Oil; of oil. [< L *oleum* oil]
o·le·o·mar·ga·rine (ō′lē·ō·mär′jə·rin, -rēn) *n.* A substitute for butter made usu. from vegetable oils: also called *margarine.* Also **o′le·o·mar′ga·rin.**
o·le·o·res·in (ō′lē·ō·rez′in) *n.* **1.** A naturally occurring compound of an essential oil and a resin. **2.** A pharmaceutical preparation consisting of a resin and sometimes other active matter in solution with a fixed or volatile oil.
ol·fac·tion (ol·fak′shən) *n.* The act, sense, or process of smelling odors. [< L *olfactus.* See OLFACTORY.]
ol·fac·to·ry (ol·fak′tər·ē, -trē) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the sense of smell. — *n. pl.* **·ries** *Usu. pl.* The organ of smell. [< L < *olere* to have a smell + *facere* to make]
ol·i·garch (ol′ə·gärk) *n.* A ruler in an oligarchy.
ol·i·gar·chy (ol′ə·gär′kē) *n. pl.* **·chies** **1.** A form of government in which power is restricted to a few; also, a state so governed. **2.** The ruling oligarchs. [< Gk. < *oligos* few + *archein* to rule] — **ol′i·gar′chic, ol′i·gar′chal, ol′i·gar′chi·cal** *adj.*
Ol·i·go·cene (ol′ə·gō·sēn′) *Geol. adj.* Pertaining to the third oldest of the epochs or series comprised in the Tertiary system. — *n.* This epoch, with its included rock series. [< OLIGO- + Gk. *kainos* new, recent]
o·li·o (ō′lē·ō) *n. pl.* **o·li·os** A miscellaneous collection, as of musical pieces or numbers. [< Sp. *olla* pot, stew]
ol·ive (ol′iv) *n.* **1.** A small, oily fruit native to Southern Europe and the Middle East. **2.** The evergreen tree yielding this fruit, having leathery leaves and hard yellow wood. **3.** The dull, yellowish green color of the unripe olive: also **olive green.** — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or characteristic of the olive. **2.** Having a dull, yellowish green color. **3.** Tinged with this color: an *olive* complexion. [< L *oliva*]
olive branch **1.** A branch of the olive tree as an emblem of peace. **2.** Any peace offering.
olive drab **1.** Any of several shades of greenish brown. **2.** A woolen material of this color, formerly used by the armed services of the U.S. for uniforms. **3.** *Often pl.* A uniform or a pair of trousers made of this cloth.
olive oil Oil pressed from olives, used in cooking, etc.
Olives, Mount of A hill just east of Jerusalem: *Matt.* xvi 1. Also **Ol·i·vet** (ol′ə·vet, -vit).
ol·i·vine (ol′ə·vēn, -vin) *n.* A vitreous, often transparent, magnesium-iron silicate, often used as a gemstone.
ol·la (ol′ə, *Sp.* ô′lyä, ô′yä) *n.* **1.** A wide-mouthed pot or jar, usu. of earthenware. **2.** A highly seasoned stew. [< Sp. < L *olla* pot]
ol·o·gy (ol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** *Informal* A science or branch of learning: a humorous term. [< -LOGY] — **ol′o·gist** *n.*
O·lym·pi·a (ō·lim′pē·ə) An ancient city in the western Peloponnesus, Greece; scene of the Olympic games.
O·lym·pi·ad (ō·lim′pē·ad) *n.* **1.** The interval of four years between two successive celebrations of the Olympic games. **2.** The modern Olympic games.
O·lym·pi·an (ō·lim′pē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the great gods of Olympus, or to Mount Olympus. **2.** Godlike. **3.** Of or pertaining to Olympia or the Olympic games. Also **O·lym·pic** (ō·lim′pik, ə-). — *n.* **1.** One of the twelve higher gods who dwelt on Mount Olympus. **2.** A contestant in the Olympic games. **3.** A native of Olympia.
Olympic games **1.** In ancient Greece, athletic games, races, and contests in poetry held every four years at the plain of Olympia in Elis in honor of Zeus. **2.** A modern international revival of the ancient athletic games, held every four years at some city chosen for the event. Also **Olympian games, O·lym′pics.**
-oma *suffix Med.* Tumor: *carcinoma.* [< Gk. *-ōma*]
o·ma·sum (ō·mā′səm) *n. pl.* **·sa** (-sə) The third stomach of a ruminant. [< L]
om·buds·man (om·budz′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A government official appointed to receive and report grievances against the government. [< Sw.]
-ome *combining form Bot.* Group; mass. [< Gk. *-ōma*]
o·me·ga (ō·mē′gə, ō·meg′ə, ō′meg·ə) *n.* **1.** The twenty-fourth and last letter in the Greek alphabet (Ω, ω), corresponding to English long *o.* See ALPHABET. ◆ In the etymologies in this dictionary, omega is transliterated as *ō.* **2.** The end; the last. [< Gk. *ō mega* great o]
om·e·let (om′lit, om′ə·lit) *n.* A dish of eggs beaten together with milk and cooked in a frying pan, often with other ingredients. Also *Brit.* **om′e·lette.** [< F *omelette*]
o·men (ō′mən) *n.* A phenomenon or incident regarded as a prophetic sign. — *v.t.* To foretell as or by an omen. [< L] — **Syn.** (noun) portent, foretoken, augury, presage.
om·i·cron (om′ə·kron, ō′mə-) *n.* The fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (O, o), corresponding to English short *o.* Also **om′i·kron.** See ALPHABET. [< Gk. *o mikron* little o]
om·i·nous (om′ə·nəs) *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of or fore-shadowed by an omen or by a presentiment of evil; threatening. **2.** Serving as an omen; prognostic. [< L < *omen* omen] — **om′i·nous·ly** *adv.* — **om′i·nous·ness** *n.*
o·mis·si·ble (ō·mis′ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being omitted.
o·mis·sion (ō·mish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of omitting, or the state of being omitted. **2.** Anything omitted or neglected.
o·mis·sive (ō·mis′iv) *adj.* Failing to do or include. — **o·mis′sive·ly** *adv.*
o·mit (ō·mit′) *v.t.* **o·mit·ted, o·mit·ting** **1.** To leave out; fail to include. **2.** To fail to do, make, etc.; neglect. [< L *omittere* to let go < *ob-* to, towards + *mittere* to send]
omni- *combining form* All; totally: *omnipotent.* [< L *omnis* all]
om·ni·a vin·cit a·mor (om′nē·ə vin′sit ä′môr) *Latin* Love conquers all things.
om·ni·bus (om′nə·bəs, -bus) *n.* **1.** A bus. **2.** A printed anthology: a Conrad *omnibus.* — *adj.* Covering a full collection of objects or cases. [< F < L, for all]
om·nif·er·ous (om·nif′ər·əs) *adj.* Producing all kinds. [< L *omnifer* < *omnis* all + *ferre* to bear]
om·nip·o·tence (om·nip′ə·təns) *n.* **1.** Unlimited and universal power, esp. as a divine attribute. **2.** *Usu. cap.* God. **3.** Unlimited power. Also **om·nip′o·ten·cy.**
om·nip·o·tent (om·nip′ə·tənt) *adj.* Almighty; not limited in authority or power. — **the Omnipotent** God. [< OF < L < *omnis* all + *potens, -entis* able, powerful] — **om·nip′o·tent·ly** *adv.*

om·ni·pres·ence (om′nə-prez′əns) *n.* The quality of being everywhere present at the same time. [< Med.L < L *omnis* all + *praesens, -entis* present] — **om′ni·pres′ent** *adj.*

om·ni·range (om′nə-rānj′) *n. Aeron.* A network of very-high-frequency radio signals emitted simultaneously in all directions from a transmitting station, enabling aircraft pilots to plot their bearings from the station.

om·nis·cience (om·nish′əns) *n.* **1.** Infinite knowledge. **2.** *Usu. cap.* God. **3.** Extensive knowledge. Also **om·nis′cien·cy.**

om·nis·cient (om·nish′ənt) *adj.* Knowing all things; all-knowing. — **the Omniscient** God. [< NL < L *omnis* all + *sciens, -entis*, ppr. of *scire* to know] — **om·nis′cient·ly** *adv.*

om·ni·um-gath·er·um (om′nē-əm-gath′ər-əm) *n.* A miscellaneous collection: a humorous pseudo-Latin term.

om·niv·o·rous (om·niv′ər-əs) *adj.* **1.** Eating both animal and vegetable food. **2.** Eating food of all kinds indiscriminately. **3.** That assimilates everything: an *omnivorous* taste for literature. [< L < *omnis* all + *vorare* to devour] — **om·niv′o·rous·ly** *adv.* — **om·niv′o·rous·ness** *n.*

on (on, ôn) *prep.* **1.** Above and supported by. **2.** In contact with any surface or outer part of: a blow *on* the head. **3.** Attached to or suspended from: *on* a string. **4.** Directed or moving along the course of. **5.** Near; adjacent to. **6.** Within the duration of. **7.** At the occasion of; because of: *On* seeing her, I left. **8.** At the moment or point of: *on* the hour. **9.** In a state or condition of: *on* fire; *on* record. **10.** By means of: *on* wheels. **11.** Using as a means of sustenance, activity, etc.: living *on* fruit. **12.** In addition to: thousands *on* thousands. **13.** Sustained or confirmed by: *on* good authority. **14.** With reference to: to bet *on* a horse. **15.** Concerning; about: a work *on* economics. **16.** Engaged in; occupied with: *on* a journey; *on* duty. **17.** As a consequence or result of: making a profit *on* tips. **18.** In accordance with or relation to; in terms of. **19.** Directed, tending, or moving toward or against: making war *on* the enemy. **20.** Following after: disease *on* the heels of famine. **21.** *Informal* With, as about one's person: Do you have five dollars *on* you? **22.** *Informal* At the expense of: The joke is *on* them; drinks *on* the house. **23.** *Informal* So as to annoy or make difficulty for: The car stalled *on* me. — **Syn.** See AT. ◆ See note under UPON. — **to have something on** *U.S. Informal* To have knowledge, possess evidence, etc., against. — *adv.* **1.** In or into a position or condition of contact, adherence, covering, etc.: He put his hat *on*. **2.** In the direction of an activity, performance, etc.: He looked *on* while they played. **3.** In advance; ahead, in space or time; later *on*. **4.** In continuous course or succession: The music went *on*. **5.** In or into operation, performance, or existence. — **and so on** And like what has gone before; et cetera. — **on and on** Without interruption; continuously. — **to be on to** *Informal* To be aware of, informed about, or alert to. — *adj.* **1.** Being in operation, progress, or application. **2.** Near; located nearer. [OE *on, an*]

-on *suffix* **1.** *Physics* Atomic or charged particle: *meson.* **2.** *Chem.* Inert gas; *neon.* [< Gk., neuter *-on*]

o·nan·ism (ō′nən·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** Withdrawal before orgasm; incomplete coitus. **2.** Masturbation. [after *Onan.* Cf. *Gen.* xxxviii 9.] — **o′nan·ist** *n.* — **o′nan·is′tic** *adj.*

once (wuns) *adv.* **1.** One time; without repetition. **2.** At or during some past time. **3.** At any time; ever. — **once (and) for all** Finally. — **once in a while** Occasionally. — *adj.* Former; formerly existing; quondam. — *conj.* As soon as; whenever. — *n.* One time. — **all at once** **1.** All at the same time. **2.** All of a sudden. — **at once** **1.** Simultaneously. **2.** Immediately. [ME < OE *ānes*, genitive of *ān* one]

once-o·ver (wuns′ō′vər) *n. Slang* **1.** A quick glance or survey. **2.** A quick putting of things in order.

on·com·ing (on′kum′ing, ôn′-) *adj.* Approaching. — *n.* An approach.

one (wun) *adj.* **1.** Being a single individual, object, or unit. **2.** Being or designating an unspecified or not precisely identified individual, thing, or time. **3.** Designating a person, thing, or group as contrasted with another or others. **4.** Single in kind; the same; closely united or alike. — *n.* **1.** A single unit, the first and lowest integer in the numerical series, preceding two: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 1, i, I. **3.** A single person or thing. — *pron.* **1.** Someone or something; anyone or anything. **2.** An individual or thing among persons or things already mentioned. — **all one** **1.** Of equal consequence. **2.** Unimportant; of no significance. — **at one** In harmony or accord. — **one another** Each other. — **one by one** Singly and in succession. [OE *ān*]

◆ Expressions like *one of those who* may be followed by a plural or a singular verb, either *one* or *those* being regarded as the antecedent of *who* according to the sense or emphasis of the idea expressed. One may say *He is one of those who never break rules* or *He is one of those who is always sure of what he is doing.*

One must work at one's own pace and *One must work at his own pace* are both correct, but the latter form is more common in the U.S.

-one *suffix Chem.* Denoting an organic compound of the ketone group: *acetone.* [< Gk. *-onē*, fem. patronymic]

one-horse (wun′hôrs′) *adj.* **1.** Drawn or adapted to be worked by one horse. **2.** *Informal* Of inferior resources or capacity; small; unimportant: a *one-horse* town.

O·nei·da (ō·nī′də) *n.* A member of a tribe of North American Indians of Iroquoian stock.

one·ness (wun′nis) *n.* **1.** Singleness; unity; sameness. **2.** Agreement; concord. **3.** Quality of being unique.

on·er·ous (on′ər-əs) *adj.* **1.** Burdensome or oppressive. **2.** *Law* Legally subject to an obligation. [< OF < L < *onus* burden] — **on′er·ous·ly** *adv.* — **on′er·ous·ness** *n.*

one·self (wun′self′, wunz′-) *pron.* A form of the indefinite pronoun *one*, used as a reflexive or as object of a preposition. Also **one's self.**

one-sid·ed (wun′sī′did) *adj.* **1.** Having, involving, or on one side. **2.** Biased; unfair. **3.** Having unequal or unbalanced sides. — **one′-sid′ed·ly** *adv.* — **one′-sid′ed·ness** *n.*

on-the-job (on′thə·job′, ôn-) *adj.* Pertaining to skills acquired while actually doing the job: *on-the-job* training.

one-time (wun′tīm′) *adj.* Former: a *one-time* winner.

one-track (wun′trak′) *adj.* **1.** Having or consisting of a single track. **2.** *Informal* Limited to a single idea or pursuit: a *one-track* mind.

one-way (wun′wā′) *adj.* Moving, or permitting movement, in one direction only: *one-way* traffic.

on·ion (un′yən) *n.* **1.** The edible, succulent bulb of an herb of the lily family, having a pungent odor and taste. **2.** Any of various allied plants. [< OF < L *unio* pearl, onion]

on·ion-skin (un′yən-skin′) *n.* A thin, translucent paper.

on·look·er (on′lo͝ok′ər, ôn′-) *n.* One who looks on; a spectator. — **on′look′ing** *adj.*

on·ly (ōn′lē) *adv.* **1.** In one manner or for one purpose alone. **2.** Solely; exclusively. **3.** Merely; just. — *adj.* **1.** Alone in its class; sole; single. **2.** Standing alone by reason of superior excellence. — *conj.* Except that; but. [OE *ānlīc*]

on·o·mat·o·poe·ia (on′ə·mat′ə·pē′ə, ō·nom′ə·tə-) *n.* **1.** The formation of words in imitation of natural sounds, as *crack, splash,* or *bow-wow.* **2.** An imitative word. **3.** The use of such words. Also **on′o·mat′o·po·e′sis** (-pō·ē′sis), **on′o·mat′o·py** (-mat′ə·pē). [< L < Gk. < *onoma* name + *poieein* to make] — **on′o·mat′o·poe′ic** or **·i·cal, on′o·mat′o·po·et′ic** (-pō·et′ik) *adj.* — **on′o·mat′o·po·et′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

On·on·da·ga (on′ən·dô′gə, -dä′-) *n. pl.* **·ga** or **·gas** **1.** A tribe of North American Indians of Iroquoian stock formerly living in New York and Ontario. **2.** A member of this tribe.

on·rush (on′rush′, ôn′-) *n.* An onward rush or flow.

on·set (on′set′, ôn′-) *n.* **1.** An attack; assault. **2.** An initial stage, as of illness. **3.** A setting about; outset; start.

on·shore (on′shôr′, -shōr′, ôn′-) *adv. & adj.* To, toward, or on the shore.

on·slaught (on′slôt′, ôn′-) *n.* A violent, often hostile assault. [< Du. *annslag*, or < ON + ME *slaught* slaughter]

on·to (on′to͞o, ôn′-) *prep.* **1.** Upon the top of; to and upon. **2.** *Informal* Aware of: I'm *onto* your tricks. Also **on to.**

onto- *combining form* Being; existence: *ontogeny.* Also, before vowels, **ont-.** [< Gk. *ōn, ontos*, ppr. of *einai* to be]

on·tog·e·ny (on·toj′ə·nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** *Biol.* The history of the development of the individual organism. Also **on·to·gen·e·sis** (on′tō·jen′ə·sis). — **on·to·ge·net·ic** (on′tō·jə·net′ik), **on′to·gen′ic** *adj.* — **on·tog′e·nist** *n.*

on·tol·o·gy (on·tol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** The branch of metaphysics dealing with the philosophical theory of reality. — **on′to·log′i·cal** *adj.* — **on·tol′o·gist** *n.*

o·nus (ō′nəs) *n.* A burden or responsibility. [< L]

on·ward (on′wərd, ôn′-) *adv.* In the direction of progress; forward in space or time; ahead. Also **on′wards.** — *adj.* Moving or tending to be forward or ahead. [ME]

on·yx (on′iks) *n.* A variety of chalcedony having layers of different colors, used as a semiprecious gemstone. [< L < Gk., nail, onyx]

oo- *combining form* **1.** Egg; pertaining to eggs: *oology.* **2.** *Biol.* An ovum; *oogenesis.* [< Gk. *ōon* egg]

oo·dles (o͞od′lz) *n.pl. Informal* A great deal; many. [< dial. E *oodle*, var. of HUDDLE, n.]

o·o·lite (ō′ə·līt) *n.* A granular variety of limestone made up of round grains resembling the roe of a fish. [< F < Gk. *ōon* egg + *lithos* stone] — **o′o·lit′ic** (-lit′ik) *adj.*

o·ol·o·gy (ō·ol′ə·jē) *n.* The branch of ornithology that deals with the study of eggs. — **o·o·log·ic** (ō′ə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **o·ol′o·gist** *n.*

oo·long (o͞o′lông) *n.* A dark tea that is partly fermented before being dried. [< Chinese *wu-lung* black dragon]

oo·mi·ak (o͞o′mē·ak) See UMIAK.
oophoro- *combining form* Ovary; ovarian. Also, before vowels, **oophor-**. [< Gk. *ōophoros* egg-bearing]
ooze[1] (o͞oz) *v.* **oozed, ooz·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To flow or leak out slowly or gradually. **2.** To exude moisture. **3.** To escape or disappear little by little. — *v.t.* **4.** To give off or exude in or as in droplets or a trickle. — *n.* **1.** A slow, gradual leak. **2.** That which oozes. [ME < OE *wāse* slimy mud]
ooze[2] (o͞oz) *n.* **1.** Slimy mud or moist, spongy soil. **2.** A deposit of calcareous matter found on the ocean bottom and largely made up of the remains of foraminifers. **3.** Muddy or marshy ground; bog; fen. [OE *wāse* slimy mud]
oo·zy[1] (o͞o′zē) *adj.* **·zi·er, ·zi·est** Slowly leaking.
oo·zy[2] (o͞o′zē) *adj.* **·zi·er, ·zi·est** Of or resembling mud or ooze; slimy. — **oo′zi·ly** *adv.* — **oo′zi·ness** *n.*
op- Assimilated var. of OB-.
o·pac·i·ty (ō·pas′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being opaque. **2.** That which is opaque.
o·pal (ō′pəl) *n.* An amorphous, variously colored hydrous silica, including some iridescent varieties esteemed as gemstones. [< L < Gk. < Skt. *upala* precious stone]
o·pal·esce (ō′pəl·es′) *v.i.* **·esced, ·esc·ing** To exhibit opalescence.
o·pal·es·cence (ō′pəl·es′əns) *n.* An iridescent play of brilliant or milky colors, as in an opal. — **o′pal·es′cent** *adj.*
o·pal·ine (ō′pəl·ēn, -in) *adj.* Resembling or characteristic of an opal; opalescent. — *n.* A milky variety of glass.
o·paque (ō·pāk′) *adj.* **1.** Impervious to light; not translucent or transparent. **2.** Impervious to reason; unintelligent. **3.** Impervious to radiant heat, electric radiation, etc. **4.** Having no luster; dull. **5.** Unintelligible; obscure. — *n.* **1.** That which is opaque. **2.** A pigment used to darken or eliminate portions of a print, photographic negative, etc. [ME *opake* < L *opacus* dark] — **o·paque′ly** *adv.* — **o·paque′ness** *n.*
op art (op) A style of art of the 1960's characterized by complex geometric patterns. [< *op*(*tical*) *art*]
o·pen (ō′pən) *adj.* **1.** Affording approach, view, passage, or access. **2.** Public; accessible to all. **3.** Not secret or hidden: *open* hostility. **4.** Expanded; unfolded: an *open* flower. **5.** Not enclosed or covered: an *open* car. **6.** Ready for business, appointment, etc. **7.** Not settled or decided; pending: an *open* question. **8.** Available: The job is still *open*. **9.** Unbiased; receptive: often with *to*: an *open* mind; *open* to conviction. **10.** Generous; liberal: an *open* hand. **11.** *Phonet.* **a** Produced with a wide opening above the tongue; low: said of vowels, as the *a* in *father* and *calm*: opposed to *close*. **b** Ending in a vowel or diphthong: said of a syllable. **12.** Not deceptive: an *open* face. **13.** Eager or willing to receive: with *open* arms. **14.** In hunting or fishing, without prohibition: *open* season. **15.** Liable to attack, robbery, temptation, etc. **16.** Having openings, holes, or perforations, as needlework. **17.** *Music* **a** Not stopped by the finger, as a string. **b** Not produced by the stopping of a string or hole, or the use of a valve or slide; not fingered, as the tone of an instrument. **c** Not stopped by the hand or by a mute, as a brass instrument or its tone. **18.** Unrestricted by union regulations in employment: an *open* shop. **19.** *U.S. Informal* Permitting illicit activities, as gambling and prostitution: an *open* town. **20.** Out of doors. **21.** Not to be defended in war: *open* city. **22.** Not restricted by rigid classes, control, etc.: an *open* society. — *v.t.* **1.** To set open or ajar, as a door; unclose; unfasten. **2.** To make passable; free from obstacles. **3.** To make or force (a hole, passage, etc.). **4.** To remove the covering, lid, etc., of. **5.** To expand, as for viewing; unroll; unfold, as a map. **6.** To make an opening or openings into: to *open* an abscess. **7.** To make or declare ready for commerce, use, etc.: to *open* a store. **8.** To make or declare public or free of access, as a park. **9.** To make less compact; expand: to *open* ranks. **10.** To make more receptive to ideas or sentiments; enlighten: to *open* the mind. **11.** To bare the secrets of; divulge; reveal: to *open* one's heart. **12.** To begin, as negotiations. **13.** *Law* To undo or recall (a judgment or order) so as to permit its validity to be questioned. — *v.i.* **14.** To become open. **15.** To come apart or break open; rupture. **16.** To come into view; spread out; unroll. **17.** To afford access or view: The door *opened* on a courtyard. **18.** To become receptive or enlightened. **19.** To begin: The season *opened* with a ball. **20.** In the theater, to begin a season or tour. — *n.* Any wide space not enclosed, obstructed, or covered, as by woods, rocks, etc.: usu. with the definite article: in the *open*. [OE] — **o′pen·er** *n.* — **o′pen·ly** *adv.* — **o′pen·ness** *n.*
o·pen-air (ō′pən·âr′) *adj.* Occurring, done, etc., out of doors: an *open-air* concert.
o·pen-and-shut (ō′pən·ən·shut′) *adj.* *Informal* Obvious; easily determined.
open door **1.** The policy or practice of giving to all nations the same commercial privileges in a region or area open for trade or exploitation. **2.** Admission to all without charge.
o·pen-door (ō′pən·dôr′, -dōr′) *adj.* Of or characterized by the commercial policies or practices of the open door.
o·pen-eyed (ō′pən·īd′) *adj.* **1.** Having the eyes open; aware; watchful. **2.** Amazed: in *open-eyed* wonder.
o·pen-faced (ō′pən·fāst′) *adj.* **1.** Having an honest face. **2.** Having a face or side uncovered.
o·pen-hand·ed (ō′pən·han′did) *adj.* Giving freely; liberal. — **o′pen-hand′ed·ly** *adv.* — **o′pen-hand′ed·ness** *n.*
o·pen-heart·ed (ō′pən·här′tid) *adj.* Disclosing the thoughts and intentions plainly; frank; candid. — **o′pen-heart′ed·ly** *adv.* — **o′pen-heart′ed·ness** *n.*
o·pen-hearth (ō′pən·härth′) *adj.* *Metall.* Designating a steel-making process in which the material is melted in a shallow furnace open at each end to admit fuel and air.
open house **1.** A house or a social event in which hospitality is extended to all who wish to come. **2.** An occasion when a school, factory, institution, etc., is open to visitors.
o·pen·ing (ō′pən·ing) *n.* **1.** The act of becoming open or of causing to be open. **2.** A vacant or unobstructed space, as a hole, passage, or gap. **3.** An aperture in a wall, esp. one for the admission of light or air. **4.** The first part or stage, as of a period, act, or process. **5.** A first time for or the beginning of something: the play's *opening*. **6.** In chess, checkers, etc., a specific series of opening moves. **7.** An opportunity for action, esp. in business.
open market A market accessible to all buyers and sellers.
o·pen-mind·ed (ō′pən·mīn′did) *adj.* Free from prejudiced conclusions; amenable to reason; receptive. — **o′pen-mind′ed·ly** *adv.* **o′pen-mind′ed·ness** *n.*
o·pen-mouthed (ō′pən·mou*th*d′, -mouth′) *adj.* **1.** Having the mouth open; gaping, as in wonder or surprise. **2.** Noisy; clamorous. **3.** Greedy; voracious.
open sesame An unfailing means or formula for opening secret doors and gaining entrance: an allusion to the tale of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* in the *Arabian Nights*.
open shop **1.** An establishment employing both union and nonunion labor. **2.** An establishment whose policy is to hire only nonunion labor.
open stock In merchandising, extra or additional parts of a set, as of dishes, that are always kept in stock.
o·pen-work (ō′pən·wûrk′) *n.* Any product of art or handicraft containing numerous small openings.
op·er·a (op′ər·ə, op′rə) Plural of OPUS. — *n.* **1.** A form of drama in which music is a dominant factor, made up of arias, recitatives, choruses, etc., with orchestral accompaniment, scenery, acting, and sometimes dance. **2.** A particular musical drama or its music or libretto. **3.** An opera house. [< Ital. < L, service, work < *opus* work] — **op·er·at·ic** (op′ə·rat′ik) *adj.* — **op′er·at′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
op·er·a·ble (op′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of treatment by surgical operation. **2.** Practicable. — **op′er·a·bil′i·ty** *n.*
o·pé·ra bouffe (ō·pā·rä bo͞of′) *French* A farcical comic opera. Also *Ital.* **o·pe·ra buf·fa** (ō′pä·rä bo͞of′fä).
opera glass Small binoculars suitable for use at the theater. Also **opera glasses.**
opera hat A man's top hat, having a collapsible crown.
opera house A theater adapted for performance of operas.
op·er·ate (op′ə·rāt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To act or function; work. **2.** To bring about the proper or intended effect. **3.** *Surg.* To perform an operation. **4.** To carry on a military or naval operation: usu. with *against*. — *v.t.* **5.** To control the working of, as a machine. **6.** To manage or conduct the affairs of. **7.** To bring about or cause; effect. [< L *operari* to work] — **op′er·at′a·ble** *adj.*
op·er·a·tion (op′ə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of operating. **2.** A method of operating; mode of action. **3.** An act or transaction, esp. in the stock market. **4.** A course or series of acts to effect a certain purpose; process. **5.** The state of being in action: to be in *operation*. **6.** *Surg.* Any manipulation upon or within the body, performed with or without instruments, to restore disunited or deficient parts, to remove diseased or injured parts, etc. **7.** *Math.* **a** The act of making a change in the value or form of a quantity. **b** The change itself as indicated by symbols or rules. **8.** A military or naval campaign.
op·er·a·tion·al (op′ə·rā′shən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to an operation. **2.** Checked and serviced for ready operation.
operations research The application of scientific methods and skills to insure maximum efficiency in industry and government. Also called **operational research.**
op·er·a·tive (op′ər·ə·tiv, -ə·rā′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Exerting force or influence. **2.** Moving or working efficiently; effective. **3.** Being in operation or in force. **4.** Connected with surgical operations. **5.** Concerned with practical work, mechanical or manual. — *n.* **1.** A skilled worker, as in a mill or factory. **2.** *Informal* A detective. — **op′er·a·tive·ly** *adv.*
op·er·a·tor (op′ə·rā′tər) *n.* **1.** One who operates a machine or mechanism. **2.** One who runs a commercial or industrial establishment. **3.** A broker. **4.** *Math.* A symbol that briefly indicates a mathematical process. **5.** *Slang* One who craftily obtains things with little or no cost to himself.

·per·cu·late (ō·pûr′kyŏŏ·lit, -lāt) *adj.* Having an operculum. Also **o·per′cu·lat′ed.**

·per·cu·lum (ō·pûr′kyŏŏ·ləm) *n.* *pl.* **·la** (-lə) *Biol.* A lidlike part or organ in certain plants, esp. one serving to close an aperture or provide protection. Also **o·per·cele** (ō·pûr′sēl), **o·per′cule** (-kyōōl). [< L, a covering, lid < *operire* to cover] — **o·per′cu·lar** *adj.*

·pe·re ci·ta·to (op′ə·rē si·tä′tō) *Latin* In the work cited, or quoted. Abbr. *o.c.*, *op. cit.*

p·e·ret·ta (op′ə·ret′ə) *n.* A type of short, humorous opera with dialogue: also called *light opera*. [< Ital., dim. of *opera*]

·phid·i·an (ō·fid′ē·ən) *n.* One of a group of limbless reptiles with jaws connected by elastic ligaments; a serpent or snake. — *adj.* Snakelike. [< NL < Gk. *ophis* serpent]

ph·thal·mi·a (of·thal′mē·ə) *n.* *Pathol.* Inflammation of the eye, its membranes, or its lids. Also **oph·thal′my** (-mē). [< LL < Gk. < *ophthalmos* eye] — **oph·thal′mic** *adj.*

ph·thal·mic (of·thal′mik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the eye.

ph·thal·mi·tis (of′thal·mī′tis) *n.* *Pathol.* Inflammation of the eye, including the outer and internal structures.

phthalmo- *combining form* Eye; pertaining to the eyes. [< Gk. *ophthalmos* eye]

ph·thal·mol·o·gy (of′thal·mol′ə·jē) *n.* The science dealing with the structure, functions, and diseases of the eye. — **oph·thal′mo·log′ic** (-mə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **oph′thal·mol′o·gist** *n.*

ph·thal·mo·scope (of·thal′mə·skōp) *n.* An optical instrument for illuminating and viewing the center of the eye. — **oph·thal′mo·scop′ic** (-skop′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **oph′thal·mos·co·py** (of′thal·mos′kə·pē) *n.*

opia *combining form* *Med.* A (specified) defect of the eye, or condition of sight: *myopia*. Also spelled *-opy*. [< Gk. *-ōpia* < *ōps*, *ōpos* the eye]

·pi·ate (*n.* & *adj.* ō′pē·it, -āt; *v.* ō′pē·āt) *n.* **1.** Medicine containing opium or one of its derivatives. **2.** Something inducing relaxation or sleep. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of opium. **2.** Tending to induce sleep. — *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To treat with opium or an opiate. **2.** To deaden; dull.

·pine (ō·pīn′) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **o·pined, o·pin·ing** To hold or express as an opinion; think; conjecture: now usu. humorous. [< MF < L *opinari* to think, suppose]

·pin·ion (ə·pin′yən, ō-) *n.* **1.** A conclusion or judgment held with confidence, but falling short of positive knowledge. **2.** An expert judgment given more or less formally. **3.** An evaluation. **4.** A prevailing sentiment: public *opinion*. **5.** *Law* The formal announcement of the conclusions of a court. [< OF < L < *opinari* to think]

·pin·ion·at·ed (ə·pin′yən·ā′tid, ō-) *adj.* Obstinately attached to one's own opinion. — **o·pin′ion·at′ed·ness** *n.*

·pin·ion·a·tive (ə·pin′yən·ā′tiv, ō-) *adj.* **1.** Opinionated. **2.** Of the nature of opinion. — **o·pin′ion·a′tive·ly** *adv.* — **o·pin′ion·a′tive·ness** *n.*

·pi·um (ō′pē·əm) *n.* A narcotic drug obtained from the unripe capsules of the **opium poppy**, containing a mixture of alkaloids, including morphine. [< L < Gk. *opion* opium, dim. of *opos* vegetable juice]

·pos·sum (ə·pos′əm, pos′əm) *n.* An American marsupial of largely arboreal and nocturnal habits, having a prehensile tail and feet adapted for grasping. [< Algonquian]

p·po·nent (ə·pō′nənt) *n.* One who opposes another, as in battle; antagonist. — **Syn.** See ENEMY. — *adj.* **1.** Acting against something or someone; opposing. **2.** *Anat.* Bringing one part, as of a muscle, into opposition to another. **3.** Standing in front; opposite. [< L < *ob-* against + *ponere* to place] — **op·po′nen·cy** *n.*

p·por·tune (op′ər·tōōn′, -tyōōn′) *adj.* **1.** Meeting some need; esp. right or fit. **2.** Occurring at the right moment; timely. [< MF < L *opportunus* favorable, lit., (a wind) blowing towards port] — **op′por·tune′ly** *adv.* — **op′por·tune′ness** *n.*

p·por·tu·nist (op′ər·tōō′nist, -tyōō′-) *n.* One who uses every opportunity to contribute to the achievement of some end, and who is relatively uninfluenced by moral principles or sentiment. — **op′por·tu·nis′tic** *adj.* — **op′por·tu′nism** *n.*

p·por·tu·ni·ty (op′ər·tōō′nə·tē, -tyōō′-) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** A fit or convenient time; favorable occasion or circumstance.

p·pos·a·ble (ə·pō′zə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being placed opposite something else: said esp. of the thumb. **2.** That can be opposed. — **op·pos′a·bil′i·ty** *n.*

p·pose (ə·pōz′) *v.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To act or be in opposition to; resist; combat. **2.** To set in opposition or contrast: to *oppose* love to hatred. **3.** To place before or in front. — *v.i.* **4.** To act or be in opposition. [< OF < L < *ob-* against + *ponere* to place] — **op·pos′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** Combat, fight, resist, withstand, dispute, contradict, contravene.

p·po·site (op′ə·zit) *adj.* **1.** Situated or placed on the other side, or on each side, of an intervening space or thing. **2.** Facing or moving the other way: *opposite* directions. **3.** Contrary in tendency or character: *opposite* opinions. **4.** *Bot.* **a** Arranged in pairs, as leaves on a stem. **b** Having one part or organ immediately before or vertically over another, as a stamen before a petal. — *n.* Something or someone that is opposite, opposed, or contrary. — *adv.* In an opposite or complementary direction or position. — *prep.* **1.** Across from; facing. **2.** Complementary to, as in theatrical roles: He played *opposite* her. [< OF < L *oppositus*. See OPPOSE.] — **op′po·site·ly** *adv.* — **op′po·site·ness** *n.*

op·po·si·tion (op′ə·zish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of opposing or resisting. **2.** The state of being opposite or opposed; antithesis. **3.** A position confronting another or a placing in contrast. **4.** That which is or furnishes an obstacle to some result: The stream flows without *opposition*. **5.** *Often cap.* The political party opposed to the party or administration in power. — **op′po·si′tion·al** *adj.* — **op·po·si′tion·ist** *n.* — **op′po·si′tion·less** *adj.*

op·pos·i·tive (ə·poz′ə·tiv) *adj.* Placed or capable of being placed in contrast. — **op·pos′i·tive·ly** *adv.*

op·press (ə·pres′) *v.t.* **1.** To burden or keep down by harsh and unjust use of force or authority. **2.** To lie heavy upon physically or mentally. [< OF < Med.L *oppressare*, ult. < L *ob-* against + *premere* to press] — **op·pres′sor** *n.*

op·pres·sion (ə·presh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of oppressing, or the state of being oppressed. **2.** A sense of weight or constriction; mental depression. **3.** That which oppresses.

op·pres·sive (ə·pres′iv) *adj.* **1.** Burdensome; tyrannical; harsh; cruel. **2.** Producing a state of oppression. — **op·pres′sive·ly** *adv.* — **op·pres′sive·ness** *n.*

op·pro·bri·ous (ə·prō′brē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Contemptuously abusive; imputing disgrace. **2.** Shameful; disgraceful. — **op·pro′bri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **op·pro′bri·ous·ness** *n.*

op·pro·bri·um (ə·prō′brē·əm) *n.* **1.** The state of being scornfully reproached; ignominy. **2.** Reproach mingled with disdain. **3.** A cause of disgrace or reproach. [< L < *ob-* against + *probum* disgrace]

— **Syn. 1.** odium, obloquy, infamy, disgrace.

op·pugn (ə·pyōōn′) *v.t.* To assail or oppose with argument; call in question; controvert. [< L < *ob-* against + *pugnare* to fight] — **op·pugn′er** *n.*

-opsia *combining form* *Med.* A (specified) type or condition of sight. Also **-opsy.** [< NL < Gk. *opsis* aspect, sight]

opt (opt) *v.i.* To choose; decide. [< F < L *optare*]

op·ta·tive (op′tə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Expressing desire or choice. **2.** *Gram.* Denoting the mood that expresses wish or desire. — *n.* *Gram.* **1.** The optative mood. **2.** A word or construction in this mood. [< F < LL < L *optare* to wish] — **op′ta·tive·ly** *adv.*

op·tic (op′tik) *adj.* Pertaining to the eye or vision. — *n.* *Informal* The eye. [< MF < Med.L < Gk. *optikos* < stem *op-* as in *opsomai* I shall see]

op·ti·cal (op′ti·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to optics. **2.** Of or pertaining to eyesight. **3.** Designed to assist or improve vision. — **op′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

optical fiber Any of various fibers of glass or other clear plastic through which light may be conducted along any desired path and in compact bundles will transmit images of high fidelity and resolution.

optical maser *Physics* A laser.

op·ti·cian (op·tish′ən) *n.* One who makes or deals in optical goods.

optic nerve *Anat.* The special nerve of vision, connecting the retina with the cerebral centers. For illus. see EYE.

op·tics (op′tiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The science that treats of the phenomena of light, vision, and sight.

op·ti·mal (op′tə·məl) *adj.* Most favorable; best.

op·ti·mism (op′tə·miz′əm) *n.* **1.** A disposition to look on the bright side of things. **2.** The doctrine that everything is ordered for the best. **3.** The doctrine that the universe is constantly tending toward a better state. [< F < L *optimus* best] — **op′ti·mist** *n.* — **op′ti·mis′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **op′ti·mis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

op·ti·mum (op′tə·məm) *n.* *pl.* **·ma** (-mə) or **·mums** The condition or degree producing the best result. — *adj.* Producing or conducive to the best results. [< L, neut. of *optimus* best]

op·tion (op′shən) *n.* **1.** The right, power, or liberty of choosing; discretion. **2.** The act of opting or choosing. **3.** The purchased privilege of either buying or selling something at a specified price within a specified time. **4.** A thing that is or can be chosen. [< MF < L < *optare* to choose]

op·tion·al (op′shən·əl) *adj.* Left to one's preference; not required; elective. — **op′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

op·tom·e·try (op·tom′ə·trē) *n.* The profession or occupation of measuring vision and prescribing corrective lenses to compensate for visual defects. — **op·tom′e·trist** *n.*

op·u·lence (op′yə·ləns) *n.* **1.** Wealth; affluence. **2.** Lux-

uriance; abundance. Also **op/u·len·cy** (-lən·sē).
— **Syn. 1.** riches, fortune, means, prosperity.
op·u·lent (op/yə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Possessing great wealth; rich; affluent. **2.** Plentiful; abundant; profuse. [< L *opulentus* < *ops, opis* power, wealth] — **op/u·lent·ly** *adv.*
o·pus (ō/pəs) *n. pl.* **op·er·a** (ŏp/ər·ə, op/rə) A literary or musical work or composition. Abbr. *op.* [< L, work]
-opy See -OPIA.
or (ôr, *unstressed* ər) *conj.* **1.** Introducing an alternative: stop *or* go. **2.** Offering a choice of a series: Will you take milk *or* coffee *or* chocolate? **3.** Introducing an equivalent: the culinary art *or* art of cookery. **4.** Indicating uncertainty: He lives in Chicago *or* thereabouts. **5.** Introducing the second alternative of a choice limited to two: with *either* or *whether*: It must be either black *or* white; I don't care whether he goes *or* not. **6.** *Poetic* Either; whether: *or* in the heart *or* in the head. [ME contraction, of *other, auther* either, OE *āther*; infl. in meaning by OE *oththe* or]
-or[1] *suffix of nouns* The person or thing performing the action expressed in the root verb: *competitor.* ◆ See note under -ER[1]. [< AF *-our*, OF *-or* < L *-or, -ator*]
-or[2] *suffix of nouns* Quality, state, or condition: *favor.* [< OF < L]
or·a·cle (ôr/ə·kəl, or/-) *n.* **1.** The seat of worship of some ancient divinity, as of Apollo at Delphi, where prophecies were given out by the priests in answer to inquiries. **2.** A prophecy thus given. **3.** The deity whose prophecies were given. **4.** A person of unquestioned wisdom or knowledge, or something regarded as of infallible authority. **5.** A wise saying. [< OF < L *oraculum* < *orare* to speak, pray]
o·rac·u·lar (ō·rak/yə·lər, ŏ-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to an oracle. **2.** Obscure; enigmatical. **3.** Prophetic; farseeing. — **o·rac/u·lar/i·ty** *n.* — **o·rac/u·lar·ly** *adv.*
o·ral (ôr/əl, ŏ/rəl) *adj.* **1.** Uttered through the mouth; spoken. **2.** Of or pertaining to the mouth; also, situated at or near the mouth. **3.** Of, pertaining to, or using speech. **4.** Taken or administered by mouth. — **Syn.** See VERBAL. — *n. Usu. pl.* An academic examination in which the student speaks his answers aloud. [< L *os, oris* mouth] — **o/ral·ly** *adv.*
o·rang (ō·rang/) *n.* An orang-utan.
or·ange (ôr/inj, or/-) *n.* **1.** A round, juicy fruit of a low, much-branched, evergreen tree with a reddish yellow rind enclosing membranous divisions and a refreshing, sweetish or subacid pulp. **2.** Any of the trees yielding this fruit. **3.** Any of many related species. **4.** A reddish yellow color; also, a pigment of this color. — *adj.* **1.** Reddish yellow. **2.** Of an orange. [< OF < Provençal < Sp. < Arabic < Persian *nārang*]
or·ange·ade (ôr/inj·ād/, or/-) *n.* A beverage made of orange juice, sugar, and water. [< F]
orange blossom The white, fragrant blossom of the orange tree, often worn by brides: State flower of Florida.
Or·ange·man (ôr/inj·mən, or/-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A member of a secret society founded in northern Ireland in 1795 for upholding Protestant ascendancy and succession in England. [named in honor of William III, king of England and Prince of Orange]
orange pekoe A black tea from India, Ceylon, and Java.
or·ange·wood (ôr/inj·wŏŏd/, or/-) *n.* The fine-grained, yellowish wood of the orange tree, used in lathe work.
o·rang-u·tan (ō·rang/ə·tan, -ōō·tan) *n. pl.* **·tans** or **·tan** A large, anthropoid ape of Borneo and Sumatra, having brownish red hair and extremely long arms: also called *orang, ourang.* Also **o·rang/-ou·tang** (-ə·tang, -ōō·tang). [< Malay < *oran* man + *utan* forest]
o·rate (ôr/āt, ō·rāt/, ŏ/rāt, ō·rāt/) *v.i.* **o·rat·ed, o·rat·ing** To talk oratorically or pompously; speechify. [See ORATION.]
o·ra·tion (ō·rā/shən, ō·rā/-) *n.* An elaborate public speech, esp. one given at a formal occasion. [< L < *orare* to speak]
or·a·tor (ôr/ə·tər, or/-) *n.* **1.** One who delivers an oration; an eloquent public speaker. **2.** *Law* The complainant in a chancery proceeding. — **or/a·tor·ship/** *n.*
or·a·to·ri·o (ôr/ə·tôr/ē·ō, -tō/rē·ō, or/-) *n. pl.* **·os** A large musical composition for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra, usu. dramatizing a sacred story, but without scenery or acting. [< Ital. < LL. See ORATORY[2].]
or·a·to·ry[1] (ôr/ə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē, or/-) *n.* **1.** The art of public speaking; eloquence. **2.** Eloquent language. [< L *oratoria* (*ars*) the oratorical (art)] — **or/a·tor/i·cal** (-tôr/i·kəl, -tor/-) *adj.* — **or/a·tor/i·cal·ly** *adv.*
or·a·to·ry[2] (ôr/ə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē, or/-) *n. pl.* **·ries** A place for prayer; private chapel. [< LL *oratorium* (*templum*) (temple) for prayer < *orare* to pray]
orb (ôrb) *n.* **1.** A rounded mass; a sphere or globe. **2.** A circle or orbit; anything circular. **3.** A sphere topped by a cross, used as a symbol of royal power. **4.** *Poetic* The eye. — *v.t.* **1.** To shape into a sphere or circle. **2.** *Poetic* To enclose; encircle. [< L *orbis* circle]
or·bic·u·lar (ôr·bik/yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Having the form of an orb or orbit. **2.** Well-rounded. **3.** *Bot.* Circular, as a leaf. [< F, or < L < *orbiculus*, dim. of *orbis* circle] — **or·bic/u·lar/i·ty** (-lar/ə·tē) *n.* — **or·bic/u·lar·ly** *adv.*
or·bic·u·late (ôr·bik/yə·lit, -lāt) *adj.* Having a rounded form; orbicular. Also **or·bic/u·lat/ed.** — **or·bic/u·late·ly** *adv.*
or·bit (ôr/bit) *n.* **1.** The path in space along which a heavenly body or artificial satellite moves about its center of attraction. **2.** A range of influence or action: the *orbit* of imperialism. — *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move in an orbit, as an artificial satellite. **2.** To revolve around (the earth, etc.), as a satellite. — *v.i.* **3.** To move in or as in an orbit. [< L *orbita* track of a wheel < *orbis* wheel, circle] — **or/bi·tal** *adj.*
or·chard (ôr/chərd) *n.* A plantation of trees grown for their products, as fruit, nuts, oils, etc.; also, the enclosure or ground containing them. [OE < *ort-geard* garden]
or·ches·tra (ôr/kis·trə) *n.* **1.** A comparatively large group of musicians playing together; esp., a symphony orchestra; also, the instruments they play. **2.** *U.S.* In theaters, the place immediately before the stage, occupied by the musicians: also **orchestra pit.** **3.** The main floor of a theater. [< L < Gk. *orchēstra* dancing space] — **or·ches·tral** (ôr·kes/trəl) *adj.* — **or·ches/tral·ly** *adv.*
or·ches·trate (ôr/kis·trāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·trat·ed, ·trat·ing** To compose or arrange (music) for an orchestra. — **or/ches·tra/tion** *n.*
or·chid (ôr/kid) *n.* **1.** Any of a family of herbs of temperate regions, having bulbous roots and often very showy flowers. **2.** Any of various delicate, rosy purple colors. [< NL < L *orchis* orchid < Gk., orig., a testicle; so called because of the shape of its rootstocks]
orchio- *combining form* Testicle; pertaining to the testicles. Also, before vowels, **orchi-.** [< Gk. *orchis* testicle]
or·chis (ôr/kis) *n.* Any of various plants having dense spikes of small flowers. [< L, orchid]
or·dain (ôr·dān/) *v.t.* **1.** To order or decree; enact. **2.** To predestine; destine: said of God, fate, etc. **3.** To invest with ministerial or priestly functions. [< OF < L *ordinare* to set in order] — **or·dain/er** *n.*
or·deal (ôr·dēl/, -dē/əl, ôr/dēl) *n.* **1.** A severe test of character or endurance. **2.** A former method of judicial trial in which the accused was subjected to painful physical tests that were supposed to do him no harm if he were innocent. [OE *ordāl, ordēl* judgment < *or-* out + *dǣl* a deal]
or·der (ôr/dər) *n.* **1.** A condition in which there is a methodical, proper, or harmonious arrangement of things. **2.** The disposition or arrangement of things. **3.** Established method, procedure, or condition. **4.** A proper or working condition. **5.** A command, direction, or regulation. **6.** *Law* Any direction of a court, entered in the record but not included in the final judgment. **7.** A commission or instruction to supply, purchase, or sell something; also, that which is supplied or purchased. **8.** A body of persons united by some common bond: the *Order* of Odd Fellows. **9.** A monastic or religious body. **10.** A group of persons upon whom an honor has been conferred, entitling them to wear specific insignia; also, the insignia so worn. **11.** *Eccl.* **a** *Usu. pl.* Any of the various grades or degrees of the Christian ministry. **b** The rite or sacrament of ordination. **c** A liturgical form for a service or the performance of a rite. **12.** *Archit.* **a** A style of classical architecture, as Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian, usu. represented by the general character of its columns. **b** A column with its entablature. **13.** *Biol.* A taxonomic category ranking next below the class, and above the family. — **in order** **1.** In accordance with rule or proper procedure. **2.** Neat; tidy. — **in order that** So that; to the end that. — **in order to** For the purpose of. — **in short order** Quickly; without delay. — **on order** Ordered but not yet delivered. — **on the order of** Similar to. — **out of order** **1.** Not in working condition. **2.** Not in proper arrangement or sequence. **3.** Not according to rule. **4.** Not suitable or appropriate. — **to order** According to the buyer's specifications. — *v.t.* **1.** To give a command or direction to. **2.** To command to go, come, etc. **3.** To give an order that (something) be done. **4.** To give an order for. **5.** To put in orderly or systematic arrangement. **6.** To ordain. — *v.i.* **7.** To give an order or orders. — **to order arms** *Mil.* To bring a rifle against the right side, with the butt on the ground. [< OF < L *ordo, -inis* row, series, order] — **or/der·er** *n.*
or·der·ly (ôr/dər·lē) *adj.* **1.** Having regard for arrangement, method, or system. **2.** Peaceful. **3.** Characterized by neatness and order. **4.** Pertaining to orders. — *n. pl.* **·lies** **1.** A hospital attendant. **2.** A soldier detailed to carry orders. — *adv.* Methodically; regularly. — **or/der·li·ness** *n.*
or·di·nal[1] (ôr/də·nəl) *adj.* **1.** Denoting position in an order or succession. **2.** Pertaining to an order, as of plants, animals, etc. [< LL < L *ordo, -inis* order]
or·di·nal[2] (ôr/də·nəl) *n. Eccl.* A book of rites for certain church services. [< Med.L < LL < L *ordo, -inis* order]
ordinal number *Math.* A number that shows the order of a unit in a given series, as first, second, third, etc.: distinguished from *cardinal number.*
or·di·nance (ôr/də·nəns) *n.* **1.** An order, decree, or law of

a municipal body. **2.** A religious rite or ceremony. [< OF < Med.L < L < *ordinare* to set in order]

or·di·nar·i·ly (ôr′də·ner′ə·lē, ôr′də·nâr′ə·lē) *adv.* **1.** In ordinary cases; usually. **2.** In the usual manner. **3.** To the usual extent; normally.

or·di·nar·y (ôr′də·ner′ē) *adj.* **1.** Of common or everyday occurrence; customary; usual. **2.** According to an established order; normal. **3.** Common in rank or degree; average; commonplace. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** **1.** That which is usual or common. **2.** *Brit.* **a** A meal provided regularly at a fixed price. **b** An eating house where such meals are served. **3.** *Law* One who exercises jurisdiction in his own right, and not by delegation. **4.** *Eccl.* **a** A rule or book prescribing the form for saying Mass. **b** The practically unchangeable part of the Mass: with *the*: distinguished from the *proper*. — **in ordinary** **1.** In actual and constant service. **2.** *Naut.* Out of commission; laid up: said of a ship. — **out of the ordinary** Not common or usual; extraordinary. [< OF < L *ordinarius* regular, usual] — **or′di·nar′i·ness** *n.*

or·di·nate (ôr′də·nit) *adj.* Characterized by order; regular. — *n. Math.* **1.** The distance of any point from the X-axis, measured on a line parallel to the Y-axis in a coordinate system. **2.** The line or number indicating such distance.

or·di·na·tion (ôr′də·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** *Eccl.* The rite of consecration to the ministry. **2.** The state of being ordained, regulated, or settled.

ord·nance (ôrd′nəns) *n.* **1.** Military weapons, ammunition, and associated equipment and materiel. **2.** Cannon or artillery. [Contr. of ORDINANCE]

Or·do·vi·cian (ôr′də·vish′ən) *adj. Geol.* Of or designating a period of the Paleozoic era, following the Cambrian and preceding the Silurian. — *n.* An epoch of the Paleozoic era. See chart for GEOLOGY. [< L *Ordovices* the Ordovices, an ancient Celtic tribe]

or·dure (ôr′jər, -dyŏŏr) *n.* Excrement; feces. [< OF < *ord* foul, nasty < L *horridus* bristling]

ore (ôr, ōr) *n.* **1.** A natural substance, as a mineral or rock, containing a valuable metal. **2.** A natural substance containing a nonmetallic mineral: sulfur *ore*. [OE *ār*, *ēr* brass, copper; infl. in meaning by OE *ōra* unwrought metal]

ö·re (œ′rə) *n. pl.* **ö·re** A coin or monetary unit equivalent to one hundredth of a krone in Denmark and Norway, and of a krona in Sweden. [< Norw., Dan., and Sw.]

o·reg·a·no (ō·reg′ə·nō) *n.* A perennial herb of the mint family, having aromatic leaves used as a seasoning. [< Sp. < L *origanum* wild marjoram]

Oregon grape An evergreen shrub having dark blue berry clusters resembling grapes: the State flower of Oregon.

O·res·tes (ô·res′tēz, ō-) In Greek legend, the son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra who, together with his sister Electra, avenged his father's murder by killing his mother and her lover. [< L < Gk.]

or·fray (ôr′frā) See ORPHREY.

or·gan (ôr′gən) *n.* **1.** A musical instrument consisting of a collection of pipes and reeds made to sound by means of compressed air controlled by one or more keyboards and by various knobs used to vary registration: often called *pipe organ*. **2.** Any musical instrument resembling this, either in sound or in some aspect of its mechanism. **3.** Any part of a plant or animal, as a stamen, the heart, etc., performing some definite function. **4.** An instrument or agency of communication; esp., a newspaper or periodical published in the interest of a political party, religious denomination, etc. [< OE *organa*, or < OF < L < Gk. *organon* instrument]

or·gan·dy (ôr′gən·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** A thin, crisp, transparent, cotton muslin, used for dresses, collars, cuffs, etc. Also **or′gan·die.** [< F *organdi*; ult. origin uncertain]

organ grinder A street musician playing a hand organ.

or·gan·ic (ôr·gan′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of animals and plants. **2.** Affecting or altering the structure of an organ or part: *organic* disease: distinguished from *functional*. **3.** Serving the purpose of an organ. **4.** *Chem.* Of or pertaining to compounds containing carbon. **5.** Inherent in or pertaining to the fundamental structure of something; constitutional. **6.** Of or characterized by systematic coordination of parts; organized; systematized. **7.** *Law* Designating the system of laws or principles forming the foundation of a government. Also **or·gan′i·cal.** [< L < Gk. < *organon* instrument] — **or·gan′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

organic chemistry The branch of chemistry that relates to the structure, formation, and properties of compounds containing carbon.

organic disease *Pathol.* A disease that affects or alters the structure of some particular organ or part.

or·gan·ism (ôr′gən·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** An animal or plant considered as a totality of interdependent parts functioning to maintain vital activities. **2.** Anything that is analogous in structure and function to a living thing: the social *organism*.

or·gan·ist (ôr′gən·ist) *n.* One who plays the organ.

or·gan·i·za·tion (ôr′gən·ə·zā′shən, -ī·zā′-) *n.* **1.** The act of organizing, or the state of being organized; also, that which is organized. **2.** A number of individuals systematically united for some end or work. **3.** The officials, committeemen, etc., who control a political party. Also *Brit.* **or′gan·i·sa′tion.**

or·gan·ize (ôr′gən·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To bring together or form as a whole or combination, as for a common objective. **2.** To arrange systematically; order. **3.** To furnish with organic structure. **4.** To enlist (workers) in a trade union. **5.** To unionize the workers of (a factory, etc.). — *v.i.* **6.** To form or join an organization. Also *Brit.* **or′gan·ise.** — **or′gan·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **or′gan·iz′er** *n.*

organo- *combining form* **1.** *Biol.* Related to an organ or to the organs of the body. **2.** *Chem.* Organic. [< Gk. *organon* instrument, organ]

or·ga·no·me·tal·lic (ôr′gə·nō·mə·tal′ik) *adj. Chem.* Designating or pertaining to a compound of metal and carbon.

organ pipe One of the tubes of a pipe organ in which a column of air is made to vibrate so as to produce a tone.

or·gasm (ôr′gaz·əm) *n. Physiol.* The acme of excitement at the culmination of a sexual act. [< NL < Gk. *orgaein* to swell] — **or·gas·tic** (ôr·gas′tik) *adj.*

or·gi·as·tic (ôr′jē·as′tik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or resembling an orgy. **2.** Marked by orgies.

or·gy (ôr′jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** Wild or wanton revelry. **2.** Any immoderate or excessive indulgence. **3.** *pl.* The secret rites in honor of certain Greek and Roman deities, marked by frenzied songs and dances. [Earlier *orgies*, pl. < MF < L *orgia* < Gk., secret rites]

o·ri·el (ôr′ē·əl, ō′rē-) *n. Archit.* A bay window, esp. one built out from a wall and resting on a bracket or similar support. [< OF *oriol* porch, gallery, ? < Med.L *oriolum*]

o·ri·ent (*n. & adj.* ôr′ē·ənt, ō′rē-, -ent; *v.* ôr′ē·ent, ō′rē-) *n.* **1.** The east: opposed to *occident*. **2.** The eastern sky; also, sunrise. — *v.t.* **1.** To cause to face or turn to the east. **2.** To place or adjust, as a map, in exact relation to the points of the compass. **3.** To adjust in relation to something else. Also *orientate*. — *adj.* **1.** Resembling sunrise; bright. **2.** Ascending; rising. [< OF < L (*sol*) *oriens*, *-entis* rising (sun), east, ppr. of *oriri* to rise]

O·ri·ent (ôr′ē·ənt, ō′rē-, -ent) **1.** The countries east of Europe; esp., eastern Asia. **2.** The eastern hemisphere.

o·ri·en·tal (ôr′ē·en′təl, ō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the East, or to the countries constituting the Orient: distinguished from *occidental*. **2.** Very bright, clear, and pure: said of gems. **3.** Denoting a variety of precious corundum, esp. sapphire: an *oriental* topaz. — **o′ri·en′tal·ly** *adv.*

O·ri·en·tal (ôr′ē·en′təl, ō′rē-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Orient; Eastern. — *n.* An inhabitant of Asia; an Asian.

O·ri·en·tal·ism (ôr′ē·en′təl·iz′əm, ō′rē-) *n.* **1.** An Oriental quality, mannerism, characteristic, etc. **2.** Knowledge of or proficiency in Oriental languages, literature, etc. Also **o′ri·en′tal·ism.** — **O′ri·en′tal·ist** *n.*

Oriental rug **1.** A rug or carpet hand-woven in one piece in the Orient. **2.** Any rug having a design or texture resembling those made in the Orient.

o·ri·en·tate (ôr′ē·en·tāt′, ō′rē-) *v.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To orient. — *v.i.* **2.** To face or turn eastward or in some specified direction. **3.** To become adjusted or oriented.

o·ri·en·ta·tion (ôr′ē·en·tā′shən, ō′rē-) *n.* **1.** The act of orienting, or the state of being oriented. **2.** The determination or adjustment of one's position with reference to circumstances, ideals, etc.

or·i·fice (ôr′ə·fis, or′-) *n.* An opening into a cavity; aperture. [< MF < LL. < L *os*, *oris* mouth + *facere* to make]

or·i·flamme (ôr′ə·flam, or′-) *n.* **1.** The red banner of the abbey of St. Denis, used as a battle standard by the kings of France until the 15th century. **2.** Any flag or standard. [< F < OF < *orie* golden (< L *aureus*) + *flambe* banner]

or·i·ga·mi (ôr′i·gä′mē) *n.* The ancient Japanese art of folding single sheets of paper into realistic animal forms, usu. without the aid of scissors or paste. [< Japanese]

or·i·gan (ôr′ə·gən, or′-) *n.* The wild marjoram. [< OF < L < Gk. *origanon*, an herb like marjoram]

or·i·gin (ôr′ə·jin, or′-) *n.* **1.** The beginning of the existence of anything. **2.** A primary source; cause. **3.** Parentage; ancestry. **4.** *Math.* **a** The point at which the axes of a Cartesian coordinate system intersect. **b** The point in a polar coordinate system where the radius vector equals zero. [< OF < L *origo*, *-inis* source, beginning]

o·rig·i·nal (ə·rij′ə·nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or belonging to the beginning, origin, or first stage of existence of a thing. **2.** Produced by one's own mind and thought; not copied or imitative. **3.** Able to produce works requiring thought without copying or imitating others; creative; inventive. — *n.* **1.** The first form of anything. **2.** An original work, as a paint-

ing, sculpture, etc., as distinct from a reproduction or copy. **3.** A person or thing represented in a painting, biography, etc. **4.** A person of unique character or genius. **5.** An eccentric. — **Syn.** See NEW.

o·rig·i·nal·i·ty (ə·rij′ə·nal′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The power of originating; inventiveness. **2.** The quality of being original or novel. **3.** Something original.

o·rig·i·nal·ly (ə·rij′ə·nəl·ē) *adv.* **1.** At the beginning. **2.** In a new and striking manner.

original sin *Theol.* The corruption and depravity held to be inherent in all mankind as a consequence of Adam's first sinful disobedience.

o·rig·i·nate (ə·rij′ə·nāt) *v.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To bring into existence; create; initiate. — *v.i.* **2.** To come into existence; have origin; arise. — **o·rig′i·na′tion** *n.* — **o·rig′i·na′tive** *adj.* — **o·rig′i·na′tive·ly** *adv.* — **o·rig′i·na′tor** *n.* — **Syn. 1.** institute, propagate, produce.

o·ri·ole (ôr′ē·ōl, ō′rē-) *n.* **1.** Any of a family of black and yellow birds of the Old World, related to the crows. **2.** Any of various black and yellow American songbirds that build hanging nests; esp., the Baltimore oriole and the orchard oriole. [< OF < Med.L < L *aureolus*, dim. of *aureus* golden]

O·ri·on (ō·rī′ən) In Greek and Roman mythology, a giant hunter who pursued the Pleiades and was killed by Diana. — *n.* A constellation. [< L < Gk.]

or·i·son (ôr′i·zən, or′-) *n.* *Usu. pl.* A devotional prayer. [< OF < LL *oratio, -onis* prayer]

Or·lon (ôr′lon) *n.* A synthetic fiber woven from an acrylic resin, having high resistance to heat, light, and chemicals, widely used as a textile material: a trade name. Also **or′lon.**

or·mo·lu (ôr′mə·lōō) *n.* Any of various alloys of copper, tin, and zinc that resemble gold in appearance, used in furniture decorations, jewelry, etc. [< F < *or* gold + *moulu*, pp. of *moudre* to grind]

or·na·ment (*n.* ôr′nə·mənt; *v.* ôr′nə·ment) *n.* **1.** Something that adorns or beautifies; a decoration. **2.** Ornaments, collectively. **3.** A person regarded as a source of honor or credit. **4.** The act of adorning, or the state of being adorned; ornamentation. **5.** *Music* A tone or group of tones used to embellish a melody without materially affecting its harmonic content. — *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with ornaments; decorate. **2.** To be an ornament to. [< OF < L < *ornare* to adorn] — **or′na·ment′er** (-ment′ər) *n.*

or·na·men·tal (ôr′nə·men′təl) *adj.* Of the nature of or serving as an ornament. — *n.* An ornamental object; esp., a plant used as decoration. — **or′na·men′tal·ly** *adv.*

or·na·men·ta·tion (ôr′nə·men·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or result of ornamenting. **2.** The state of being ornamented. **3.** That which ornaments; also, ornaments, collectively.

or·nate (ôr·nāt′) *adj.* **1.** Elaborately or excessively ornamented; overdecorative. **2.** Florid or showy, as a style of writing. [< L *ornatus*, pp. of *ornare* to adorn] — **or·nate′ly** *adv.* — **or·nate′ness** *n.*

or·ner·y (ôr′nər·ē, ôrn′rē) *adj.* *Dial.* **1.** *U.S.* Disposed to be contrary or stubborn. **2.** *U.S.* Mean; ugly; low; snide: an *ornery* trick. **3.** Ordinary; common. [Alter. of ORDINARY] — **or′ner·i·ness** *n.*

ornitho- *combining form* Bird; of or relating to birds. Also, before vowels, **ornith-**. [< Gk. *ornis, onithos* bird]

or·ni·thol·o·gy (ôr′nə·thol′ə·jē) *n.* The branch of zoology that treats of birds. [< NL < Gk. *ornithologos* treating of birds] — **or′ni·tho·log′ic** (-thə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **or′ni·tho·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **or′ni·thol′o·gist** *n.*

oro-[1] *combining form* Mouth; oral: *oropharynx.* [< L *os, oris* mouth]

oro-[2] *combining form Geol.* Mountain; of mountains. [< Gk. *oros* mountain]

o·ro·tund (ôr′ə·tund, ō′rə-) *adj.* **1.** Full, clear, rounded, and resonant: said of the voice. **2.** Pompous; inflated, as a manner of speech. [< L < *os, oris* mouth + *rotundus* round] — **o·ro·tun·di·ty** (ôr′ə·tun′də·tē) *n.*

or·phan (ôr′fən) *n.* **1.** A child whose parents are dead; also, less commonly, a child with one surviving parent. **2.** A cast-off or waif. — *adj.* **1.** That is an orphan. **2.** Of or for orphans. — *v.t.* To make an orphan of. [< L < Gk. *orphanos* orphaned] — **or′phan·hood** (-hōōd) *n.*

or·phan·age (ôr′fən·ij) *n.* **1.** An institution for the care of orphans or other abandoned children. **2.** The condition of being an orphan; also, orphans collectively.

Or·phe·us (ôr′fē·əs) In Greek mythology, the son of a Muse, whose singing to the lyre could charm beasts and even rocks and trees. When his wife Eurydice died he was permitted to lead her back from Hades provided he did not turn to look at her until they had arrived in the upper world, but he did look back and she was lost. — **Or·phe′an** *adj.*

or·phic (ôr′fik) *adj.* *Sometimes cap.* Of a mystical nature; oracular. Also **or′phi·cal.** — **or′phi·cal·ly** *adv.*

Or·phic (ôr′fik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or associated with Orpheus. **2.** Having the quality of the music of Orpheus; enchanting. Also **Or′phi·cal.** [< L < Gk. < *Orpheus*]

or·pine (ôr′pin) *n.* Any of a large, widely distributed family of plants including the sedums and houseleeks as the **common** or **garden orpine**, having succulent stems and leaves and clusters of whitish flowers. Also **or′pin.**

Or·ping·ton (ôr′ping·tən) *n.* Any of a variety of large domestic fowls having single combs and unfeathered legs. [after *Orpington*, a village in Kent, England]

or·ris (ôr′is, or′-) *n.* Any of the several species of iris having a scented root; esp. one whose dried rootstock is used in medicine, as a perfume, etc. Also **or′rice.** [Prob. alter. of Ital. *ireos* < L *iris* iris]

ort (ôrt) *n.* *Usu. pl.* *Archaic or Dial.* A worthless scrap or leaving, as of food. [ME; ult. origin uncertain]

or·thi·con (ôr′thə·kon) *n.* A sensitive television camera tube using low-velocity electrons in scanning: also called *image orthicon.* Also **or·thi·con·o·scope** (or′thi·kon′ə·skōp).

ortho- *combining form* **1.** Straight; upright; in line: *orthodontics.* **2.** At right angles; perpendicular: *orthorhombic.* **3.** Correct; proper; right: *orthography.* **4.** *Med.* The correction of irregularities or deformities of: *orthopedics.* **5.** *Chem.* **a** Designating that one of a series of acids that is most fully hydrated: *orthophosphoric* acid: distinguished from *meta-*. **b** Noting a benzene derivative in which the substituted atoms or radicals occupy adjoining positions. Also, before vowels, **orth-**. [< Gk. *orthos* straight]

or·tho·clase (ôr′thō·klās, -klāz) *n.* A brittle, vitreous, potassium-aluminum silicate of the feldspar group, a constituent of many igneous rocks: also called *potash feldspar.* [< ORTHO- + Gk. *klasis* fracture]

or·tho·don·tics (ôr′thə·don′tiks) *n.* The branch of dentistry concerned with the prevention and correction of irregularities of the teeth. Also **or′tho·don′tia** (-don′sha, -shē·ə). [< NL < Gk. *orthos* right, straight + *odous, odontos* tooth] — **or′tho·don′tic** *adj.* — **or′tho·don′tist** *n.*

or·tho·dox (ôr′thə·doks) *adj.* **1.** Holding the commonly accepted or established faith, esp. in religion; correct or sound in doctrine. **2.** Conforming to the Christian faith as represented in the early ecumenical creeds. **3.** Adhering to traditional practice or belief. [< LL < Gk. < *orthos* right + *doxa* opinion] — **or′tho·dox′ly** *adv.*

Or·tho·dox (ôr′thə·doks) *adj.* **1.** Of, belonging to, or characteristic of the Eastern Orthodox Church. **2.** Designating any of the bodies in this Church.

Orthodox Church The Eastern Orthodox Church.

Orthodox Judaism The branch of Judaism that accepts the Mosaic Laws and their authoritative rabbinical interpretations in the Talmud and elsewhere as binding for today.

or·tho·dox·y (ôr′thə·dok′sē) *n.* *pl.* **·dox·ies** **1.** Orthodox belief or practice; also, an instance of it. **2.** The quality or condition of being orthodox. — **or′tho·dox′i·cal** *adj.*

or·thog·ra·phy (ôr·thog′rə·fē) *n.* *pl.* **·phies** **1.** A mode or system of spelling, esp. of spelling correctly. **2.** The study dealing with letters and spelling. [< OF < L < Gk. < *orthographos*] — **or·thog′ra·pher, or·thog′ra·phist** *n.* — **or·tho·graph·ic** (ôr′thə·graf′ik), **or′tho·graph′i·cal** *adj.* — **or′tho·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

or·tho·pe·dics (ôr′thə·pē′diks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of surgery concerned with the correction of deformities of the skeletal system. Also **or′tho·pae′dics, or·tho·pe·dy** (ôr′thə·pē′dē). [< F < Gk. *orthos* right + *paideia* rearing of children] — **or′tho·pe′dic** *adj.* — **or′tho·pe′dist** *n.*

or·thop·ter·on (ôr·thop′tə·ron) *n.* An orthopterous insect.

or·thop·ter·ous (ôr·thop′tər·əs) *adj.* Designating any of an order of insects with membranous hind wings and leathery, usually straight, fore wings, including locusts, crickets, grasshoppers, etc. [< NL < Gk. *orthos* straight + *pteron* wing] — **or·thop′ter·an** *adj.* & *n.*

or·to·lan (ôr′tə·lən) *n.* A bunting of Europe, having an olive-green head and a yellow throat. [< F < Provençal < Ital. < L *hortulus*, dim. of *hortus* garden]

-ory[1] *suffix of nouns* A place or instrument for (performing the action of the main element): *dormitory, lavatory.* [< OF *-oir, -oire.* See -ORY[2].]

-ory[2] *suffix of adjectives* Related to; like; resembling: *amatory, laudatory.* [< F *-oir, -oire,* or < L *-orius, -oria, -orium*]

o·ryx (ôr′iks, or′-, ō′riks) *n.* *pl.* **o·ryx·es** or **o·ryx** Any of several long-horned antelopes, as the **Arabian oryx** and the gemsbok. [< NL < L < Gk.]

os[1] (os) *n.* *pl.* **o·ra** (ôr′ə, ō′rə) *Anat.* A mouth or opening. [< L]

os[2] (os) *n.* *pl.* **os·sa** (os′ə) *Anat.* A bone. [< L]

O·sage (ō′sāj) *n.* **1.** One of a tribe of North American Indians of Siouan stock now living in Oklahoma. **2.** The language of this tribe. [< Siouan *Wazhazhe* war people]

Osage orange **1.** A showy tree of the mulberry family, native to Arkansas and adjacent regions, widely used as a hedge. **2.** Its orangelike fruit.

Os·car (os′kər) *n.* One of the gold statuettes awarded annually in the U.S. for outstanding achevements in motion pictures. [Origin uncertain]

os·cil·late (os′ə·lāt) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To swing back

and forth, as a pendulum. **2.** To fluctuate between various courses of action or thought; waver. [< L *oscillare* to swing] — **os/cil·la/tor** *n.*

s·cil·la·tion (os/ə·lā/shən) *n.* **1.** The act or state of oscillating. **2.** A single swing of an oscillating body. **3.** *Physics* A periodic fluctuation between extreme values of a quantity or force. — **os/cil·la·to/ry** (-lə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē) *adj.*

s·cil·lo·graph (ə·sil/ə·graf, -gräf) *n.* A device for recording and measuring any oscillating system convertible into wave forms, as sound, light, heartbeats, etc.

s·cil·lo·scope (ə·sil/ə·skōp) *n.* Any of various electronic instruments for projecting the forms of electromagnetic waves on the fluorescent screen of a cathode-ray tube.

s·cine (os/in, -īn) *adj.* Of or belonging to a suborder of birds, including those having the most highly developed vocal ability, as thrushes, sparrows, etc. Also **os/ci·nine.** — *n.* An oscine bird. [< NL < L *oscen, oscinis* singing bird]

s·co·Um·bri·an (os/kō·um/brē·ən) *n.* A branch of the Italic subfamily of Indo-European languages.

s·cu·late (os/kyə·lāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing 1.** To kiss: used humorously. **2.** To come into close contact or union. **3.** *Biol.* To have (characteristics) in common. [< L *osculari* to kiss]

s·cu·la·tion (os/kyə·lā/shən) *n.* The act of kissing; also, a kiss. — **os/cu·la·to/ry** (-lə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē) *adj.*

ose[1] *suffix of adjectives* **1.** Full of or abounding in (the main element): *verbose.* **2.** Like; resembling (the main element): *grandiose.* Compare **-ous.** [< L *-osus*]

ose[2] *suffix Chem.* Indicating a sugar or other carbohydrate: *lactose, fructose.* [< (GLUC)OSE]

·see (ō/zē, ō/sē) The Douai Bible name for HOSEA.

sier (ō/zhər) *n.* Any of various willows producing long, flexible shoots used in wickerwork. [< OF]

·si·ris (o·si/ris) In Egyptian mythology, the god of the underworld and lord of the dead, husband of his sister Isis.

sis *suffix of nouns* **1.** The condition, process, or state of: *metamorphosis.* **2.** *Med.* **a** A diseased or abnormal condition of: *neurosis.* **b** A formation of: *sclerosis.* [< L < Gk. *-ōsis*; or directly < Gk.]

osity *suffix of nouns* Forming nouns corresponding to adjectives in *-ose*: *verbosity.* [< F *-osité* < L *-ositas*; or directly < L]

s·man·li (oz·man/lē, os-) *n. pl.* **·lis 1.** An Ottoman Turk. **2.** The language of the Ottoman Turks; Turkish. — *adj.* Ottoman. [< Turkish *Osman* Osman < Arabic *'Othmān*]

s·mi·rid·i·um (os/mə·rid/ē·əm, oz/-) *n.* A mixture of iridium and osmium that occurs naturally, used in pen points: also called *iridosmine, iridosmium.* [< OSM(IUM) + IRIDIUM]

s·mi·um (oz/mē·əm, os/-) *n.* A hard, brittle, extremely heavy, white, metallic element (symbol Os) of the platinum group. See ELEMENT. [< Gk. *osmē* odor]

s·mose (oz/mōs, os/-) *v.t. & v.i.* **·mosed, mos·ing** To subject to or undergo osmosis.

s·mo·sis (oz·mō/sis, os-) *n. Chem.* **1.** The diffusion of a fluid through a semipermeable membrane, resulting in equalization of the pressures on each side. **2.** The tendency of a fluid to act in such a manner. Also **os/mose.** [< Gk. *ōsmos* < *ōthein* to impel] — **os·mot·ic** (oz·mot/ik, os-) *adj.* — **os·mot/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

s·prey (os/prē) *n.* An American hawk, brown above and white below, that preys upon fish: also called *fish hawk.* [ME < L < *os, ossis* bone + *frangere* to break]

ssi- *combining form* Bone: *ossify.* [< L *os, ossis* bone]

s·sian (osh/ən, os/ē·ən) A legendary Irish hero and bard of the third century. — **Os·si·an·ic** (os/ē·an/ik) *adj.*

s·sif·er·ous (o·sif/ər·əs) *adj.* Yielding or containing bones. [< L *os, ossi(s)* + -FEROUS]

s·si·fy (os/ə·fī) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing 1.** To convert or be converted into bone. **2.** To make or become rigid or inflexible in habits, beliefs, etc.; harden. [< L *os, ossis* + *facere* to make] — **os·sif·ic** (o·sif/ik) *adj.* — **os/si·fi·ca/tion** *n.*

s·te·al (os/tē·əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or like bone; bony. [< Gk. *osteon* bone]

s·ten·si·ble (os·ten/sə·bəl) *adj.* Offered as real or genuine; apparent. [< F < L *ostendere* to show] — **os·ten/si·bly** *adv.*

s·ten·sive (os·ten/siv) *adj.* Manifest; apparent; ostensible. — **os·ten/sive·ly** *adv.*

s·ten·ta·tion (os/tən·tā/shən) *n.* **1.** The act of displaying vainly or pretentiously in order to excite admiration, awe, etc. **2.** Excessive or uncalled-for exhibition; showiness. [< OF < L < *ostendere* to show]

s·ten·ta·tious (os/tən·tā/shəs) *adj.* **1.** Intended to attract notice; showy. **2.** Marked by ostentation. — **os/ten·ta/tious·ly** *adv.* — **os/ten·ta/tious·ness** *n.*

steo- *combining form* Bone; pertaining to bone or bones. Also, before vowels, **oste-.** [< Gk. *osteon* bone]

s·te·ol·o·gy (os/tē·ol/ə·jē) *n.* The study of the skeleton and of the structure of bones. — **os/te·o·log/i·cal** (-ə·loj/i·kəl) *adj.* — **os/te·ol/o·gist** *n.*

os·te·o·ma (os/tē·ō/mə) *n. pl.* **·o·mas** or **·o·ma·ta** (-ō/mə·tə) *Pathol.* A tumor of bony tissue. [< OSTE(O)- + -OMA]

os·te·o·my·e·li·tis (os/tē·ō·mī/ə·lī/tis) *n. Pathol.* Suppurative inflammation of the bone, sometimes involving the marrow. [< OSTEO- + MYEL(O)- + -ITIS]

os·te·op·a·thy (os/tē·op/ə·thē) *n.* A system of healing based on the theory that most diseases are the result of structural abnormalities of the body and may be cured by manipulation of the affected parts. — **os/te·o·path/, os·te·op·a·thist** (os/·te·op/ə·thist) *n.* — **os·te·o·path·ic** (os/tē·ə·path/ik) *adj.*

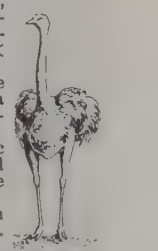
Os·ti·a (os/tē·ə, *Ital.* ôs/styä) An ancient port city of Rome.

ost·ler (os/lər) See HOSTLER.

os·tra·cism (os/trə·siz/əm) *n.* **1.** In ancient Greece, temporary banishment by popular vote. **2.** The act of ostracizing or the state of being ostracized.

os·tra·cize (os/trə·siz) *v.t.* **·cized, ·ciz·ing 1.** To shut out or exclude, as from society or from a particular group; banish. **2.** To exile by ostracism. Also *Brit.* **os/tra·cise.** [< Gk. *ostrakizein* < *ostrakon* potsherd, shell, voting tablet]

os·trich (ôs/trich, os/-) *n. pl.* **·trich·es** or **·trich 1.** A large, two-toed, flightless bird of Africa and Arabia, the largest of existing birds, having long, powerful legs and a plumage highly valued for ornamental purposes. **2.** A rhea. [< OF < LL < L *avis* bird + LL *struthio* ostrich]



OSTRICH (To about 8 feet high)

Os·tro·goth (os/trə·goth) *n.* A member of the eastern branch of the Goths, who established a kingdom in Italy from 493 to 555. [< LL *Ostrogothi*] — **Os/tro·goth/ic** *adj.*

Os·ty·ak (os/tē·ak) *n.* **1.** One of a Finno-Ugric people inhabiting western Siberia and the Ural Mountains. **2.** The Ugric language of these people. Also **Os/ti·ak.**

Os·we·go tea (os·wē/gō) A species of mint with bright red flowers, found in the eastern U.S. [after *Oswego*, city in New York State]

ot- Var. of OTO-.

O·thel·lo (ō·thel/ō, ə-) In Shakespeare's play of this name, the hero, a Moor of Venice, whose jealousy, inspired by Iago, provokes him to kill his innocent wife Desdemona.

oth·er (uth/ər) *adj.* **1.** Different from the one or ones specified or implied. **2.** Noting the remaining one of two persons or things: the *other* eye. **3.** Additional; more: Have you no *other* children? **4.** Alternate; second: every *other* day. **5.** Different: The truth is *other* than what you suppose. **6.** Former: in *other* times. — *pron.* **1.** Another or different person or thing. **2.** The other person or thing: this hand, not the *other.* — *adv.* Differently; otherwise: with *than.* [OE *ōther*] — **oth/er·ness** *n.*

oth·er·wise (uth/ər·wīz/) *adv.* **1.** In a different manner; by other means. **2.** In other circumstances or conditions. **3.** In all other respects: an *otherwise* sensible person. — *adj.* **1.** Other than supposed; different: The facts are *otherwise.* **2.** Other: He could not be *otherwise* than proud.

other world A world peopled by the dead.

oth·er·world·ly (uth/ər·wûrld/lē) *adj.* Concerned with matters of the spirit or intellect, esp. to the neglect of material things. — **oth/er·world/li·ness** *n.*

Oth·man (oth/mən, *Arabic* ōth·män/) Ottoman.

-otic *suffix of adjectives* **1.** *Med.* Of, related to, or affected by: corresponding to nouns in *-osis*: *sclerotic.* **2.** Causing or producing: *narcotic.* [< Gk. *-ōtikos*, suffix of adjectives]

o·ti·ose (ō/shē·ōs, -tē-) *adj.* **1.** Being at rest; indolent; lazy. **2.** Having no use or effect; futile. [< L *otiosus* idle] — **o/ti·ose/ly** *adv.* — **o/ti·os/i·ty** (-os/ə·tē) *n.*

o·ti·tis (ō·tī/tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the ear. [< OT(O)- + -ITIS]

oto- *combining form* Ear; pertaining to the ear: *otology.* Also, before vowels, *ot-.* [< Gk. *ous, ōtos* ear]

o·tol·o·gy (ō·tol/ə·jē) *n.* The science of the ear and its diseases. — **o·to·log·i·cal** (ō/tə·loj/i·kəl) *adj.* — **o·tol/o·gist** *n.*

ot·ta·va (ōt·tä/vä) *n. Ital.* An octave.

ottava ri·ma (rē/mä) In prosody, a stanza form of Italian origin consisting of eight lines in iambic pentameter and rhyming in the pattern *ababcbcc.* [< Ital., octave rhyme]

Ot·ta·wa (ot/ə·wə) *n.* One of a tribe of North American Indians of Algonquian stock, originally inhabiting the region around Georgian Bay, Lake Huron and Ontario. [< dial. F *otauan*; ult. < Algonquian. Akin to Cree *atâweu* a trader.]

ot·ter (ot/ər) *n.* **1.** Any of various web-footed mammals of aquatic habits, related to the weasel and having a long, flattened tail. **2.** Its valuable, dark brown fur. [OE *otor*]

ot·to·man (ot/ə·mən) *n.* **1.** An upholstered, armless seat or sofa, usu. without a back. **2.** A cushioned footrest. [< F *ottomane*, orig. fem. of *ottoman* Ottoman]

Ot·to·man (ot′ə·mən) *n.* *pl.* **·mans** A Turk: also *Othman.* — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Turks. [< F < Ital. *Ottomano* < Med.L *Ottomanus* < Arabic *'Othmāni* of Osman]

Ottoman Empire A former empire (1300–1919) of the Turks in Asia Minor, NE Africa, and SE Europe; capital, Constantinople: also *Turkish Empire.*

ouch (ouch) *interj.* An exclamation of sudden pain.

ought[1] (ôt) *v.* *Present 3rd person sing.* **ought** An auxiliary followed by the infinitive with *to* expressed or understood, meaning: **1.** To have a moral duty: A person *ought* to keep his promises. **2.** To be advisable: You *ought* to be careful. **3.** To be expected as something probable, natural, or logical: The engine *ought* to run. ◆ A past is formed by placing the following verb in the perfect infinitive, as in *He ought to have been there.* [OE past tense of *āgan* to owe]

ought[2] (ôt) See AUGHT[1].

ought[3] (ôt) See AUGHT[2].

oui (wē) *adv.* *French* Yes.

oui·ja (wē′jə) *n.* A device consisting of a large board inscribed with the alphabet and other characters and over which moves a small rectangular board resting on three legs, the pointer of which is thought to spell out mediumistic communications. [< F *oui* yes + G *ja* yes]

ounce (ouns) *n.* **1.** A unit of weight; one sixteenth of a pound avoirdupois, or 28.349 grams; one twelfth of a pound troy, or 31.1 grams. See table front of book. **2.** A fluid ounce. **3.** A small quantity. [< OF < L *uncia* twelfth part (of a pound or foot)]

our (our) *pronominal adj.* The possessive case of the pronoun *we,* used attributively: *our* child. [OE *ūre,* gen. of *wē*]

ours (ourz) *pron.* **1.** The possessive case of the pronoun *we,* used predicatively: That dog is *ours.* **2.** The one or ones belonging or relating to us: their country and *ours.* — **of ours** Belonging or relating to us: a double possessive.

our·self (our·self′) *pron.* Myself or ourselves, considered collectively: used in formal or regal contexts.

our·selves (our·selvz′) *pron.pl.* A form of the first person plural pronoun, used: **1.** As a reflexive: We helped *ourselves.* **2.** As an emphatic or intensive form of *we*: We *ourselves* want to know. **3.** As a designation of a normal, proper, or usual state: We weren't *ourselves* then.

-ous *suffix of adjectives* **1.** Full of, having, given to, like: *joyous, glorious.* **2.** *Chem.* Having a lower valence than that indicated by *-ic*: said of elements in compounds: *nitrous* oxide. [< OF < L *-osus*]

ou·sel (ōō′zəl) See OUZEL.

oust (oust) *v.t.* To force out or remove, as from a place or position. [< AF < LL < *ob-* against + *stare* to stand]

oust·er (ous′tər) *n.* **1.** The act or condition of ousting. **2.** One who ousts. **3.** *Law* The act of putting one out of possession or occupancy of real property to which he is legally entitled; wrongful dispossession.

out (out) *adv.* **1.** Away from the inside or center: to branch *out.* **2.** In or into the open air: to go *out.* **3.** Away from a specified or usual place, as from one's home or place of business: *out* to lunch. **4.** From a receptacle or source: to pour *out* wine. **5.** From among others: to pick *out.* **6.** So as to remove, deplete, or exhaust: to sweep *out*; to dry *out.* **7.** Thoroughly: tired *out.* **8.** Into extinction or inactivity: The flame went *out*; The excitement died *out.* **9.** To a conclusion; to the end: Hear me *out.* **10.** Into being or activity, or into a state manifest to the senses: An epidemic bróke *out*:

out- *combining form* **1.** Living or situated outside; away from the center; detached: *outlying, outpatient.* **2.** Going forth; outward: *outbound, outstretch.* **3.** Denoting the time, place, or result of the action expressed by the root verb: *outcome, outcry.* **4.** To a greater extent; more; better.

Out is widely used to form compounds.

out-and-out (out′ənd·out′) *adj.* Unqualified; outright.

out·bid (out·bid′) *v.t.* **·bid, ·bid·den** or **·bid, ·bid·ding** To bid more than; offer a higher bid than: also *overbid.*

out·board (out′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *adj. & adv. Naut.* **1.** Outside the hull. **2.** Away from the center line of a vessel.

outboard motor A portable gasoline or electric motor for temporary attachment to the stern of a small boat.

out·bound (out′bound′) *adj.* Outward bound.

out·break (out′brāk′) *n.* A sudden bursting forth, as of an emotion or a disease; an eruption.

out·build·ing (out′bil′ding) *n.* A building separate from and subordinate to a main building, as a woodshed or barn: also called *outhouse.*

out·burst (out′bûrst′) *n.* A bursting out; esp., a sudden and violent display, as of anger.

out·cast (out′kast′, -käst′) *n.* **1.** One who is cast out or excluded. **2.** A homeless person or vagabond. **3.** Anything cast out, as refuse. — *adj.* Rejected; discarded; forlorn.

out·class (out·klas′, -kläs′) *v.t.* To surpass decisively.

out·come (out′kum′) *n.* Consequence or result.

out crop (*n.* out′krop′; *v.* out·krop′) *Geol.* *n.* **1.** The exposure at or above the surface of the ground of any rock stratum, vein, etc. **2.** The rock so exposed. — *v.i.* **·cropped, ·crop·ping** To crop out above the ground, as rocks.

out·cry (*n.* out′krī′; *v.* out·krī′) *n.* *pl.* **·cries** **1.** A loud cry or clamor. **2.** A vehement outburst of alarm, indignation, etc. — *v.t.* **·cried, ·cry·ing** To surpass in noise or crying.

out·date (out·dāt′) *v.t.* **·dat·ed, ·dat·ing** To make obsolete or out-of-date.

out·dat·ed (out·dā′tid) *adj.* Out-of-date; old-fashioned.

out·dis·tance (out·dis′təns) *v.t.* **·tanced, ·tanc·ing** **1.** To outrun, as in a race; outstrip. **2.** To surpass completely.

out·do (out·dōō′) *v.t.* **·did, ·done, ·do·ing** To exceed in performance; surpass. — **out·do′er** *n.*

out·done (out·dun′) *adj.* *U.S. Dial.* Provoked; exasperated.

out·door (out′dôr′, -dōr′) *adj.* **1.** Being or done in the open air. **2.** Intended for the outdoors. Also *out-of-door.*

out·doors (out·dôrz′, -dōrz′) *adv.* Outside of the house; in the open air. — *n.* The world beyond the house; the open air. Also *out-of-doors.*

out·er (ou′tər) *adj.* **1.** Being on the exterior side. **2.** Farther from a center or from something regarded as the inside.

out·er·most (ou′tər·mōst) *adj.* Most remote from the inside or inner part; farthest out.

outer space The space beyond the extreme limits of the earth's atmosphere; interplanetary and interstellar space.

out·face (out·fās′) *v.t.* **·faced, ·fac·ing** **1.** To face or stare down. **2.** To defy or confront fearlessly or impudently.

out·field (out′fēld′) *n.* In baseball: **a** The space beyond the infield. **b** The outfielders collectively.

out·field·er (out′fēl′dər) *n.* In baseball, any of three players whose positions are in the outfield.

out·fit (out′fit′) *n.* **1.** The tools or equipment needed for any particular purpose, as a trade, etc. **2.** *U.S. Informal* A group of persons regarded as a unit; esp., a military unit. **3.** *U.S. Informal* A set of clothing. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·fit·ted, ·fit·ting** To provide with or acquire an outfit. — **out′fit′ter** *n.*

out·flank (out·flangk′) *v.t.* To get around and in back of the flank of (an opposing force or army); flank.

out·flow (out′flō′) *n.* **1.** That which flows out. **2.** The act or process of flowing out.

out·fox (out·foks′) *v.t.* *U.S. Informal* To outwit.

out·go (*v.* out·gō′; *n.* out′gō′) *v.t.* **·went, ·gone, ·go·ing** To go farther than; exceed. — *n.* *pl.* **·goes** **1.** That which goes out; outlay. **2.** The act of going out. — **out′go′er** *n.*

out·go·ing (out′gō′ing) *adj.* **1.** Going out; leaving. **2.** Friendly; expansive. — *n.* The act of going out.

out·group (out′grōōp′) *n.* *Sociol.* Those not in an in-group.

out·grow (out·grō′) *v.t.* **·grew, ·grown, ·grow·ing** **1.** To grow too large for. **2.** To lose or get rid of in the course of time or growth: to *outgrow* a habit. **3.** To surpass in growth.

out·growth (out′grōth′) *n.* **1.** That which grows out of something else; an excrescence. **2.** A natural result or development. **3.** The process of growing out.

out·house (out′hous′) *n.* **1.** An outdoor privy or toilet. **2.** An outbuilding.

out·ing (ou′ting) *n.* **1.** A short pleasure trip; an excursion. **2.** The act of going out; an airing.

out·land·er (out′lan′dər) *n.* **1.** A foreigner. **2.** A stranger.

out·land·ish (out·lan′dish) *adj.* **1.** Strange or unfamiliar, as in appearance or manners. **2.** *Informal* Freakish; crazy. **3.** Far-off; remote. [OE *ūtland*] — **out·land′ish·ly** *adv.* — **out·land′ish·ness** *n.*

out·last (out·last′, -läst′) *v.t.* To last longer than.

out·law (out′lô′) *n.* **1.** One who habitually breaks or defies the law; a criminal. **2.** A person deprived of the protection or benefit of the law. — *v.t.* **1.** To prohibit; ban. **2.** To deprive of legal force or protection, as a contract. **3.** To declare an outlaw. [OE < ON *útlagi*] — **out′law′ry** *n.*

out·lay (*n.* out′lā′; *v.* out·lā′) *n.* **1.** The act of disbursing or spending. **2.** The amount spent; expenditure. — *v.t.* **·laid, ·lay·ing** To expend (money, etc.).

out·let (out′let) *n.* **1.** A passage or vent for escape or discharge. **2.** A channel of expression or escape: an *outlet* for creative energy. **3.** In commerce, a market for any commodity; also, a store handling the goods of a particular manufacturer. **4.** *Electr.* The point in a wiring system at which the current is taken to supply electrical apparatuses.

out·line (out′līn′) *n.* **1.** *Sometimes pl.* A preliminary sketch showing the principal features of a thing; general plan. **2.** A systematic statement of the structure or content of an essay, etc. **3.** The bordering line that serves to define a figure. **4.** A sketch made only of such lines. — *v.t.* **·lined, ·lin·ing** **1.** To make or give an outline of. **2.** To draw the outline of.

out·live (out·liv′) *v.t.* **·lived, ·liv·ing** **1.** To live longer than (another). **2.** To live through; survive.

out·look (out′lōōk′) *n.* **1.** A point of view. **2.** The prospect of a thing. **3.** A place where something is viewed. **4.** The expanse in view. **5.** The act of looking out.

out·man (out·man′) *v.t.* **·manned, ·man·ning** **1.** To surpass in number of men. **2.** To excel in manliness.

out·mo·ded (out·mō′did) *adj.* Out of fashion.

ut·most (out′mōst′) *adj.* Farthest out; outermost.
ut-of-date (out′əv·dāt′) *adj.* Old-fashioned; archaic.
ut-of-door (out′əv·dôr′, -dōr′) *adj.* Outdoor.
ut-of-doors (out′əv·dôrz′, -dōrz′) *adv. & n.* Outdoors.
ut-of-the-way (out′əv·thə·wā′) *adj.* 1. Remote; difficult to reach; secluded. 2. Out of the common range; odd.
ut·pa·tient (out′pā′shənt) *n.* A patient treated at but not formally admitted to a hospital, dispensary, etc.
ut·play (out·plā′) *v.t.* To play better than; defeat.
ut·point (out·point′) *v.t.* 1. To score more points than. 2. *Naut.* To sail closer to the wind than.
ut·post (out′pōst′) *n.* 1. A detachment of troops stationed at a distance from the main body as a guard against surprise attack. 2. The station occupied by such troops. 3. Any outlying settlement, as at a frontier.
ut·pour (*v.* out·pôr′, -pōr′; *n.* out′pôr′, -pōr′) *v.t. & v.i.* To pour out. — *n.* A free outflow. — **out′pour′er** *n.*
ut·put (out′pŏŏt′) *n.* 1. The amount of anything produced in a given time, as by a mine, factory, mill, etc. 2. The effective work done by a machine. 3. *Electr.* The electrical energy delivered by a generator, circuit, amplifier, etc.
ut·rage (*n.* out′rāj′; *v.* out·rāj′) *n.* 1. An act of shocking violence or cruelty. 2. A gross violation of morality or decency. 3. A profound insult or injury. — *v.t.* **·raged, ·rag·ing** 1. To commit an outrage upon. 2. To subject to an outrage. 3. To rape. [ME < OF ult. < L *ultra* beyond] — **Syn.** (noun) 1. crime, atrocity. — (verb) See OFFEND.
ut·ra·geous (out·rā′jəs) *adj.* 1. Of the nature of an outrage; awful; atrocious. 2. Heedless of authority or decency. — **out·ra′geous·ly** *adv.* — **out·ra′geous·ness** *n.*
u·tré (ōō·trā′) *adj. French* Strikingly odd; exaggerated.
ut·reach (*v.* out·rēch′; *n.* out′rēch′) *v.t.* 1. To reach or go beyond; surpass. 2. To extend (something). — *v.i.* 3. To reach out. — *n.* The act or extent of reaching out.
ut·ride (out·rīd′) *v.t.* **·rode, ·rid·den, ·rid·ing** To ride faster, farther, or better than.
ut·rid·er (out′rī′dər) *n.* A mounted attendant who rides in advance or to one side of a carriage.
ut·rig·ger (out′rig′ər) *n.* 1. A part built or arranged to project beyond a natural outline, as of a vessel or machine. 2. A projecting contrivance terminating in a boatlike float, braced to the side of a canoe to prevent capsizing. 3. A bracket projecting from the side of a narrow rowboat, and provided with a rowlock for an oar; also, a boat so equipped.
ut·right (*adj.* out′rīt′; *adv.* out′rīt′) *adj.* 1. Free from reserve or restraint; downright. 2. Complete; entire. 3. Going straight on. — *adv.* 1. Without reservation or limitation; openly. 2. Entirely; utterly. 3. Without delay.
ut·sell (out·sel′) *v.t.* **·sold, ·sell·ing** 1. To sell more readily or for a higher price than. 2. To sell more goods than.
ut·set (out′set′) *n.* A setting out; beginning.
ut·shine (out·shīn′) *v.* **·shone, ·shin·ing** *v.t.* 1. To shine brighter than. 2. To surpass. — *v.i.* 3. To shine forth.
ut·side (*n., adj., & adv.* out′sīd′; *prep.* out′sīd′) *n.* 1. The outer or exterior surface or side. 2. The space beyond a bounding line or surface. 3. The part that is seen; outward appearance. 4. Something empty of significance or substance; mere outward display. — **at the outside** *Informal* At the farthest, longest, or most. — *adj.* 1. Pertaining to, located on, or restricted to the outside. 2. Originating, caused by, or situated beyond designated limits.
ut·sid·er (out′sī′dər) *n.* One who is outside or excluded. — **Syn.** stranger, alien, foreigner.
ut·size (out′sīz′) *n.* An irregular size, as of clothing; esp., an uncommonly large size. — *adj.* Being of an outsize: also **out′sized′**.
ut·skirts (out′skûrts′) *n.pl.* A place remote from the main or central area; an outlying district.
ut·smart (out·smärt′) *v.t. Informal* To outwit; fool.
ut·spo·ken (out′spō′kən) *adj.* 1. Bold or free in speech; frank. 2. Spoken boldly or frankly. — **out′spo′ken·ly** *adv.* — **out′spo′ken·ness** *n.*
ut·spread (*v.* out·spred′; *n.* out′spred′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·spread, spread·ing** To spread out; extend. — *n.* The act of spreading out.
ut·stand·ing (out·stan′ding) *adj.* 1. Prominent; excellent. 2. Still standing or unsettled, as a debt. 3. Projecting; abutting.
ut·stretch (out·strech′) *v.t.* 1. To stretch out; expand; extend. 2. To extend beyond.
ut·strip (out·strip′) *v.t.* **·stripped, ·strip·ping** 1. To leave behind; outrun. 2. To excel; surpass.
ut·ward (out′wərd) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to the outside; external. 2. Relating to the physical as distinguished from the mental or spiritual aspect. 3. Readily apparent, esp. to sight: no *outward* sign of trouble. 4. Superficially evident: *outward* display of wealth. 5. Not inherent; extrinsic: *outward* grace. — *adv.* 1. In an outward direction. 2. In an outward manner. 3. Away from a place regarded as central, as home. [OE *ūtweard*] — **out′ward·ness** *n.*
out·ward·ly (out′wərd·lē) *adv.* 1. On or toward the outside. 2. In outward form or aspect; seemingly.
out·wards (out′wərdz) *adv.* Outward.
out·wear (out·wâr′) *v.t.* **·wore, ·worn, ·wear·ing** 1. To wear or stand use longer than; outlast. 2. To wear out.
out·weigh (out·wā′) *v.t.* 1. To weigh more than. 2. To exceed in importance, value, etc.
out·wit (out·wit′) *v.t.* **·wit·ted, ·wit·ting** To trick or baffle by superior ingenuity or cunning.
out·work[1] (out·wûrk′) *v.t.* **·worked** or **·wrought, ·work·ing** To work faster or better than.
out·work[2] (out′wûrk′) *n. Mil.* Any outer defense, as beyond the ditch of a fort.
out·worn (out·wôrn′) Past participle of OUTWEAR.
ou·zel (ōō′zəl) *n.* 1. One of various European thrushes, as the blackbird. 2. The water ouzel. Also spelled *ousel.* [OE *ōsle*]
o·va (ō′və) Plural of OVUM.
o·val (ō′vəl) *adj.* 1. Having the shape of an egg. 2. Resembling an ellipse. — *n.* An oval shape or figure. [< MF < L *ovum* egg] — **o′val·ly** *adv.* — **o′val·ness** *n.*
o·va·ry (ō′və·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** 1. *Zool.* The genital gland of female animals in which the ova are produced. 2. *Bot.* In plants, that organ in which the ovules are contained. For illus. see FLOWER. [< NL < L *ovum* egg] — **o·var′i·an, o·var′i·al** *adj.*
o·vate (ō′vāt) *adj. Bot.* Egg-shaped: said of leaves. [< L *ovum*] — **o′vate·ly** *adv.*
o·va·tion (ō·vā′shən) *n.* A spontaneous acclamation of popularity; enthusiastic applause. [< L *ovare* to rejoice, exult] — **o·va′tion·al** *adj.*
ov·en (uv′ən) *n.* An enclosed chamber in which substances are heated in order to cook or dry them. [OE *ofen*]
ov·en·bird (uv′ən·bûrd′) *n.* A North American warbler with an olive-colored back and a golden crown, having a grassy nest suggesting an oven.
o·ver (ō′vər) *prep.* 1. In or to a place or position above; higher than. 2. So as to pass or extend across: walking *over* the bridge. 3. On the other side of: lying *over* the ocean. 4. Upon the surface or exterior of. 5. Here and there upon or within; throughout all parts of: traveling *over* land and sea. 6. At or up to a level higher than: The mud is *over* my boots. 7. So as to close or cover: Put the lid *over* the jar.
over- *combining form* 1. Above; superior: *overlord.* 2. Passing above; going beyond the top or limit of: *overflow.* 3. Moving or causing to move downward, as from above: *overturn.* 4. Excessively; excessive; too much: *overcharge.* *Over-* is widely used to form compounds.
o·ver·act (ō′vər·akt′) *v.t. & v.i.* To act with exaggeration.
o·ver·age[1] (ō′ver·ij) *n.* In commerce, an amount of money or goods in excess of that which is listed as being on hand.
o·ver·age[2] (ō′vər·āj′) *adj.* 1. Over the usual or specified age. 2. Too old to be of use: *overage* guns.
o·ver·all (ō′vər·ôl′) *adj.* 1. From one end to the other. 2. Including or covering everything.
o·ver·alls (ō′vər·ôlz′) *n.pl.* Loose, coarse trousers, often with suspenders and a piece extending over the breast, worn over the clothing as protection against soiling and wear.
o·ver·arm (ō′vər·ärm′) *adj.* Done with the arm above the level of the shoulder, as a swimming stroke.
o·ver·awe (ō′vər·ô′) *v.t.* **·awed, ·aw·ing** To subdue or restrain by awe.
o·ver·bal·ance (ō′vər·bal′əns) *v.* **·anced, ·anc·ing** *v.t.* 1. To exceed in weight, importance, etc. 2. To cause to lose balance. — *v.i.* 3. To lose one's balance. — *n.* Excess of weight or value.
o·ver·bear (ō′vər·bâr′) *v.* **·bore, borne, ·bear·ing** *v.t.* 1. To crush or bear down by physical weight or force. 2. To prevail over; domineer. — *v.i.* 3. To be too fruitful.
o·ver·bear·ing (ō′vər·bâr′ing) *adj.* 1. Arrogant; domineering. 2. Overwhelming. — **o′ver·bear′ing·ly** *adv.*
o·ver·bid (ō′vər·bid′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·bid, ·bid·den** or **·bid, ·bid·ding** 1. To bid more than the value of (something). 2. To outbid (someone).
o·ver·blown (ō′vər·blōn′) *adj.* 1. Blown up or swollen, as with conceit or pretentiousness; inflated; bombastic. 2. Past full bloom, as a flower.
o·ver·board (ō′vər·bôrd′, -bōrd′) *adv.* Over the side of or out of a boat or ship. — **to go overboard** *U.S. Informal* To be extremely enthusiastic about someone or something.
o·ver·bur·den (ō′vər·bûr′dən) *v.t.* To load with too much weight, care, etc. — *n.* That which overburdens.
o·ver·cap·i·tal·ize (ō′vər·kap′i·təl·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** 1. To invest capital in to an extent not warranted by actual

prospects. **2.** To affix an unjustifiable or unlawful value to the nominal capital of (a corporation). **3.** To estimate the value of (a property, company, etc.) too highly. — **o'ver·cap'i·tal·i·za'tion** *n.*

o·ver·cast (ō'vər·kast', -käst'; *for v. defs. 1, 2, & 4, also* ō'vər·kast', -käst') *adj.* **1.** Covered or obscured, as with clouds. **2.** Gloomy; melancholy. **3.** Sewn with long wrapping stitches to prevent raveling. — *n.* **1.** A covering or mantle, as of clouds. **2.** *Meteorol.* A cloud or clouds covering more than nine-tenths of the sky. — *v.* **·cast, ·cast·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make overcast. **2.** To cast beyond. **3.** To sew with an overcast stitch. — *v.i.* **4.** To become overcast.

o·ver·charge (*v.* ō'vər·chärj'; *n.* ō'vər·chärj') *v.t.* **·charged, ·charg·ing** **1.** To charge (someone) too high a price. **2.** To overburden. **3.** To overdo. — *n.* An excessive charge.

o·ver·cloud (ō'vər·kloud') *v.t.* **1.** To cover with clouds; darken. **2.** To make gloomy. — *v.i.* **3.** To become cloudy.

o·ver·coat (ō'vər·kōt') *n.* An outdoor coat worn over a suit, etc., esp. in cold weather.

o·ver·come (ō'vər·kum') *v.t.* **·came, ·come, ·com·ing** **1.** To get the better of in any conflict or struggle; defeat; conquer. **2.** To prevail over or surmount, as difficulties, obstacles, etc. **3.** To render (someone) helpless, as by emotion, sickness etc. — *v.i.* **4.** To gain mastery; win. [OE *ofercuman*]

o·ver·com·pen·sa·tion (ō'vər·kom'pən·sā'shən) *n.* *Psychol.* Excessive or abnormal reaction, esp. to compensate for the fact or feeling of inferiority.

o·ver·de·vel·op (ō'vər·di·vel'əp) *v.t.* **1.** To develop excessively. **2.** *Photog.* To develop (a plate or film) to too great a degree. — **o'ver·de·vel'op·ment** *n.*

o·ver·do (ō'vər·dōō') *v.* **·did, ·done, ·do·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To do excessively; exaggerate. **2.** To overtax the strength of; exhaust. **3.** To cook too much, as meat. [OE *oferdōn*]

o·ver·dose (*v.* ō'vər·dōs'; *n.* ō'vər·dōs') *v.t.* **·dosed, ·dos·ing** To dose to excess. — *n.* An excessive dose.

o·ver·draft (ō'vər·draft', -dräft') *n.* **1.** The act of overdrawing an account, as at a bank. **2.** The amount by which an account is overdrawn. Also **o'ver·draught'.**

o·ver·draw (ō'vər·drô') *v.t.* **·drew, ·drawn, ·draw·ing** **1.** To draw against (an account) beyond one's credit. **2.** To draw or strain excessively, as a bow. **3.** To exaggerate.

o·ver·drive (*v.* ō'vər·drīv'; *n.* ō'vər·drīv') *v.t.* **·drove, ·driv·en, ·driv·ing** To drive too hard or too far. — *n.* *Mech.* A gearing device that turns a drive shaft at a speed greater than that of the engine, thus decreasing power output.

o·ver·due (ō'vər·dōō', -dyōō') *adj.* **1.** Remaining unpaid after becoming due. **2.** Past due: an *overdue* plane or train.

o·ver·eat (ō'vər·ēt') *v.i.* **·ate** (-āt', *Brit.* -et') or *Archaic* **·eat** (-et', -ēt'), **·eat·en, ·eat·ing** To eat to excess.

o·ver·es·ti·mate (*v.* ō'vər·es'tə·māt; *n.* ō'vər·es'tə·mit) *v.t.* **·mat·ed, ·mat·ing** To value or estimate too highly. — *n.* An estimate that is too high. — **o'ver·es'ti·ma'tion** *n.*

o·ver·ex·pose (ō'vər·ik·spōz') *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** **1.** To expose excessively. **2.** *Photog.* To expose (a film or plate) too long. — **o'ver·ex·po'sure** (-spō'zhər) *n.*

o·ver·flow (*v.* ō'vər·flō'; *n.* ō'vər·flō') *v.* **·flowed, ·flown, ·flow·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To flow or run over the brim or bank, as water, rivers, etc. **2.** To be filled beyond capacity; superabound. — *v.t.* **3.** To flow over the brim or bank of. **4.** To flow or spread over; cover; flood. **5.** To cause to overflow. — *n.* **1.** The act or process of overflowing. **2.** That which flows over. **3.** The amount by which a capacity is exceeded; surplus. **4.** An outlet for liquid. [OE *oferflōwan*]

o·ver·grow (ō'vər·grō') *v.* **·grew, ·grown, ·grow·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To grow over; cover with growth. **2.** To grow too big for; outgrow. — *v.i.* **3.** To increase excessively; grow too large.

o·ver·hand (ō'vər·hand') *adj.* **1.** In baseball, etc., executed with the hand above the level of the elbow or the shoulder. Also **o'ver·hand'ed** (-han'did). **2.** In sewing, made by carrying the thread over both edges, as a seam. — *adv.* In an overhand manner. — *n.* **1.** An overhand stroke or delivery, as in tennis. **2.** A kind of knot. For illus. see KNOT[1].

o·ver·hang (ō'vər·hang') *v.* **·hung** (-hung'), **·hang·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To hang or project over (something); jut over. **2.** To threaten; menace. **3.** To adorn with hangings. — *v.i.* **4.** To hang or jut over something. — *n.* An overhanging portion of a structure; also, the amount of such projection.

o·ver·haul (*v.* ō'vər·hôl'; *n.* ō'vər·hôl') *v.t.* **1.** To examine carefully for needed repairs. **2.** To make all needed repairs in; renovate. **3.** To catch up with; gain on. — *n.* A thorough inspection and repair. Also **o'ver·haul'ing.**

o·ver·head (*adj. & n.* ō'vər·hed'; *adv.* ō'vər·hed') *adj.* **1.** Situated or working above the level of one's head: an *overhead* light. **2.** Of or relating to the overhead of a business. — *n.* The operating expenses of a business, as rent, light, heat, taxes, etc. — *adv.* Over or above the head.

o·ver·hear (ō'vər·hir') *v.t.* **·heard** (-hûrd'), **·hear·ing** To hear (something said or someone speaking) without the knowledge or intention of the speaker. — **o'ver·hear'er** *n.*

o·ver·joy (ō'vər·joi') *v.t.* To delight or please greatly.

o·ver·kill (ō'vər·kil') *n.* The military capacity for destruction far beyond the resources and population of an enemy.

o·ver·land (ō'vər·land') *adj.* Proceeding over or accomplished by land. — *adv.* Across, over, or via land.

o·ver·lap (*v.* ō'vər·lap'; *n.* ō'vər·lap') *v.t. & v.i.* **·lapped, ·lap·ping** **1.** To lie or extend partly over or upon (another or each other); lap over. **2.** To cover and project beyond (something). — *n.* **1.** The state or extent of overlapping. **2.** The part that overlaps.

o·ver·lay (*v.* ō'vər·lā'; *n.* ō'vər·lā') *v.t.* **·laid, ·lay·ing** **1.** To spread something over, as with a decorative pattern or layer. **2.** To lay or place over or upon something else. **3.** To overburden. — *n.* **1.** *Printing* A piece of paper placed on the tympan of a press to make the impression heavier or to compensate for a depression. **2.** Anything that covers or partly covers something. **3.** An ornamental layer, as veneer, applied to wood, etc. **4.** A transparent sheet laid over a map to add or emphasize certain features.

o·ver·leaf (ō'vər·lēf') *adv.* On the other side of a page.

o·ver·leap (ō'vər·lēp') *v.t.* **·leaped** or **·leapt, ·leap·ing** **1.** To leap over or across. **2.** To omit; overlook. **3.** To leap farther than; outleap. — **to overleap oneself** To miss one's purpose by going too far. [OE *oferhlēapan*]

o·ver·lie (ō'vər·lī') *v.t.* **·lay** (-lā'), **·lain** (-lān'), **·ly·ing** **1.** To lie over or upon. **2.** To suffocate by lying upon.

o·ver·load (*v.* ō'vər·lōd'; *n.* ō'vər·lōd') *v.t.* To load excessively; overburden. — *n.* **1.** An excessive burden. **2.** *Electr.* An amperage in excess of that which can be safely carried.

o·ver·look (*v.* ō·vər·lo͝ok'; *n.* ō'vər·lo͝ok') *v.t.* **1.** To fail to see or notice; miss. **2.** To disregard purposely or indulgently; ignore. **3.** To look over or see from a higher place. **4.** To afford a view of: The castle *overlooks* the harbor. **5.** To supervise; oversee. **6.** To examine or inspect. — *n.* **1.** The act of looking over, as from a height; an inspection; survey. **2.** An elevated place affording a view.

o·ver·lord (ō'vər·lôrd') *n.* **1.** A superior lord or chief. **2.** One who holds supremacy over others. — **o'ver·lord'ship** *n.*

o·ver·ly (ō'vər·lē) *adv.* *Chiefly U.S.* To an excessive degree; too much; too.

o·ver·man (ō'vər·man') *v.t.* **·manned, ·man·ning** To provide with more men than necessary.

o·ver·mas·ter (ō'vər·mas'tər, -mäs'-) *v.t.* To overcome; overpower. — **o'ver·mas'ter·ing** *n. & adj.*

o·ver·match (*v.* ō'vər·mach'; *n.* ō'vər·mach') *v.t.* To be more than a match for; surpass. — *n.* One who or that which is superior in strength, skill, etc.

o·ver·much (ō'vər·much') *adj.* Excessive; too much. — *adv.* In too great a degree. — *n.* An excess; too much.

o·ver·night (*adj. & adv.* ō'vər·nīt'; *n.* ō'vər·mach') *adj.* **1.** Done during the previous evening; lasting all night. **2.** Away from home for one night: *overnight* trip. **3.** Used for nighttime travel or for short visits: an *overnight* bag. — *adv.* **1.** During or through the night. **2.** On the previous evening.

o·ver·pass (*n.* ō'vər·pas', -päs'; *v.* ō'vər·pas', -päs') *n.* An elevated section of highway crossing other lines of travel. — *v.t.* **1.** To pass over, across, or through; cross. **2.** To surpass. **3.** To overlook. **4.** To transgress.

o·ver·play (ō'vər·plā') *v.t.* **1.** To play or act (a part or role) to excess. **2.** To rely too much on the strength or value of. **3.** In golf, to send (the ball) beyond the putting green.

o·ver·pow·er (ō'vər·pou'ər) *v.t.* **1.** To gain supremacy over; subdue. **2.** To render wholly helpless or ineffective; overcome. **3.** To supply with more power than necessary.

o·ver·pow·er·ing (ō'vər·pou'ər·ing) *adj.* **1.** That overpowers. **2.** Intense. — **o'ver·pow'er·ing·ly** *adv.*

o·ver·print (*v.* ō'vər·print'; *n.* ō'vər·print') *v.t.* To print additional material of another color on (sheets already printed). — *n.* Any word, symbol, etc., printed on a postage stamp, changing its value or use.

o·ver·pro·duce (ō'vər·prə·do͝os', -dyo͝os') *v.t.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** To produce too much of or so as to exceed demand.

o·ver·pro·duc·tion (ō'vər·prə·duk'shən) *n.* Production in excess of demand, or of the possibility of profitable sale.

o·ver·rate (ō'vər·rāt') *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To rate or value too highly; credit with undue merit; overestimate.

o·ver·reach (ō'vər·rēch') *v.t.* **1.** To reach over or beyond. **2.** To spread over; cover. **3.** To defeat (oneself), as by attempting something beyond one's capability. **4.** To miss by stretching or reaching too far. **5.** To outwit; cheat. — *v.i.* **6.** To reach too far. **7.** To cheat. — **o'ver·reach'er** *n.*

o·ver·ride (ō'vər·rīd') *v.t.* **·rode** (-rōd'), **·rid·den** (-rid'ən), **·rid·ing** **1.** To disregard summarily, as if trampling down; supersede. **2.** To ride (a horse, etc.) to exhaustion. **3.** To ride over. **4.** To trample down; suppress.

o·ver·rule (ō'vər·ro͞ol') *v.t.* **·ruled, ·rul·ing** **1.** To decide against or nullify; set aside; invalidate. **2.** To disallow the arguments of (someone). **3.** To have control over; rule. **4.** To prevail over.

o·ver·run (*v.* ō'vər·run'; *n.* ō'vər·run') *v.* **·ran** (-ran'), **·run, ·run·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To spread or swarm over, as vermin or in-

vaders. **2.** To overflow. **3.** To spread rapidly across or throughout, as a fashion or fad. **4.** To run beyond; pass the limit of. **5.** *Printing* To shift or rearrange (words, lines of type, etc.) from one line, page, or column to another. — *v.i.* **6.** To run over; overflow. **7.** To pass the usual or desired limit. — *n.* An instance of overrunning; also, the amount of overrunning.

o·ver·score (ō′vər-skôr′, -skōr′) *v.t.* **·scored, ·scor·ing** To draw a line or lines over a word, letter, etc.

o·ver·seas (ō′vər-sēz′) *adv.* Beyond the sea; abroad. — *adj.* Situated, coming from, or for use beyond the sea; foreign: also **o′ver·sea′.**

o·ver·see (ō′vər-sē′) *v.t.* **·saw, ·seen, ·see·ing 1.** To direct; superintend. **2.** To survey; watch. [OE *ofersēon*]

o·ver·se·er (ō′vər-sē′ər, -sir′) *n.* A person who oversees; esp., one who superintends laborers at their work.

o·ver·sell (ō′vər-sel′) *v.t.* **·sold** (-sōld′), **·sell·ing 1.** To sell to excess. **2.** To sell more of (a stock, etc.) than one can provide.

o·ver·set (*v.* ō′vər-set′; *n.* ō′vər-set′) *v.* **·set, ·set·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To disconcert. **2.** *Printing* To set too much (type or copy). — *v.i.* **3.** To overturn; fall over. — *n.* **1.** A turning over; upset. **2.** *Printing* Excess of composed type.

o·ver·shad·ow (ō′vər-shad′ō) *v.t.* **1.** To render unimportant or insignificant by comparison; loom above; dominate. **2.** To throw a shadow over; obscure.

o·ver·shoe (ō′vər-shōō′) *n.* A shoe worn over another for protection against water, mud, cold, etc.; a galosh.

o·ver·shoot (ō′vər-shōōt′) *v.* **·shot, ·shoot·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To shoot or go over or beyond (the mark, target, etc.). **2.** To go beyond; exceed, as a limit. **3.** To drive or force (something) beyond the proper limit. — *v.i.* **4.** To shoot or go over or beyond the mark. **5.** To go too far.

o·ver·shot (ō′vər-shot′) *adj.* **1.** Surpassed in any way. **2.** Projecting, as the upper jaw beyond the lower jaw. **3.** Driven by water flowing over from above: an *overshot* wheel.

o·ver·sight (ō′vər-sīt′) *n.* **1.** An inadvertent mistake or omission. **2.** Watchful supervision; superintendence.

o·ver·size (ō′vər-sīz′) *adj.* Of a larger size than necessary or normal: also **o′ver·sized′.** — *n.* A large size.

o·ver·skirt (ō′vər-skûrt′) *n.* A skirt or drapery worn over the skirt of a dress.

o·ver·sleep (ō′vər-slēp′) *v.* **·slept, ·sleep·ing** *v.i.* To sleep too long.

o·ver·spread (ō′vər-spred′) *v.t.* **·spread, ·spread·ing** To spread or extend over; cover completely.

o·ver·state (ō′vər-stāt′) *v.t.* **·stat·ed, ·stat·ing** To state in too strong terms; exaggerate. — **o′ver·state′ment** *n.*

o·ver·stay (ō′vər-stā′) *v.t.* To stay beyond the limits or duration of.

o·ver·step (ō′vər-step′) *v.t.* **·stepped, ·step·ping** To step over or go beyond; exceed, as a limit or restriction.

o·ver·stock (*v.* ō′vər-stok′, *n.* ō′vər-stok′) *v.t.* To stock to excess. — *n.* An excessive supply.

o·ver·strung (ō′vər-strung′) *adj.* Too tense or sensitive.

o·ver·stuff (ō′vər-stuf′) *v.t.* **1.** To stuff to excess. **2.** To cover completely with deep upholstery: said of furniture.

o·ver·sup·ply (*n.* ō′vər-sə-plī′; *v.* ō′vər-sə-plī′) *n. pl.* **·plies** An excessive supply. — *v.t.* **·plied, ·ply·ing** To supply in excess.

o·vert (ō′vûrt, ō-vûrt′) *adj.* **1.** Open to view; observable. **2.** *Law* Done with criminal intent. [< OF, pp. of *ovrir* to open] — **o·vert′·ly** (ō′vûrt-lē, ō-vûrt′lē) *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** evident, plain, open. See MANIFEST. — **Ant.** covert, hidden, secret.

o·ver·take (ō′vər-tāk′) *v.t.* **·took** (-tŏŏk′), **·tak·en, ·tak·ing 1.** To catch up with. **2.** To come upon suddenly.

o·ver·the·count·er (ō′vər-ŧhə-koun′tər) *adj.* Not sold on the floor of a stock exchange: said of stocks, bonds, etc.

o·ver·throw (*v.* ō′vər-thrō′; *n.* ō′vər-thrō′) *v.t.* **·threw** (-thrōō′), **·thrown, ·throw·ing 1.** To bring down or remove from power by force; defeat; ruin. **2.** To throw over or down; upset. — *n.* **1.** The act of overthrowing; destruction; demolition. **2.** In baseball, etc., a throwing of the ball over and beyond the player or base aimed at.

o·ver·time (*n., adj., & adv.* ō′vər-tīm′; *v.* ō′vər-tīm′) *n.* Time used in working beyond the specified hours. — *adj.* During or for extra working time: *overtime* pay. — *adv.* Beyond the stipulated time. — *v.t.* **·timed, ·tim·ing** *Photog.* To expose too long, as a plate or film.

o·ver·tone (ō′vər-tōn′) *n.* **1.** *Music* An upper partial tone: so called because it is heard with and above the fundamental tone produced by a musical instrument. **2.** Connotations, implications, etc., of language, thoughts, etc.

o·ver·top (ō′vər-top′) *v.t.* **·topped, ·top·ping 1.** To rise above the top of; tower over. **2.** To surpass; excel.

o·ver·ture (ō′vər-chər) *n.* **1.** *Music* **a** An instrumental prelude to an opera or other large work. **b** Any of various orchestral pieces, often having programmatic content. **2.** An act or proposal intended to initiate a relationship, negotiations, etc. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing 1.** To offer as an overture or proposal. **2.** To introduce with or as an overture. [See OVERT.]

o·ver·turn (*v.* ō′vər-tûrn′; *n.* ō′vər-tûrn′) *v.t.* **1.** To turn or throw over; capsize; upset. **2.** To overthrow; defeat; ruin. — *v.i.* **3.** To turn over; capsize; upset. — *n.* **1.** The act of overturning, or the state of being overturned. **2.** A subversion or destruction. **3.** Turnover (def. 6).

o·ver·ween·ing (ō′vər-wē′ning) *adj.* **1.** Presumptiously proud or conceited. **2.** Excessive; exaggerated. [OE *oferwēnan* to become insolent] — **o′ver·ween′ing·ly** *adv.*

o·ver·weigh (ō′vər-wā′) *v.t.* **1.** To outweigh; overbalance. **2.** To overburden; oppress.

o·ver·weight (*n.* ō′vər-wāt′; *adj. & v.* ō′vər-wāt′) *n.* **1.** Excess weight, as beyond the legal or customary amount. **2.** Greater importance; preponderance. — *adj.* Being more than the usual or permitted weight. — *v.t.* To overburden.

o·ver·whelm (ō′vər-hwelm′) *v.t.* **1.** To bury or submerge completely, as with a wave or flood. **2.** To overcome or defeat; crush. [ME *oferwhelmen* to turn upside down]

— **Syn. 1.** inundate, bury. **2.** rout, vanquish.

o·ver·whelm·ing (ō′vər-hwel′ming) *adj.* Crushing by reason of force, weight, or numbers; irresistible. — **o′ver·whelm′ing·ly** *adv.*

o·ver·work (*v.* ō′vər-wûrk′; *n.* ō′vər-wûrk′) *v.* **·worked** (*Archaic* **·wrought**), **·work·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to work too hard. **2.** To work on or elaborate excessively: to *overwork* an argument. — *v.i.* **3.** To work too hard; do too much work. — *n.* Excessive work. [OE *oferwiercan*]

o·ver·write (ō′vər-rīt′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·wrote** (-rōt′), **·writ·ten** (-rit′ən), **·writ·ing 1.** To write in too elaborate or labored a style. **2.** To write too much about (a subject) or at too great length. **3.** To write over other writing.

o·ver·wrought (ō′vər-rôt′) *adj.* **1.** Worked up or excited excessively; overstrained. **2.** Worked all over, as with embroidery. **3.** Worked too hard. **4.** Too elaborate.

ovi- *combining form* Egg; of or pertaining to eggs: *oviparous.* Also **ovo-.** [< L *ovum* egg]

o·vi·duct (ō′vi-dukt) *n. Anat.* A Fallopian tube.

o·vi·form (ō′vi-fôrm) *adj.* Shaped like an egg or ovum.

o·vip·a·ra (ō-vip′ər-ə) *n.pl.* Animals that lay eggs. [< NL < L < *ovum* egg + *-parus* < *parere* to bring forth]

o·vip·a·rous (ō-vip′ər-əs) *adj. Zool.* Producing eggs or ova that mature and are hatched outside the body, as birds, most fishes, and reptiles. — **o·vip′a·rous·ly** *adv.* — **o·vip′·a·rous·ness** *n.*

o·vi·pos·i·tor (ō′vi-poz′ə-tər) *n. Entomol.* The tubular organ at the extremity of the abdomen in many insects by which the eggs are deposited. [< OVI- + L *ponere* to place]

o·void (ō′void) *adj.* Egg-shaped: also **o·voi′dal.** — *n.* An egg-shaped body.

o·vo·vi·vip·a·rous (ō′vō-vi-vip′ər-əs) *adj. Zool.* Producing eggs that are hatched within the parent's body, but without formation of a placenta, as some reptiles and fishes. — **o′vo·vi·vip′a·rous·ly** *adv.* — **o′vo·vi·vip′a·rous·ness** *n.*

o·vu·late (ō′vyə-lāt) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To produce ova; discharge ova from an ovary. [See OVULE.]

o·vu·la·tion (ō′vyə-lā′shən) *n. Biol.* **1.** The formation and discharge of ova. **2.** The period when this occurs.

o·vule (ō′vyōōl) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* The body within the ovary that upon fertilization becomes the seed. For illus. see FLOWER. **2.** *Zool.* An immature ovum. [< F < NL *ovulum,* dim. of L *ovum* egg] — **o′vu·lar, o·vu·lar·y** (ō′vyə-ler′ē) *adj.*

o·vum (ō′vəm) *n. pl.* **o·va** (ō′və) *Biol.* The female reproductive cell of animals, produced in the ovary. [< L]

owe (ō) *v.* **owed** (*Obs.* **ought**), **ow·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To be indebted to the amount of. **2.** To be obligated to render or offer: to *owe* an apology. **3.** To have or possess by virtue of some condition or cause: with *to*: He *owes* his success to his own efforts. **4.** To cherish (a certain feeling) toward another. — *v.i.* **5.** To be in debt. [OE *āgan* to own]

ow·ing (ō′ing) *adj.* Due; yet to be paid. — **owing to** Attributable to; on account of; in consequence of.

owl (oul) *n.* **1.** A predatory nocturnal bird, having large eyes and head, short, sharply hooked bill, long powerful claws, and a circular facial disk of radiating feathers. **2.** A person with nocturnal habits. [OE *ūle*]

owl·et (ou′lit) *n.* A small or young owl.

owl·ish (ou′lish) *adj.* **1.** Like an owl. **2.** *Brit. Dial.* Stupid. — **owl′ish·ly** *adv.* — **owl′ish·ness** *n.*

own (ōn) *adj.* **1.** Belonging or relating to oneself: following the possessive (usu. a possessive pronoun) as an intensive or to indicate the exclusion of others: my *own* horse; his *own* idea. **2.** Being of the nearest degree: *own* cousin. — **to come into one's own 1.** To obtain possession of one's property. **2.** To receive one's reward. — **to hold one's own 1.** To maintain one's place or position. **2.** To keep up with one's

work, or remain undefeated. **— on one's own** Entirely dependent on one's self for support or success. — *v.t.* **1.** To have or hold as one's own; possess. **2.** To admit or acknowledge. — *v.i.* **3.** To confess: with *to*. **— to own up** *Informal* To confess forthrightly and fully. **— Syn.** See CONFESS. [OE *āgan* to possess, have] **— own'a·ble** *adj.*

own·er (ō'nər) *n.* One who has the legal title or right to or has possession of a thing. **— own'er·less** *adj.*

own·er·ship (ō'nər·ship) *n.* The state of being an owner.

ox (oks) *n. pl.* **ox·en** (ok'sən) **1.** An adult castrated male of the genus *Bos*, used for draft and food. **2.** Any bovine quadruped, as a buffalo, bison, or yak. [OE *oxa*]

ox·al·ic acid (ok·sal'ik) *Chem.* A white, crystalline, poisonous compound, $C_2H_2O_4 \cdot 2H_2O$, found in plant tissues and made artificially, used in bleaching, dyeing, etc.

ox·blood (oks'blud') *n.* A deep red color.

ox·bow (oks'bō') *n.* **1.** A bent piece of wood in an ox yoke, that forms a collar for the ox. **2.** A bend in a river shaped like this.

ox·eye (oks'ī') *n.* **1.** Any of several plants of the composite family having large yellow heads. **2.** The oxeye daisy. **3.** Any of various shore birds, as the sandpiper. **4.** An oval dormer window.

ox-eyed (oks'īd) *adj.* Having large, calm eyes, as an ox.

ox·ford (oks'fərd) *n. U.S.* **1.** A low shoe laced at the instep. Also **oxford shoe.** **2.** A cotton cloth of basket weave, used for men's shirts. Also **Oxford.** [after *Oxford*]

oxford gray **1.** A very dark gray. **2.** A woolen fabric of this color.

ox·heart (oks'härt') *n.* A variety of sweet cherry.

ox·i·da·tion (ok'sə·dā'shən) *n. Chem.* **1.** The process or state of undergoing combination with oxygen. **2.** The process by which atoms lose or are deprived of valence electrons, or begin sharing them with a more electronegative element.

ox·ide (ok'sīd, -sid) *n. Chem.* Any binary compound of oxygen with another element: iron *oxide*. Also **ox'id** (-sid). [< F < *ox(ygène)* oxygen + *(ac)ide* acid]

ox·i·dize (ok'sə·dīz) *v.* **·dized, ·diz·ing** *Chem. v.t.* **1.** To convert (an element) into its oxide; combine with oxygen. **2.** To increase the valence of an atom or group of atoms by the loss of electrons. — *v.i.* **3.** To become oxidized. Also **ox·i·date** (ok'sə·dāt). Also *Brit.* **ox'i·dise.** **— ox'i·diz'a·ble** *adj.*

ox·lip (oks'lip') *n.* A species of primrose, closely resembling the cowslip: also called *five-fingers*. [OE < *oxa, oxan* ox + *slyppe* slime]

Ox·o·ni·an (ok·sō'nē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Oxford, England, or to its university. — *n.* A student or graduate of Oxford University. [< LL *Oxonia* Oxford]

ox·tail (oks'tāl') *n.* The tail of an ox, esp. when skinned for use in soup.

oxy-[1] *combining form* **1.** Sharp; pointed; keen. **2.** Acid: *oxygen*. [< Gk. *oxys* sharp, acid]

oxy-[2] *combining form Chem.* **1.** Oxygen; of or containing oxygen, or one of its compounds. **2.** An oxidation product. **3.** Containing the hydroxyl group. [< OXYGEN]

ox·y·a·cet·y·lene (ok'sē·ə·set'ə·lēn) *adj.* Designating or pertaining to a mixture of acetylene and oxygen, used to obtain high temperatures, as in welding.

ox·y·gen (ok'sə·jin) *n.* A colorless, tasteless, odorless gaseous element (symbol O), occurring free in the atmosphere, of which it forms about one-fifth by volume. It is an abundant and active element, combining with hydrogen to form water, supporting combustion, and essential in the respiration of plants and animals. See ELEMENT. [< F < *oxy-*oxy-[1] + *-gène* -gen]

ox·y·gen·ate (ok'sə·jən·āt') *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To treat, combine, or impregnate with oxygen. **— ox'y·gen·a'tion** *n.*

ox·y·gen·ize (ok'sə·jən·īz') *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To oxidize.

oxygen mask A device worn over the nose and mouth by means of which the user can inhale oxygen as an aid to breathing.

oxygen tent A tentlike canopy placed over a patient's head and shoulders, within which pure oxygen may be circulated for the purpose of facilitating respiration.

ox·y·hy·dro·gen (ok'si·hī'drə·jən) *n.* A mixture of oxygen and hydrogen.

ox·y·mo·ron (ok'si·môr'on, -mō'ron) *n. pl.* **·mo·ra** (-môr'ə, -mō'rə) A figure of speech in which contradictory terms are brought together, as in the phrase, *"O heavy lightness, serious vanity!"* [< Gk. < *oxys* sharp + *moros* foolish]

o·yez (ō'yes, ō'yez) *interj.* Hear! hear ye! an introductory word to call attention to a proclamation, as by a court crier: usu. repeated three times. Also **o'yes.** [< OF *oyez*, imperative of *oir*, ult. < L *audire* to hear]

oys·ter (ois'tər) *n.* **1.** A bivalve mollusk, found in salt and brackish water and moored by the shell to stones, other shells, etc.; esp., a common edible species of Europe and America. **2.** An analogous bivalve, as the **pearl oyster.** **3.** Some delicacy; tidbit; prize. — *v.i.* To gather or farm oysters. [< OF < L < Gk. *ostreon*]

oyster bed A place where oysters breed or are grown.

oyster crab A smooth-bodied crab living nonparasitically in the mantle of the oyster.

oyster cracker A small biscuit or hard, salted cracker.

oyster plant Salsify.

Oyster White Any of several very light gray tints.

Ozark State (ō'zärk) Nickname of Missouri.

o·zo·ce·rite (ō·zō'kə·rīt, -sə-, ō'zō·sir'īt) *n.* A waxy, translucent mixture of natural hydrocarbons, used in candles, etc. Also **o·zo'ke·rite.** [< G < Gk. *ozein* to smell + *keros* wax]

o·zone (ō'zōn) *n.* **1.** An unstable allotropic form of oxygen, O_3, with a pungent odor like that of chlorine, formed variously, as by the passage of electricity through the air. It is a powerful oxidizing agent, and is used for bleaching oils, waxes, ivory, flour, and starch, and for sterilizing drinking water. **2.** *Informal* Fresh air. [< F < Gk. *ozein* to smell] **— o·zon·ic** (ō·zon'ik, ō·zō'nik), **o·zo·nous** (ō'zə·nəs) *adj.*

o·zo·nize (ō'zō·nīz) *v.t.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** **1.** To treat or charge with ozone. **2.** To convert (oxygen) into ozone. **— o'zo·ni·za'tion** *n.* **— o'zo·niz'er** *n.*

o·zon·o·sphere (ō·zon'ə·sfir) *n. Meteorol.* A narrow layer in the stratosphere, containing a high concentration of ozone. Also **ozone layer.** **— o·zon'o·spher'ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.*

P

p, P (pē) *n. pl.* **p's** or **ps, P's** or **Ps, pees** (pēz) **1.** The sixteenth letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *p*, the voiceless bilabial stop. **— *symbol* 1.** *Chem.* Phosphorus (symbol P). **2.** *Genetics* The parental generation: followed by a subscript numeral, as P_1, P_2, to indicate the first, second, etc., parental generation. **— to mind one's P's and Q's** To be careful of one's behavior.

pa (pä) *n. Informal* Papa.

paba or **PABA** *Biochem.* Para-aminobenzoic acid.

pab·u·lum (pab'yə·ləm) *n.* Any substance giving nourishment; aliment. [< L *pabulum* fodder] **— pab'u·lar** *adj.*

pace (pās) *n.* **1.** A step in walking; also, the distance covered in one such movement. **2.** A conventional measure of length approximating the average length of stride in walking: usu. 3 feet, but sometimes making 5 paces to the rod. The U.S. Army **regulation pace** is 30 inches, quick time; 36 inches, double time. **3.** The manner or speed of movement in going on the legs; carriage and action, esp. of a horse. **4.** Rate of speed, as in movement, work, etc. **5.** A gait of a horse, etc., in which both feet on the same side are lifted and moved forward at once. **— to put (one) through his paces** To test the abilities, speed, etc., of. — *v.* **paced, pac·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To walk back and forth across. **2.** To measure by paces. **3.** To set or make the pace for. **4.** To train to a certain gait or pace. — *v.i.* **5.** To walk with slow or regular steps. **6.** To move at a pace (def. 5). [< F < L *passus*, pp. of *pandere* to stretch.] **— pac'er** *n.*

paced (pāst) *adj.* **1.** Having a particular pace: used in compounds: slow-*paced*. **2.** Measured in paces or by pacing. **3.** Done after or with the help of a pacemaker.

pace·mak·er (pās'mā'kər) *n.* **1.** One who makes or sets the pace for another in a race. **2.** *Anat.* A mass of tissue in the right atrium of the heart that normally regulates the heartbeat. **— pace'mak'ing** *n. & adj.*

pa·cha (pə·shä', pash'ə), **pa·cha·lic** (pə·shä'lik) See PASHA, PASHALIK.

pach·ou·li (pach'ōō·lē, pə·chōō'lē) See PATCHOULI.

pachy- *combining form* Thick; massive. [< Gk. *pachys* thick]

pach·y·derm (pak'ə·dûrm) *n.* **1.** Any of certain thick-skinned, nonruminant hoofed animals, esp. an elephant, hippopotamus, or rhinoceros. **2.** A thick-skinned, insensitive

person. [< F < Gk. < *pachys* thick + *derma* skin] — **pach'y·der'ma·tous** (-dûr'mə·təs), **pach'y·der'mous** *adj.*

pa·cif'ic (pə·sif'ik) *adj.* **1.** Tending or leading to peace or conciliation. **2.** Peaceful. Also **pa·cif'i·cal.** [< MF < L < *pax, pacis* peace + *facere* to make] — **pa·cif'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Pa·cif'ic (pə·sif'ik) *adj.* Pertaining to the Pacific Ocean.

pac'i·fi·cate (pas'ə·fə·kāt') *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To pacify; calm. — **pac·i·fi·ca·tion** (pas'ə·fə·kā'shən) *n.* — **pac'i·fi·ca'tor** *n.* — **pa·cif'i·ca·to'ry** (-kə·tôr'ē, -tō'rē) *adj.*

pac·i·fi·er (pas'ə·fī'ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which pacifies. **2.** A rubber nipple or ring, for babies to suck or bite on.

pac·i·fist (pas'ə·fist) *n.* One who opposes war or military preparedness, and proposes that all disputes be settled by arbitration. — **pac'i·fism** *n.* — **pac'i·fis'tic** *adj.*

pac·i·fy (pas'ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing 1.** To bring peace to (an area). **2.** To allay the anger or agitation of; quiet; soothe. [< F < L < *pax, pacis* peace + *facere* to make]

pack[1] (pak) *n.* **1.** A bundle or large package, esp. one to be carried on the back of a man or animal. **2.** A collection of anything; heap. **3.** A full set of like or associated things usu. handled collectively, as cards. **4.** A group of dogs or wolves that hunt together. **5.** Any gang or band, esp. a criminal gang. **6.** An ice pack. **7.** A cosmetic paste for the face. **8.** A wrapping of sheets or blankets used in certain water-cure treatments; also, the sheets or blankets used. **9.** A parachute, fully assembled and folded for use. **10.** The quantity of something, as foods, put in containers for preservation at one time or in one season. — **Syn.** See FLOCK. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a pack or bundle of. **2.** To place compactly in a trunk, box, etc., for storing or carrying. **3.** To fill compactly, as for storing or carrying. **4.** To put up for preservation or sale. **5.** To compress tightly; crowd together. **6.** To fill completely or to overflowing; cram. **7.** To cover, fill, or surround so as to prevent leakage, damage, etc.: to *pack* a piston rod. **8.** To load with a pack; burden. **9.** To carry or transport on the back or on pack animals. **10.** To carry or wear habitually: to *pack* a gun. **11.** To send or dispatch summarily: with *off* or *away*. **12.** To treat with a pack (def. 7). **13.** *Slang* To be able to inflict: He *packs* a wallop. — *v.i.* **14.** To place one's clothes and belongings in trunks, boxes, etc., for storing or carrying. **15.** To be capable of being stowed or packed. **16.** To crowd together. **17.** To settle in a hard, firm mass **18.** To leave in haste: often with *off* or *away*. — **to send packing** To send away or dismiss summarily. [ME *pakke*, appar. < LG *pak*] — **pack'er** *n.*

pack[2] (pak) *v.t.* To arrange, select, or manipulate to one's own advantage: to *pack* a jury. [? < PACK[1]]

pack·age (pak'ij) *n.* **1.** Something packed, wrapped up, or bound together, as for transportation. **2.** A box, case, or other receptacle used for packing. **3.** The act of packing. **4.** A combination of items considered as a unit. — *v.t.* **·aged, ·ag·ing** To arrange or tie into a package.

package store *U.S.* A store that sells liquor by the bottle.

pack animal An animal used to carry packs or burdens.

pack·et (pak'it) *n.* **1.** A small package; parcel. **2.** A steamship for conveying mails, passengers, and freight at stated times: also **packet boat.** — *v.t.* To make into a packet or parcel. [< AF *pacquet*, dim. of ME *pakke*]

pack·ing (pak'ing) *n.* **1.** The act or operation of one who or that which packs. **2.** The canning or putting up of meat, fish, fruit, etc. **3.** Any material used in packing, closing a joint, stopping a wound, etc.

packing box **1.** A stout box in which goods are packed. Also **packing case.** **2.** *Mech.* A stuffing box.

packing plant *U.S.* A factory where meats and meat products are processed and packed. Also *U.S.* **packing house.**

pack rat A North American rat that carries off and hides small articles in its nest.

pack·sad·dle (pak'sad'l) *n.* A saddle for a pack animal, to which the packs are fastened so as to balance evenly.

pack·thread (pak'thred') *n.* Strong thread used for wrapping.

pact (pakt) *n.* An agreement; compact. [< OF < L *pactum* agreement]

pad[1] (pad) *n.* **1.** A cushion; also, any stuffed, cushionlike thing serving to protect from jarring, friction, etc. **2.** A number of sheets of paper gummed together at one edge; a tablet. **3.** A large floating leaf of an aquatic plant: a lily *pad*. **4.** A soft cushionlike enlargement of skin on the undersurface of the toes of many animals. **5.** The foot of a fox, otter, etc. **6.** The footprint of an animal. **7.** A launching pad. — *v.t.* **pad·ded, pad·ding 1.** To stuff, line, or protect with pads or padding. **2.** To lengthen (speech or writing) by inserting unnecessary matter. **3.** To add to (an expense account, voting register, etc.) for fraudulent purposes. [Origin unknown]

pad[2] (pad) *v.i.* **pad·ded, pad·ding 1.** To travel by walking. **2.** To move with soft, almost noiseless footsteps. — *n.* A dull, padded sound, as of a footstep. [Akin to PAD[3]]

pad[3] (pad) *n.* **1.** An easy-paced road horse. **2.** A highwayman. [< LG *pad* path]

pad·ding (pad'ing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which pads. **2.** Material with which to pad. **3.** Extraneous matter used in writing, etc., merely to fill space.

pad·dle (pad'l) *n.* **1.** A broad-bladed implement resembling a short oar, used without a rowlock in propelling a canoe or small boat. **2.** The distance covered during one trip in a canoe over a given time. **3.** A flat board for inflicting bodily punishment. **4.** A small, rounded, flat piece of wood with a handle, used in table tennis. **5.** The act of paddling. — *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.i.* **1.** To move a canoe, etc., on or through water by means of a paddle. **2.** To row gently or lightly. **3.** To swim with short, downward strokes, as ducks do. **4.** To play in water with the hands or feet; wade. — *v.t.* **5.** To propel by means of a paddle or paddles. **6.** To convey by paddling. **7.** To beat with a paddle; spank. **8.** To stir. — **to paddle one's own canoe** To be independent. [ME, ? var. of *patel* < L *patella* shallow pan] — **pad'dler** *n.*

paddle board One of the broad, paddlelike boards set on the circumference of a paddle wheel or water wheel.

pad·dle·fish (pad'l·fish') *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** A large fish having a scaleless body and paddle-shaped snout, found in the Mississippi Valley streams.

paddle wheel A wheel having projecting floats or boards for propelling a vessel.

pad·dling (pad'ling) *n.* **1.** The act of propelling with a paddle. **2.** A beating or spanking.

pad·dock (pad'ək) *n.* **1.** A pasture, lot, or enclosure for exercising horses, adjoining a stable. **2.** A grassed enclosure at a racecourse where horses are walked and saddled. — *v.t.* To confine in a paddock, as horses. [Alter. of dial. E *parrock*, OE *pearruc* enclosure]

pad·dy[1] (pad'ē) *n. pl.* **·dies** The ruddy duck. [after *Paddy*, a proper name]

pad·dy[2] (pad'ē) *n. pl.* **·dies** Rice in the husk, whether gathered or growing. [< Malay *pādī*]

paddy wagon *U.S. Slang* A patrol wagon.

pa·di·shah (pä'di·shä) *n.* Lord protector; chief ruler: a title of the shah of Iran. Also **pad·shah** (päd'shä). [< Persian < *pati* master + *shāh* king]

pad·lock (pad'lok') *n.* A detachable lock, having a pivoted hasp to be passed through a staple or ring and then locked. — *v.t.* To fasten with or as with a padlock. [ME]

pa·dre (pä'drā) *n.* **1.** Father: a title used in Italy, Spain, and Spanish America in addressing or speaking of priests. **2.** An army or navy chaplain. [< L *pater, patris* father]

pae·an (pē'ən) *n.* A song of joy or exultation. Also spelled *pean*. [< L < Gk. *paian* hymn addressed to Apollo]

paed-, paedo- See PEDO-.

paed·e·rast (ped'ər·ast), etc. See PEDERAST, etc.

pa·gan (pā'gən) *n.* **1.** One who is neither a Christian, a Jew, nor a Moslem; a heathen. **2.** In early Christian use, an idol worshiper. **3.** An irreligious person. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or like pagans; heathenish. [< LL < L, orig., villager < *pagus* the country] — **pa'gan·dom** *n.* — **pa'gan·ish** *adj.* — **pa'gan·ism** *n.*

pa·gan·ize (pā'gən·īz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make or become pagan.

page[1] (pāj) *n.* **1.** A male attendant; esp., in chivalry, a lad or young man in training for knighthood, or a youth attending a royal or princely personage. **2.** In Congress or other legislatures, a boy who attends upon legislators while in session. **3.** A boy employed in a hotel, club, etc., to perform light duties. — *v.t.* **paged, pag·ing 1.** To seek or summon (a person) by calling his name. **2.** To wait on as a page. [< OF < Ital. < Gk., < *pais, paidos* boy]

page[2] (pāj) *n.* **1.** One side of a leaf of a book, letter, etc. **2.** The printing or the type used on one side. **3.** Any event or events worthy of being noted or recorded: a sad *page* in history. **4.** *Usu. pl.* Any source or record of knowledge. — *v.* **paged, pag·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To mark the pages of with numbers. — *v.i.* **2.** To turn pages: usu. with *through*. [< F < L *pagina* written page < *pangere* to fasten]

pag·eant (paj'ənt) *n.* **1.** A community outdoor celebration presenting scenes from local history and tradition. **2.** An exhibition or spectacular parade devised for a public celebration. **3.** A theatrical spectacle. **4.** Unsubstantial display. [< Med.L *pagina* scaffold of a stage]

pag·eant·ry (paj'ən·trē) *n. pl.* **·ries 1.** Pageants collectively. **2.** Ceremonial splendor or display. **3.** Empty or showy display.

pag·i·nate (paj'ə·nāt) *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** To number the pages of (a book) consecutively. [< L *pagina* page + -ATE[1]]

pag·i·na·tion (paj'ə·nā'shən) *n.* **1.** The numbering of the pages, as of a book. **2.** The system of figures and marks used in paging.

pa·go·da (pə·gō'də) *n.* In the Far East, a sacred tower or

temple, usu. pyramidal. Also **pag·od** (pag′əd, pə·god′). [< Pg. < Tamil < Skt. *bhagavati* belonging to a deity]

paid (pād) Past tense and past participle of PAY.

pail (pāl) *n.* **1.** A cylindrical vessel for carrying liquids, etc., properly having a handle; bucket. **2.** The amount carried in this vessel. [OE *paegel* wine measure] **— pail′ful′** *n.*

pail·lasse (pal·yas′, pal′yas) *n.* A mattress of straw, excelsior, etc.: also spelled *palliasse*. [< MF < L *palea* chaff]

pain (pān) *n.* **1.** The unpleasant sensation or feeling resulting from or accompanying some injury, overstrain, or obstruction of the physical powers. **2.** Any distressing or afflicting emotion. **3.** *pl.* Care, effort, etc. expended on anything: with much *pains*. **4.** *pl.* The pangs of childbirth. **— on** (or **upon** or **under**) **pain of** With the penalty of (some specified punishment). **— to take pains** To be careful; to make an effort. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To cause pain to; hurt. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To cause pain. [< OF < L < Gk. *poinē* fine, penalty]

pained (pānd) *adj.* **1.** Hurt physically or mentally; distressed. **2.** Showing pain: a *pained* expression.

pain·ful (pān′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Giving pain; distressing. **2.** Requiring labor or care; arduous. **3.** Affected with pain: said of the body. **— pain′ful·ly** *adv.* **— pain′ful·ness** *n.*

pain·less (pān′lis) *adj.* Free from pain; causing no pain. **— pain′less·ly** *adv.* **— pain′less·ness** *n.*

pains·tak·ing (pānz′tā′king, pān′stā′-) *adj.* Careful; assiduous. **—** *n.* Careful effort. **— pains′tak′ing′ly** *adv.*

paint (pānt) *n.* **1.** A color or pigment, either dry or mixed with oil, water, etc. **2.** A cosmetic, as rouge. **3.** Grease paint. **4.** A film, layer, or coat of pigment applied to the surface of an object; also, the dry coating of such a pigment: cracked *paint*. **—** *v.t.* **1.** In art: **a** To make a representation of in paints or colors. **b** To make, as a picture, by applying paints or colors. **2.** To describe vividly, as in words. **3.** To cover, coat, or decorate with paint. **4.** To apply cosmetics to. **5.** To apply (medicine, etc.) with or as with a swab. **—** *v.i.* **6.** To practice the art of painting; paint pictures. **7.** To apply cosmetics to the face, etc. [< OF < L *pingere* to paint] **— paint·y** (pān′tē) *adj.*

paint-brush (pānt′brush′) *n.* A brush for applying paint.

paint·ed (pān′tid) *adj.* **1.** Coated with paint. **2.** Depicted in colors. **3.** Having no reality, truth, or value; artificial.

painted bunting A brilliantly colored finch widely distributed in the southern U.S. Also **painted finch.**

paint·er[1] (pān′tər) *n.* **1.** One who covers surfaces with a coat of paint. **2.** An artist who paints in oils, etc.

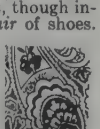
paint·er[2] (pān′tər) *n. Naut.* A rope with which to fasten a boat by its bow. [Prob. < OF < L *pendere* to suspend]

paint·er[3] (pān′tər) *n. U.S. Dial.* The puma, or cougar. [Var. of PANTHER]

paint·ing (pān′ting) *n.* **1.** The act of laying on paints with a brush. **2.** The art of creating meaningful effects on a surface by the use of pigments. **3.** A picture.

pair (pâr) *v.t.* **1.** To bring together or arrange in a pair or pairs; match; couple; mate. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To come together as a couple or pair. **3.** To marry or mate. **— to pair off 1.** To separate into couples. **2.** To arrange by pairs. **—** *n.* **1.** Two persons or things of a kind, that are joined, related, or associated; a couple; brace. **2.** A single thing having two correspondent parts dependent on each other: a *pair* of scissors. **3.** A married couple; also, two animals mated. **4.** In legislative bodies, two opposed members who agree to abstain from voting, and so offset each other. **5.** A set of similar things making a whole: a *pair* of pajamas. **6.** In some games of cards, two cards of the same denomination: a *pair* of queens. ◆ Current usage calls for *pair* in the plural after a numeral of two or more, as, four *pairs* of shoes, though informally the singular is often used, as, four *pair* of shoes. [< F < L neut. plural of *par* equal]

Pais·ley (pāz′lē) *adj.* Made of or resembling a patterned woolen fabric originally made in Paisley, Scotland. **—** *n.* **1.** Paisley fabric. **2.** A Paisley shawl.



PAISLEY DESIGN

pa·ja·mas (pə·jä′məz, -jam′əz) *n. pl. of* **pa·ja·ma** (-mə) **1.** A garment consisting of loose trousers of silk, cotton, etc., and an accompanying jacket or blouse, used for sleeping. **2.** In the Orient, similar trousers worn by both men and women Also, *Brit.*, *pyjamas*. [< Hind. < Persian *pāi* leg + *jāmāh* garment]

pal (pal) *Informal n.* A friend or chum. **—** *v.i.* **palled, pal·ling** To associate as pals. [< Romany ult. < Skt. *bharatr* brother]

pal·ace (pal′is) *n.* **1.** A royal residence, or the official residence of some high dignitary, as of a bishop. **2.** Any splendid residence or stately building. [< OF < L *Palatium* Palatine Hill at Rome, on which stood the palace of Caesar Augustus]

pal·a·din (pal′ə·din) *n.* **1.** Any of the twelve peers of Charlemagne. **2.** A paragon of knighthood. [< F < Ital. < L < *palatium*. See PALACE.]

palae- Var. of PALEO-.

palaeo- See PALEO-.

pal·an·quin (pal′ən·kēn′) *n.* A type of covered litter used as a means of conveyance in the Orient, borne by poles on the shoulders of two or more men. Also **pal′an·keen′.** [< Pg. < Javanese < Skt. *palyaṅka*]

pal·at·a·ble (pal′it·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Agreeable to the taste or palate; savory. **2.** Acceptable. **— pal′at·a·bil′i·ty, pal′at·a·ble·ness** *n.* **— pal′at·a·bly** *adv.*

pal·a·tal (pal′ə·təl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the palate. **2.** *Phonet.* **a** Produced by placing the front (not the tip) of the tongue near or against the hard palate, as *y* in English *yoke*. **b** Produced with the blade of the tongue near the hard palate, as *ch* in *child*, *j* in *joy*. **—** *n. Anat.* **1.** A bone of the palate. **2.** *Phonet.* **a** A palatal consonant. **b** A front vowel. [< F < L *palatum* palate]

pal·a·tal·ize (pal′ə·təl·īz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *Phonet.* To change a nonpalatal sound to a palatal by assimilation, as (-yōōr) to (-shər) in *censure*. **— pal′a·tal·i·za′tion** *n.*

pal·ate (pal′it) *n.* **1.** *Anat.* The roof of the mouth, consisting of the anterior **hard palate**, having a bony skeleton, and the posterior **soft palate**, that is composed of muscular tissue. For illus. see MOUTH, THROAT. **2.** The sense of taste. [< L *palatum*.]

pa·la·tial (pə·lā′shəl) *adj.* Of, like, or befitting a palace; magnificent. **— pa·la′tial·ly** *adv.*

pa·lat·i·nate (pə·lat′ə·nāt, -nit) *n.* A political division ruled over by a prince possessing certain prerogatives of royalty within his own domain.

pal·a·tine[1] (pal′ə·tin, -tīn) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the palate. **—** *n. Anat.* Either of the two bones forming the hard palate. [< F < L *palatum* palate]

pal·a·tine[2] (pal′ə·tīn, -tin) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a royal palace or its officials. **2.** Possessing royal prerogatives: a count *palatine*. **—** *n.* **1.** A lord exercising sovereign power over a province. **2.** A vassal exercising royal privileges over his territory. **3.** The ruler of a palatinate or county palatine. [< F < L < *palatium* palace]

pa·lav·er (pə·lav′ər) *n.* **1.** Empty talk, esp. that intended to flatter or deceive. **2.** A public discussion or conference. **3.** Originally, a parley with native or aboriginal inhabitants, as by explorers. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To flatter; cajole. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To talk idly and at length. [< Pg. < LL *parabola* story, word] **— pa·lav′er·er** *n.*

pale[1] (pāl) *n.* **1.** A pointed stick or stake. **2.** A fence enclosing a piece of ground. **3.** Any boundary or limit. **4.** That which is enclosed within bounds. **—** *v.t.* **paled, pal·ing** To enclose with pales; fence in. [< OF < L *palus* stake]

pale[2] (pāl) *adj.* **1.** Of a whitish or ashen appearance. **2.** Of a very light shade of any color; lacking in brightness or intensity of color. **3.** Feeble or weak. **—** *v.i. & v.t.* **paled, pal·ing** To make or turn pale; blanch. [< OF < L < *pallere* to be pale] **— pale′ly** *adv.* **— pale′ness** *n.*

pale-face (pāl′fās′) *n.* A white person: a term allegedly originated by North American Indians.

paleo- *combining form* **1.** Ancient; old. **2.** Primitive. Also, before vowels, **pale-**. Also *palae-*, *palaeo-*. [< Gk. *palaios* old, ancient]

Pa·le·o·cene (pā′lē·ə·sēn′) *Geol. adj.* Of or pertaining to the oldest epoch of the Tertiary period, preceding the Eocene. **—** *n.* This epoch. See chart for GEOLOGY.

pa·le·og·ra·phy (pā′lē·og′rə·fē) *n.* **1.** An ancient mode of writing; ancient writings collectively. **2.** The science of describing or deciphering ancient writings. **— pa′le·og′ra·pher** *n.* **— pa′le·o·graph′ic** (-ə·graf′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

Pa·le·o·lith·ic (pā′lē·ō·lith′ik) *adj. Anthropol.* Designating, pertaining to, or associated with a period of human culture preceding the Mesolithic and characterized by chipped or flaked stone implements, cave paintings, etc.

pa·le·ol·o·gy (pā′lē·ol′ə·jē) *n.* The study of antiquity or antiquities; archeology. **— pa′le·o·log′i·cal** (-ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* **— pa′le·ol′o·gist** *n.*

pa·le·on·tol·o·gy (pā′lē·on·tol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The science that treats of ancient forms of life or of fossil organisms. **2.** A work dealing with this subject. [< PALEO- + Gk. *ōn, ontos* being, ppr. of *einai* to be + -LOGY] **— pa′le·on′to·log′ic** (-on′tə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* **— pa′le·on·tol′o·gist** *n.*

Pa·le·o·zo·ic (pā′lē·ō·zō′ik) *adj. Geol.* Of or pertaining to the era following the Pre-Cambrian and preceding the Mesozoic. **—** *n.* The Paleozoic era, with its life forms and rock systems. See chart for GEOLOGY. [< PALEO- + Gk. *zōē* life]

Pal·es·tine (pal′is·tīn) In Biblical times, a territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, the country of the Jews: Old Testament *Canaan*: also *Holy Land*. **— Pal′es·tin′i·an** (-tin′ē·ən) *adj. & n.*

pa·les·tra (pə·les′trə) *n. pl.* **·trae** (-trē) In ancient Greece, a school or practice place for athletics. [< L < Gk. < *palaiein* to wrestle] **— pa·les′tral, pa·les′tri·an** *adj.*

pal·ette (pal′it) *n.* **1.** A thin board or tablet with a hole for the thumb, upon which artists lay and mix their colors **2.** The range of colors characteristic of a particular artist, painting, etc. Also spelled *pallet*. [< F < L *pala* spade]

Pa·li (pä′lē) *n.* The sacred language of the early Buddhist writings, still surviving in the religious literature of Burma and Thailand. [< Skt. *pāli* (*bhasa*) canonical (language)]

pal·imp·sest (pal′imp·sest) *n.* A parchment, manuscript, etc., written upon two or three times, the earlier writing having been wholly or partially erased to make room for the next. [< L < Gk. < *palin* again + *psaein* to rub]

pal·in·drome (pal′in·drōm) *n.* A word, sentence, verse, etc., that is the same read forward or backward, as "Madam, I'm Adam." [< Gk. < *palin* again + *dromos* run]

pal·ing (pā′ling) *n.* **1.** One of a series of upright pales forming a fence. **2.** Pales or pickets collectively. **3.** A fence or enclosure made of pales or pickets. **4.** The act of erecting a fence with pales.

pal·i·sade (pal′ə·sād′) *n.* **1.** A barrier or fortification made of strong timbers set in the ground. **2.** One of the stakes forming such a barrier. **3.** *pl.* An extended cliff or rocky precipice. — *v.t.* **·sad·ed, ·sad·ing** To enclose or fortify with a palisade. [< MF < Provençal < L *palus* stake]

pal·ish (pāl′ish) *adj.* Somewhat pale.

pall[1] (pôl) *n.* **1.** A covering, usu. of black cloth, thrown over a coffin or over a tomb. **2.** A dark, heavy covering, cloud, etc. **3.** A gloomy or oppressive atmosphere, effect, etc. **4.** *Eccl.* **a** A chalice cover, consisting of a square piece of cardboard faced on both sides with lawn or linen. **b** An altar cloth. — *v.t.* To cover with or as with a pall. [OE < L *pallium* cloak]

pall[2] (pôl) *v.i.* **1.** To become insipid or uninteresting. **2.** To have a dulling or displeasing effect: followed by *on*. — *v.t.* **3.** To satiate; cloy. [Appar. aphetic var. of APPALL]

Pal·la·di·an (pə·lā′dē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or characteristic of the goddess Pallas. **2.** Characterized by wisdom or learning. [< L < Gk. *Palladios* of Pallas]

pal·la·di·um[1] (pə·lā′dē·əm) *n. pl.* **·di·a** (-dē·ə) Any object considered essential to the safety of a community or organization; a safeguard. [< PALLADIUM]

pal·la·di·um[2] (pə·lā′dē·əm) *n.* A rare, silver-white, malleable and ductile metallic element (symbol Pd) occurring in combination with platinum, iridium, and rhodium. See ELEMENT. [< NL, after the asteroid *Pallas*]

Pal·la·di·um (pə·lā′dē·əm) In Greek and Roman legend, a statue of Pallas Athena, esp. one in Troy, on the preservation of which the safety of the city depended.

Pal·las (pal′əs) In Greek mythology, a name of Athena, the goddess of wisdom: often **Pallas Athena**. — *n.* The second largest asteroid. [< Gk., prob. orig. maiden]

pall-bear·er (pôl′bâr′ər) *n.* One who forms part of an escort for a coffin at a funeral.

pal·let[1] (pal′it) *n.* **1.** *Mech.* **a** A click or pawl used to regulate the motion of a ratchet wheel, etc., as by converting reciprocating into rotary motion, or the reverse. **b** The lip or point of a pawl. **2.** A paddle for mixing and shaping clay for crucibles, etc. **3.** A tool used in gilding the backs of books or for taking up gold leaf. **4.** A painter's palette. [< F < L *pala* spade]

pal·let[2] (pal′it) *n.* **1.** A small, mean bed or mattress, usu. of straw. **2.** A blanket laid on the floor for a bed. [< OF < L *palea* chaff, straw]

pal·liasse (pal·yas′, pal′yas) See PAILLASSE.

pal·li·ate (pal′ē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To cause (a crime, fault, etc.) to appear less serious or offensive. **2.** To relieve the symptoms or effects of (a disease, etc.) without curing. [< L *palliatus*, pp. of *palliare* to cloak] — **pal′li·a′tive** *adj. & n.* — **pal′li·a′tor** *n.*

pal·lid (pal′id) *adj.* Of a pale or wan appearance; weak or lacking in color. [< L < *pallere* to be pale] — **pal′lid·ly** *adv.* — **pal′lid·ness** *n.*

pal·lor (pal′ər) *n.* The state of being pale or pallid; paleness. [< L < *pallere* to be pale]

palm[1] (päm) *n.* **1.** The inner surface of the hand between the wrist and the base of the fingers. **2.** A linear measure equal to the approximate breadth (3 or 4 inches) or length (about 8¼ inches) of the hand. **3.** That which covers the palm, as part of a glove. **4.** The flattened terminal portion of the antler of a moose, etc. **5.** The flat, expanding end of any armlike projection, as the blade of an oar. — *v.t.* **1.** To hide (cards, dice, etc.) in or about the hand, as in sleight of hand. **2.** To handle or touch with the palm. — **to palm off** To pass off or impose fraudulently. [< F < OF < L *palma*]

palm[2] (päm) *n.* **1.** Any of a large and varied group of tropical evergreen trees or shrubs usu. having an unbranched trunk topped by a crown of large palmate or pinnate leaves. **2.** A leaf or branch of the palm, used as a symbol of victory or joy. **3.** Triumph; victory. [OE < L *palma* palm tree]

pal·ma·ceous (pal·mā′shəs, pä·mā′-) *adj.* Belonging to or characteristic of the group of plants comprising the palms.

pal·mar (pal′mər, pä′mər) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or similar to the palm of the hand.

pal·mate (pal′māt, pä′māt) *adj.* **1.** Resembling an open hand. **2.** Broad and flat, with fingerlike projections, as the antlers of the moose, or some corals. **3.** *Bot.* Having lobes that diverge from the apex of the petiole: a *palmate* leaf. **4.** *Zool.* Webbed, as a bird's foot. Also **pal′mat·ed.** [< L *palmatus*, pp. of *palmare* to mark with the palm of the hand] — **pal′mate·ly** *adv.* — **pal·ma′tion** *n.*

palm·er (pä′mər) *n.* In the Middle Ages, one who had visited Palestine and brought back a palm branch as a token of the pilgrimage.

pal·met·to (pal·met′ō) *n. pl.* **·tos** or **·toes** Any of various palms having fanlike foliage. [< Sp. *palmito*, dim. of *palma* palm tree < L]

Palmetto State Nickname of South Carolina.

palmi- *combining form* Palm. [< L *palma* palm]

palm·ist (pä′mist) *n.* One who practices palmistry.

palm·is·try (pä′mis·trē) *n.* The art or practice of supposedly discovering a person's past or future from the lines and marks in the palm of the hand. [ME < *palme* palm + *-estrie*, prob. < OF *maistrie* mastery]

palm oil A yellowish, butterlike oil obtained from the fruit of several varieties of palm, and used in the manufacture of soap, candles, etc.

palm sugar Sugar made from palm sap.

Palm Sunday The Sunday before Easter, being the last Sunday in Lent and the first day in Holy Week. [Named for Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when palm branches were strewn before him]

palm·y (pä′mē) *adj.* **palm·i·er, palm·i·est** **1.** Marked by prosperity; flourishing. **2.** Abounding in palms.

pal·my·ra (pal·mī′rə) *n.* An East Indian palm having large fan-shaped leaves. [< Pg. *palmeira* palm tree]

pal·o·mi·no (pal′ə·mē′nō) *n. pl.* **·nos** A light tan or golden brown horse with a cream-colored mane and tail. [< Am. Sp., orig., dove-colored horse < Sp. < L *palumbus* ringdove]

pa·loo·ka (pə·lōō′kə) *n. U.S. Slang* **1.** An inferior or bungling pugilist. **2.** A lout; lummox. [Coined by Jack Conway, U.S. journalist, d. 1928; ult. origin uncertain]

palp (palp) *n.* A palpus. [< F < L *palpus* feeler]

pal·pa·ble (pal′pə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being touched or felt. **2.** Readily perceived; obvious. **3.** Perceptible by touching. [< LL < L *palpare* to touch] — **pal′pa·bil′i·ty, pal′pa·ble·ness** *n.* — **pal′pa·bly** *adv.*

pal·pate (pal′pāt) *v.t.* **·pat·ed, ·pat·ing** To feel or examine by touch, esp. for medical diagnosis. — *adj.* Having a palpus or palpi. [< L *palpare* to touch] — **pal·pa′tion** *n.*

pal·pi·tate (pal′pə·tāt) *v.i.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** **1.** To quiver; tremble. **2.** To beat more rapidly than normal; flutter: said esp. of the heart. [< L *palpitatus*, pp. of *palpitare* to tremble, freq. of *palpare* to touch] — **pal′pi·ta′tion** *n.*

pal·pus (pal′pəs) *n. pl.* **·pi** (-pī) *Zool.* A feeler; esp., one of the jointed sense organs attached to the mouth parts of arthropods: also called *palp*. [< NL < L *palpus* feeler]

pal·sied (pôl′zēd) *adj.* Affected with palsy; trembling.

pal·sy (pôl′zē) *n. pl.* **·sies** **1.** Paralysis. **2.** Any impairment or loss of ability to control movement. — *v.t.* **·sied, ·sy·ing** **1.** To paralyze. **2.** To cause to tremble or become helpless, as from fear or rage. [< OF < L *paralysis*]

pal·ter (pôl′tər) *v.i.* **1.** To speak or act insincerely; equivocate; lie. **2.** To be fickle or capricious; trifle. **3.** To haggle or quibble. [Origin unknown] — **pal′ter·er** *n.*

pal·try (pôl′trē) *adj.* **·tri·er, ·tri·est** **1.** Having little or no worth or value; trifling; trivial. **2.** Contemptible; petty. [< LG < *palle* rag.] — **pal′tri·ly** *adv.* — **pal′tri·ness** *n.*

pa·lu·dal (pə·lōōd′l) *adj.* Pertaining to a marsh; swampy. [< L *palus*, *paludis* marsh]

pam·pas (pam′pəz, *Sp.* päm′päs) *n.pl.* The great treeless plains south of the Amazon river, extending from the Atlantic to the Andes. [< Sp. < Quechua *pampa* plain]

pam·pe·an (pam′pē·ən, pam·pē′ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the pampas or to their native inhabitants. — *n.* An Indian of the pampas.

pam·per (pam′pər) *v.t.* To treat very indulgently; gratify the whims or wishes of; coddle. [Appar. < LG < *pampen* to live luxuriously] — **pam′per·er** *n.*

pam·phlet (pam′flit) *n.* **1.** A printed work stitched or pasted, but not permanently bound. **2.** A brief treatise or essay, often on a subject of current interest, printed and published without a binding. [< OF *pamphilet*, dim. of *Pamphilus*, title of a 12th c. Latin love poem]

pam·phlet·eer (pam′flə·tir′) *n.* One who writes pamphlets: sometimes a term of contempt. — *v.i.* To write and issue pamphlets.

pan[1] (pan) *n.* **1.** A wide, shallow vessel, usu. of metal, used for holding liquids or in cooking. **2.** Any similar receptacle or vessel, as one used for boiling and evaporating. **3.** A circular iron dish with sloping sides, in which gold is separated. **4.** The powder cavity of a flintlock. **5.** The skull; brainpan.

6. Hardpan. **7.** Either of the two receptacles on a pair of scales or a balance. — *v.* **panned, pan·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To separate (gold) by washing gold-bearing earth in a pan. **2.** To wash (earth, gravel, etc.) for this purpose. **3.** To cook and serve in a pan. **4.** *Informal* To criticize severely. — *v.i.* **5.** To search for gold by washing earth, gravel, etc., in a pan. **6.** To yield gold, as earth. — **to pan out** *U.S. Informal* To succeed. [OE < Gmc. < LL < L < Gk. *patanē*]

pan[2] (pan) *v.t.* **panned, pan·ning** To move (a motion-picture or television camera) so as to photograph an entire scene, follow a particular character, etc. [< PANORAMA]

pan- *combining form* **1.** All; every; the whole: *panchromatic.* **2.** Comprising, including, or applying to all: usually capitalized when preceding proper nouns or adjectives, as in: **Pan-African, Pan-Asia, Pan-Arab.** [< Gk., neut. of *pas* all]

Pan (pan) In Greek mythology, a god identified with the Roman *Faunus.*

pan·a·ce·a (pan′ə·sē′ə) *n.* A remedy for all diseases or ills; a cure-all. [< L < Gk. < *pan,* neut. of *pas* all + *akos* cure] — **pan′a·ce′an** *adj.*

Panama hat A hat woven from the leaves of a palmlike tree of Central and South America.

Pan·a·ma·ni·an (pan′ə·mā′nē·ən, -mä′-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Isthmus of Panama or its inhabitants. — *n.* A native or naturalized inhabitant of Panama. Also **Pan·a·man** (pan′ə·män′).

Pan-A·mer·i·can (pan′ə·mer′ə·kən) *adj.* Including or pertaining to the whole of America, both North and South, or to all Americans. Also **Pan American.**

Pan-A·mer·i·can·ism (pan′ə·mer′ə·kən·iz′əm) *n.* The advocacy of a closer political and economic cooperation among the republics of the western hemisphere.

Pan American Union A bureau established in Washington, D.C., in 1890, by the 21 American republics to promote mutual peace.

pan·a·tel·a (pan′ə·tel′ə) See PANETELA.

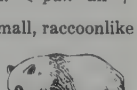
pan-broil (pan′broil′) *v.t. & v.i.* To cook in a heavy frying pan placed over direct heat, using little or no fat.

pan·cake (pan′kāk′) *n.* **1.** A thin, flat cake made from batter fried in a pan or baked on a griddle. **2.** A cosmetic resembling face powder: also **pancake make-up.** **3.** *Aeron.* An abrupt landing in which an airplane is leveled off and stalled well above the surface so that it drops flat. — *v.i.* **·caked, ·cak·ing** *Aeron.* To make a pancake landing.

pan·chro·mat·ic (pan′krō·mat′ik) *adj. Photog.* Sensitive to light of all colors of the spectrum, as film or a plate. — **pan·chro′ma·tism** (-krō′mə·tiz′əm) *n.*

pan·cre·as (pan′krē·əs, pang′-) *n. Anat.* A large gland situated behind the lower part of the stomach, secreting digestive enzymes into the duodenum and producing insulin in the islands of Langerhans. [< NL < Gk. < *pan-* all + *kreas* flesh] — **pan′cre·at′ic** (-at′ik) *adj.*

pan·da (pan′də) *n. pl.* **·das** or **·da** **1.** A small, raccoonlike carnivore of the southeastern Himalayas, with long reddish brown fur and ringed tail: also called *bearcat.* **2.** A large, bearlike mammal of Tibet and China, with black-and-white coat and rings around the eyes: also called *giant panda.* [Prob. < Nepalese]



GIANT PANDA (5 feet long; 2 feet high at shoulder)

Pan·de·an (pan·dē′ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the god Pan.

pan·dem·ic (pan·dem′ik) *adj.* **1.** *Med.* Widely epidemic. **2.** Universal; general. — *n.* A pandemic disease. [< Gk. < *pan-* all + *dēmos* people]

pan·de·mo·ni·um (pan′də·mō′nē·əm) *n.* **1.** The abode of all demons. **2.** Loosely, hell. **3.** A place marked by disorder and uproar. **4.** Riotous uproar. Also **pan′dae·mo′ni·um.** [< NL < Gk. *pan-* all + *daimōn* demon]

pan·der (pan′dər) *n.* **1.** A go-between in sexual intrigues; pimp. **2.** One who ministers to the passions or base desires of others. Also **pan′der·er.** — *v.i.* **1.** To act as a pander. — *v.t.* **2.** To act as a pander for. [< L < Gk. *Pandaros*; or < *Pandare,* character in Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde]

Pan·do·ra (pan·dôr′ə, -dō′rə) In Greek mythology, the first mortal woman, who brought with her a box (**Pandora's box**) containing all human ills which, when she opened the lid, escaped into the world. [< Gk., all-gifted]

pan·dow·dy (pan·dou′dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** *U.S.* A deep-dish pie or pudding make of baked sliced apples and having only a top crust. Also **apple pandowdy.** [Origin unknown]

pane (pān) *n.* **1.** One of the sections of a window, door, etc., filled with a sheet of glass. **2.** A sheet of glass for such a section. **3.** One of the flat surfaces on an object having several sides, as a nut, bolthead, or cut diamond. **4.** A panel in a door, ceiling, etc. [< OF < L *pannus* piece of cloth]

pan·e·gyr·ic (pan′ə·jir′ik) *n.* **1.** A formal public eulogy, either written or spoken. **2.** Elaborate praise; laudation. [< MF < L < Gk. < *pan-* all + *agyris* assembly] — **pan′·e·gyr′i·cal** *adj.* **pan′e·gyr′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pan·e·gyr·ist (pan′ə·jir′ist) *n.* One who panegyrizes.

pan·e·gy·rize (pan′ə·jə·rīz′) *v.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To deliver or write a panegyric upon; eulogize. — *v.i.* **2.** To make panegyrics.

pan·el (pan′əl) *n.* **1.** A rectangular or square piece forming part of a wainscot, ceiling, door, etc., usu. raised above or sunk below the general level, surrounded by a molding, etc. **2.** A window pane. **3.** One or more pieces of the same or different fabric inserted lengthwise in a woman's skirt. **4.** A tablet of wood used as the surface for an oil painting; also, the picture painted on such a tablet. **5.** A picture very long for its width. **6.** *Law* **a** The official list of persons summoned for jury duty. **b** The body of persons composing a jury **7.** A small group of persons selected to hold a discussion, judge a contest, etc. **8.** An instrument panel. — *v.t.* **pan·eled** or **·elled, pan·el·ing** or **·el·ling** **1.** To fit, furnish, or adorn with panels. **2.** To divide into panels. [< OF < Med.L < L *pannus* piece of cloth]

panel discussion A discussion before an audience of a specific topic by a group of selected speakers.

pan·el·ing (pan′əl·ing) *n.* **1.** Wood or other materials used in making panels. **2.** Panels collectively. Also **pan′el·ling.**

pan·el·ist (pan′əl·ist) *n.* A person serving on a panel.

pan·e·tel·a (pan′ə·tel′ə) *n.* A long, slender cigar: also spelled *panatela.* Also **pan′e·tel′la.** [< Sp.]

pan fish Any little fish that can be fried whole.

pang (pang) *n.* **1.** A sudden sharp pain. **2.** A spasm of mental anguish. [Origin unknown]

pan·go·lin (pang·gō′lin) *n.* A heavily armored, typically long-tailed toothless mammal of Asia and Africa: also called *scaly anteater.* [< Malay *peng-gōling* roller, in ref. to its power of rolling itself up]

pan·han·dle[1] (pan′han′dəl) *v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** *U.S. Informal* To beg, esp. on the street. [PAN-HAN-DLER]

pan·han·dle[2] (pan′han′dəl) *n.* **1.** The handle of a pan. **2.** *Usu. cap. U.S.* A narrow strip of land shaped like the handle of a pan, as in Texas or West Virginia.

pan·han·dler (pan′han′dlər) *n. U.S. Informal* A beggar. [< PAN[1] (used to receive alms) + HANDLE, v.]

Pan-Hel·len·ic (pan′he·len′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to all Greeks. **2.** Of college fraternities or sororities.

pan·ic (pan′ik) *n.* **1.** A sudden, unreasonable, overpowering fear, esp. when affecting a large number simultaneously. **2.** An instance of such fear. — *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of or resulting from panic. **2.** *Usu. cap.* Of or pertaining to the Greek god Pan. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·icked, ·ick·ing** To affect or become affected with panic. [< MF < Gk. *panikos* of or for the god Pan, who was believed to cause sudden or groundless fear] — **pan′ick·y** *adj.*

pan·i·cle (pan′i·kəl) *n. Bot.* A loose compound flower cluster, produced by irregular branching. [< L *panicula,* dim. of *panus* swelling]

pan·ic-strick·en (pan′ik·strik′ən) *adj.* Overcome by panic. Also **pan′ic-struck′** (-struk′).

pa·nic·u·late (pə·nik′yə·lāt, -lit) *adj. Bot.* Arranged in panicles. Also **pa·nic′u·lat′ed.** — **pa·nic′u·late·ly** *adv.*

pan·jan·drum (pan·jan′drəm) *n.* A mock title for an official of exaggerated importance or great pretensions. [Coined by Samuel Foote, 1720–1777, English dramatist and actor]

pan·nier (pan′yər) *n.* **1.** One of a pair of baskets adapted to be slung on both sides of a beast of burden. **2.** A basket for carrying a load on the back. **3.** A light framework for extending a woman's dress at the hips; also, a skirt or overskirt so extended. [< MF < L *panarium* bread basket]

pa·no·cha (pə·nō′chə) *n.* A coarse Mexican sugar. Also **pa·no′che.** [< Am. Sp., dim. of Sp. *pan*]

pan·o·ply (pan′ə·plē) *n. pl.* **·plies** **1.** The complete equipment of a warrior. **2.** Any complete covering that protects or arrays. [< Gk. *panoplia* full armor] — **pan′o·plied** *adj.*

pan·o·ram·a (pan′ə·ram′ə, -ra′mə) *n.* **1.** A series of pictures representing a continuous scene, arranged to unroll and pass before the spectator. **2.** A complete view in every direction; also, a complete or comprehensive view of a subject or of passing events. [< PAN- + Gk. *horama* sight] — **pan′o·ram′ic** *adj.* — **pan′o·ram′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pan·pipe (pan′pīp′) *n. Sometimes cap. Often pl.* An instrument consisting of a graduated series of short flutes, originally reeds, bound together in proper order to produce a scale.

Pan-Slav·ism (pan′slō′viz·əm) *n.* The idea of uniting all Slavic peoples, esp. under the hegemony of Russia. — **Pan′-Slav′ic** *adj.* — **Pan′-slav′ist** *n.*

pan·sy (pan′zē) *n. pl.* **·sies** **1.** A garden violet having blossoms of a variety of colors. **2.** *U.S. Slang* An effeminate or homosexual man. [< MF *pensée* thought]

pant (pant) *v.i.* **1.** To breathe rapidly or spasmodically; gasp for breath. **2.** To emit smoke, steam, etc., in loud puffs. **3.** To gasp with desire; yearn: with *for* or *after.* **4.** To beat or pulsate rapidly. — *v.t.* **5.** To breathe out or utter gaspingly. — *n.* **1.** The act of panting. **2.** A gasp. **3.** A throb, as of the heart. **4.** A puff, as from an engine. [Appar. < OF, ult. < L *phantasiare* to have a nightmare]

pant- Var. of PANTO-.
pan·ta·lets (pan′tə·lets′) *n.pl.* **1.** Formerly, long ruffled or embroidered drawers extending below the hem of the skirt **2.** Separate frilled leg coverings to be attached to drawers. Also **pan′ta·lettes′**. [Dim. of PANTALOON]
pan·ta·loon (pan′tə·lōōn′) *n. pl.* Formerly, a tight-fitting garment for the hips and legs; trousers. [< MF < Ital. *pantalone* clown < *Pantaleone*, popular Venetian saint]
Pan·ta·loon (pan′tə·lōōn′) In early Italian comedy, a skinny, foolish old man wearing pantaloons.
pan·the·ism (pan′thē·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The doctrine that the whole universe is God, or that every part of the universe is a manifestation of God. **2.** Worship of all the gods. [<PAN- + Gk. *theos* god] **— pan′the·ist** *n.* **— pan′the·is′tic, pan′the·is′ti·cal** *adj.* **— pan′the·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
pan·the·on (pan′thē·on) *n.* **1.** All the gods of a people collectively. **2.** A mausoleum or temple commemorating the great of a nation. [< L < Gk. < *pan-* all + *theios* of or sacred to a god]
Pan·the·on (pan′thē·on) A circular domed temple at Rome, dedicated to all the gods, built in 27 B.C., rebuilt A.D. 120–124, and since A.D. 609 used as a church.
pan·ther (pan′thər) *n.* **1.** A leopard, esp. the black variety of Asia. **2.** The puma or cougar. **3.** The jaguar. [< OF < L < Gk. *panthēr*] **— pan′ther·ess** *n.fem.*
pant·ies (pan′tēz) *n.pl.* A woman's or child's underpants.
panto- *combining form* All; every. Also, before vowels, *pant-*. [< Gk. *pantos*, genitive of *pas* all]
pan·to·graph (pan′tə·graf, -gräf) *n.* An instrument used for copying drawings, maps, etc., to any scale. **— pant′o·graph′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* **— pan·tog·ra·phy** (pan·tog′rə·fē) *n.*
pan·to·mime (pan′tə·mīm) *n.* **1.** Any play in which the actors express their meaning by action without dialogue. **2.** Gestures without speech. **3.** In ancient Roman drama, a part of a play in which the actor used only gestures to the accompaniment of the chorus. **— *v.t.* & *v.i.* ·mimed, ·mim·ing** To act or express in pantomime. [< F < L < Gk. < *panto(s)* of all + *mimos* imitator] **— pan′to·mim′ic** (-mim′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* **— pan′to·mi′mist** (-mī′mist) *n.*
pan·try (pan′trē) *n. pl.* **·tries** A room or closet for provisions, dishes, table linen, etc. [ME < OF < L *panis* bread]
pants (pants) *n.pl. Chiefly U.S.* **1.** Trousers. **2.** Drawers; underpants. [Short for PANTALOONS]
pan·ty·waist (pan′tē·wāst′) *n.* **1.** A child's waist on which to fasten short pants. **2.** *Slang* An effeminate young man.
pan·zer (pan′zər, *Ger.* pän′tsər) *adj.* Armored; also, using armored tanks or mechanized troops. [< G, armor plating < MHG < OF < Ital. *panzia* belly]
pap[1] (pap) *n. Archaic* A teat; nipple. [ME *pappe*]
pap[2] (pap) *n.* **1.** Any soft food for babies. **2.** *Slang* The fees and privileges of public office. [Prob. akin to L *pappa*]
pa·pa (pä′pə, pə·pä′) *n.* Father: used familiarly. [< F < L < Gk. *papas*, child's word for father]
pa·pa·cy (pā′pə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The dignity, office, or jurisdiction of the pope. **2.** The succession of popes. **3.** The period during which a pope is in office. [< Med.L < Gk. *papas* father]
Pa·pa·cy (pā′pə·sē) *n.* The Roman Catholic system of church government.
pa·pal (pā′pəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or ordered by the pope. **2.** Of or pertaining to the papacy. **3.** Of or pertaining to the Roman Catholic Church.
Papal cross A cross having three crossbars or transoms, the top one the shortest and the bottom one the longest.
pa·paw (pə·pô′, pô′pô) *n.* **1.** The fleshy, edible fruit of a North American shrub or small tree. **2.** The tree bearing this fruit. Also spelled *pawpaw*. [< PAPAYA]
pa·pa·ya (pä·pä′yä, pə·pä′yə) *n.* **1.** The yellow, melonlike fruit of a tropical American evergreen tree, valued for its flavor and nutritious qualities. **2.** The tree bearing this fruit. [< Sp. and Pg.; ult of Carib origin]
pa·per (pā′pər) *n.* **1.** A substance made from pulp obtained from rags, wood, bark, etc., usu. formed into thin sheets for writing, printing, wrapping, etc. **2.** A sheet of this material. **3.** Something similar in appearance to paper, as papier-mâché. **4.** Wallpaper. **5.** A small paper wrapper or card holding a limited number or amount: a *paper* of pins. **6.** A printed or written document. **7.** A newspaper. **8.** A written discourse or treatise. **9.** In schools and colleges, a piece of written work, as an assignment, a report, etc. **10.** *pl.* A collection of letters, diaries, and other writings, especially by one person. **11.** *pl.* Personal documents or identification; credentials. **12.** *pl.* A ship's papers. **13.** In business, written or printed pledges to pay, that are negotiable. **14.** *Slang* Free passes to a theater, etc.; also, an audience so admitted. **15.** *pl. U.S.* Documents leading to naturalization: see FIRST PAPERS, SECOND PAPERS. **— on paper** **1.** In written or printed form. **2.** In theory, as distinguished from fact. **— *v.t.*** **1.** To cover with wallpaper. **2.** To fold or enclose in paper. **3.** To supply with paper. **4.** *Slang* To issue free tickets of admission to (a place of amusement). **— *adj.*** **1.** Made of paper. **2.** Existing only in writing, [< OF < L *papyrus*] **— pa′per·y** *adj.*
pa·per·back (pā′pər·bak′) *adj.* Of books, having a flexible paper cover or binding. **— *n.*** A book so bound.
pa·per·hang·er (pā′pər·hang′ər) *n.* One whose business is to cover walls, etc., with paper. **— pa′per·hang′ing** *n.*
pa·per·knife (pā′pər·nīf′) *n. pl.* **·knives** (-nīvz′) A dull blade for opening letters, leaves of books, etc.
paper money Currency consisting of paper imprinted with certain fixed values issued by a government or by authorized banks for circulation as a substitute for metallic money.
paper nautilus One of various eight-armed marine mollusks having delicate shells.
pa·per·weight (pā′pər·wāt′) *n.* A small, heavy object, often ornamental, placed on loose papers to secure them.
pap·er·work (pā′pər·wûrk′) *n.* Work involving the preparation or handling of reports, letters, forms, etc.
pa·pier-mâ·ché (pā′pər·mə·shā′, *Fr.* pa·pyā·mä·shā′) *n.* A material consisting of paper pulp mixed with size, paste, oil, resin, etc., that can be molded into various shapes when wet and that becomes hard when dry. [< F *papier* paper + *mâché*, pp. of *mâcher* to chew]
pa·pil·la (pə·pil′ə) *n. pl.* **·pil·lae** (-pil·ē) **1.** *Anat.* **a** The nipple. **b** Any small nipplelike process of connective tissue, as on the tongue or at the root of a hair. **2.** *Bot.* A small nipple-shaped projection. [< L] **— pap·il·la·ry** (pap′ə·ler′ē) *adj.*
pap·il·lo·ma (pap′ə·lō′mə) *n. pl.* **·ma·ta** (-mə·tə) *Pathol.* An abnormality of the skin or mucous membrane consisting of tumorous outgrowths, as corns, warts, etc. [< PAPILLA]
pap·il·lose (pap′ə·lōs) *adj.* Having many papillae. **— pap′il·los′i·ty** (-los′ə·tē) *n.*
pa·pist (pā′pist) *n.* An adherent of the papacy; a Roman Catholic: usu. a disparaging term. [See PAPACY.] **— pa·pis·ti·cal** (pə·pis′ti·kal), **pa·pis′tic** *adj.* **— pa′pis·try** *n.*
pa·poose (pa·pōōs′) *n.* A North American Indian infant or small child. Also **pap·poose′**. [< Algonquian *papoos*]
pap·pus (pap′əs) *n. pl.* **pap·pi** (pap′ī) *Bot.* A downy tuft of hairs, as in thistles, or on certain fruits. [< NL < Gk. *pappos* grandfather] **— pap′pose** (-ōs), **pap′pous** (-əs) *adj.*
pap·py (pap′ē) *n. pl.* **·pies** Papa; father. [Dim. of PAPA[1]]
pa·pri·ka (pa·prē′kə, pap′rə·kə) *n.* A condiment made from the ripe fruit of a mild variety of red pepper. Also **pa·pri′ca.** [< Magyar, red pepper]
Pap·u·an (pä′pōō·ən, pap′ōō·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Island of Papua or to the Papuan peoples. **— *n.*** A member of any of the dark peoples inhabiting Melanesia.
pap·u·la (pap′yə·lə) *n. pl.* **·lae** (-lē) *Pathol.* A pimple. Also **pap′ule** (-yōōl). [< L, pimple] **— pap′u·lar** *adj.*
pa·py·rus (pə·pī′rəs) *n. pl.* **·ri** (-rī) **1.** A tall rushlike aquatic plant of the sedge family, formerly common in Egypt. **2.** A type of writing paper made by the ancient Egyptians from this plant. **3.** A manuscript written on this material. [< L < Gk. *papyros*]
par (pär) *n.* **1.** An accepted standard or level used for comparison: usu. preceded by *on* or *upon*: His work is on a *par* with that of the other students. **2.** The normal average in amount, quality, or degree: His health is up to *par*. **3.** In commerce, the state of equality between the nominal, or face, value and the market value of shares of stock, bonds, bills of exchange, etc: also *parity*. **4.** In golf, the number of strokes allotted to a hole or round when played perfectly. **— *adj.*** **1.** Normal; average. **2.** In commerce, having the face value normal. [< L, equal]
para-[1] *prefix* **1.** Beside; nearby; along with: *paradigm*. **2.** Beyond; aside from; amiss: *paradox*. **3.** *Chem.* A modification of or a compound similar to (not necessarily isomeric or polymeric): *paramorphine*. **4.** *Med.* **a** A functionally disordered or diseased condition: *paraplegia*. **b** Similar to but not identical with a true condition or form: *paratyphoid*. Also, before vowels and *h*, usu. **par-**. [< Gk. *para* beside]
para-[2] *combining form* Shelter or protection against: *parasol*. [< Ital *para*, imperative of *parare* to defend]
par·a·a·mi·no·ben·zo·ic acid (par′ə·ə·mē′nō·ben·zō′ik, -am′ə·nō-) *Biochem.* A colorless crystalline compound, $C_7H_7NO_2$, forming part of the vitamin B complex, present in yeast and also made synthetically.
par·a·ble (par′ə·bəl) *n.* A short narrative making a moral or religious point by comparison with natural or homely things. [< OF < LL < Gk. *parabolē* a placing side by side]
pa·rab·o·la (pə·rab′ə·lə) *n. Math.* The curve formed by the edges of a plane when cutting through a right circular cone at an angle parallel to one of its sides. [< L < Gk. *parabolē* a placing side by side]
par·a·bol·ic (par′ə·bol′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or having

the nature of a parable. **2.** Pertaining to or like a parabola. Also **par/a·bol/i·cal.** — **par/a·bol/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pa·rab·o·lize (pə·rab/ə·līz) *v.t.* **·lized, ·liz·ing** **1.** To relate in parable form. **2.** *Math.* To give the form of a parabola to.

par·a·chute (par/ə·shōōt) *n.* A large, umbrella-shaped apparatus for retarding the speed of a body descending through the air, esp. from an airplane. — *v.* **·chut·ed, ·chut·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To land (troops, materiel, etc.) by means of parachutes. — *v.i.* **2.** To descend by parachute. [< F < PARA-[2] + *chute* fall] — **par/a·chut/ist** *n.*

par·a·clete (par/ə·klēt) *n.* One called to the aid of another. — **the Paraclete** The Holy Spirit as a helper or comforter. [< OF < LL < LGk. *paraklētos* comforter, advocate]

pa·rade (pə·rād/) *n.* **1.** A procession or march for ceremony or display. **2.** A marshaling and maneuvering of troops for display or inspection. **3.** A ground where military reviews are held. **4.** A promenade or public walk; also, the persons promenading. **5.** Pompous show, ostentation. — **on parade** On display. — *v.* **·rad·ed, ·rad·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To walk or march through or about. **2.** To display ostentatiously; flaunt. **3.** To cause to assemble for military parade. — *v.i.* **4.** To march formally. **5.** To walk in public for the purpose of showing oneself. **6.** To assemble in military order for inspection or review. [< MF < Sp. *parada* stopping place, exercise ground] — **pa·rad/er** *n.*

par·a·digm (par/ə·dim, -dīm) *n.* *Gram.* **1.** A list or table of all the inflected forms of a word or class of words, as of a particular declension, conjugation, etc. **2.** Any pattern or example. [< LL < Gk. *paradeigma* pattern] — **par/a·dig·mat/ic** (-dig·mat/ik) *adj.*

par·a·dise (par/ə·dīs) *n.* **1.** Heaven. **2.** A place or state of great beauty or delight. [< F < LL < Gk. *paradeisos* park] — **par/a·di·sa/ic** (-di·sā/ik) or **·i·cal, par/a·dis/i·ac** (-dis/ē·ak) or **par/a·di·si·a·cal** (par/ə·di·sī/ə·kəl) *adj.*

Par·a·dise (par/ə·dīs) Eden or heaven.

par·a·dox (par/ə·doks) *n.* **1.** A statement seemingly absurd or contradictory, yet in fact true. **2.** A statement essentially self-contradictory, false, or absurd. **3.** One whose character or behavior is inconsistent or contradictory. [< F < L < Gk. *paradoxos* incredible] — **par/a·dox/i·cal** *adj.* — **par/a·dox/i·cal/i·ty** (-kal/ə·tē), **par/a·dox/i·cal·ness** *n.* — **par/a·dox/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

par·a·drop (par/ə·drop) *n.* *Mil.* The dropping of supplies equipment, etc., by parachute.

par·af·fin (par/ə·fin) *n.* *Chem.* **1.** A waxy mixture of hydrocarbons, distilled from petroleum and widely used for candles, as a preservative, etc. **2.** Any hydrocarbon of the methane series — *v.t.* To treat or impregnate with paraffin. Also **par/af·fine** (-fin, -fēn). [< G < L *par(um)* too little + *affin(is)* related to; so named because it has little affinity for other substances]

paraffin series *Chem.* The methane series.

paraffin wax Paraffin in its solid state.

par·a·gon (par/ə·gon) *n.* A model or pattern of excellence, esp. of a specific excellence: a *paragon* of manhood. [< OF < Ital. *paragone* touchstone, prob. < Gk. *parakonan* to sharpen one thing against another]

par·a·graph (par/ə·graf, -gräf) *n.* **1.** A distinct part or section of a written discourse, begun on a new and usu. indented line and generally containing a unified statement of a particular point. **2.** A short article, item, or comment, as in a newspaper. **3.** A mark (¶) used to indicate where a paragraph is to be begun. — *v.t.* **1.** To arrange in or into paragraphs. **2.** To comment on or express in a paragraph. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *para* beside + *graphein* to write] — **par/a·graph/er** *n.* — **par/a·graph/ic, par/a·graph/i·cal** *adj.*

par·a·keet (par/ə·kēt) *n.* Any of certain small parrots, with long, wedge-shaped tails: also spelled *paraquet, paroquet, parrakeet, parroket, parroquet.* [< OF < Ital. *parrochetto*]

Par·a·li·pom·e·non (par/ə·li·pom/ə·non) *n.* The Douai Bible name for CHRONICLES.

par·al·lax (par/ə·laks) *n.* The apparent displacement of an object, esp. of a star or other heavenly body, when it is viewed successively from two points not in the same line of sight. [< F < Gk. *parallassein* to deviate]

par·al·lel (par/ə·lel) *adj.* **1.** Being a uniform distance away or apart throughout a certain area or extent. **2.** *Geom.* Not meeting, however far extended: said of straight lines and of planes. **3.** Having a close resemblance. **4.** *Music* **a** Denoting consecutive identical or similar intervals in the same two voices. **b** Denoting consecutive identical chords. **5.** *Electr.* Connected between like terminals, as a group of cells, condensers, etc. — *n.* **1.** An object or surface equidistant from another. **2.** *Geom.* A parallel line or plane. **3.** Essential likeness. **4.** A counterpart; match. **5.** Comparison: to draw a *parallel* between two things. **6.** *Geog.* Any of the circles imagined as drawn upon the earth's surface at right angles to its axis, every point on which marks a given latitude north or south of the equator. **7.** *Electr.* Connection between like terminals: usu. in the phrase **in parallel:** also called *multiple.* — *v.t.* **·leled** or **·lelled, ·lel·ing** or **·lel·ling** **1.** To place in parallel; make parallel. **2.** To be, go, or extend parallel to. **3.** To furnish with a parallel or equal; find a parallel to. **4.** To be a parallel to; correspond to. **5.** To compare; liken. [< MF < L < Gk. < *para* beside + *allēlos* one another]

parallel bars Two horizontal crossbars, parallel to each other and supported by upright posts, used for gymnastics.

par·al·lel·e·pi·ped (par/ə·lel/ə·pī/pid, -pip/id) *n.* A prism with six faces, each of which is a parallelogram. Also **par/al·lel/o·pi/ped, par/al·lel/e·pip/e·don, par/al·lel/o·pip/e·don** (-pip/ə·don, -pī/pə·-). [< Gk. < *parallēlos* parallel + *epipedon* a plane surface]

par·al·lel·ism (par/ə·lel·iz/əm) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being parallel. **2.** Likeness; similarity. **3.** A comparison.

par·al·lel·o·gram (par/ə·lel/ə·gram) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* A four-sided plane figure whose opposite sides are parallel and equal. **2.** Any area or object having such form. [< MF < L < Gk. < *parallēlos* parallel + *grammē* line]

pa·ral·y·sis (pə·ral/ə·sis) *n.* *pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** *Pathol.* Partial or complete loss of motor function, esp., voluntary motion, resulting from injury to the nervous system or to a muscular mechanism. **2.** Cessation or crippling of normal activities. [< L < Gk. < *paralyein* to disable] — **par·a·lyt·ic** (par/ə·lit/ik) *adj.* & *n.*

par·a·lyze (par/ə·līz) *v.t.* **·lyzed, ·lyz·ing** **1.** To bring about paralysis in; make paralytic. **2.** To render powerless, ineffective, or inactive. [< F *paralyser*, back formation < *paralysie* palsy] — **par/a·lyz/er** *n.* — **par/a·ly·za/tion** *n.*

par·a·me·ci·um (par/ə·mē/shē·əm, -sē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·ci·a** (shē·ə, -sē·ə) Any of various species of ciliate protozoa having a flattened, elongate body, and feeding by a primitive oral groove. [< NL < Gk. *paramēkēs* oblong, oval]

pa·ram·e·ter (pə·ram/ə·tər) *n.* **1.** *Math.* A constant whose values determine the operation or characteristics of a system. **2.** A fixed limit or guideline. [< NL < Gk. *para* beside + *metron* measure]

par·a·mil·i·tar·y (par/ə·mil/ə·ter/ē) *adj.* Having a military structure although not officially military; capable of becoming, replacing, or supplementing a military force: said of certain political movements, etc. [< PARA-[1] + MILITARY]

par·a·mount (par/ə·mount) *adj.* **1.** Superior to all others; chief in importance. **2.** Having the highest authority or rank. — *n.* A supreme lord; highest ruler. [< AF < OF *par* by + *à mont* up, above] — **par/a·mount·ly** *adv.*

par·a·mour (par/ə·mōōr) *n.* A lover, esp. one who unlawfully takes the place of a husband or wife. [< OF *par amour* with love]

par·a·noi·a (par/ə·noi/ə) *n.* *Psychiatry* A form of mental disorder characterized by delusions of persecution or of grandeur. [< NL < Gk., < *para* beside + *noos, nous* mind]

par·a·noi·ac (par/ə·noi/ak) *adj.* Relating to or affected by paranoia. — *n.* One affected by paranoia.

par·a·noid (par/ə·noid) *adj.* Resembling or suggestive of paranoia. — *n.* One affected by paranoia.

par·a·pet (par/ə·pit, -pet) *n.* A low wall about the edge of a roof, terrace, bridge, etc. [< MF, or < Ital. *parapetto*] — **par/a·pet·ed** *adj.*

par·a·pher·na·li·a (par/ə·fər·nā/lē·ə, -nāl/yə, -fə·) *n.pl.* **1.** Personal effects. **2.** A group of articles, esp. as used in some activity; equipment; gear. [< Med.L *paraphernalia* (*bona*) a wife's own (goods)]

par·a·phrase (par/ə·frāz) *n.* A restatement of the meaning of a passage, work, etc., as for clarity. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·phrased, ·phras·ing** To express in or make a paraphrase. [< MF < L < Gk. < *para* beside + *phrazein* to tell] — **par/a·phras/er, par/a·phrast** (-frast) *n.* — **par/a·phras/tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **par/a·phras/ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

par·a·ple·gi·a (par/ə·plē/jē·ə) *n.* *Pathol.* Paralysis of the lower half of the body, due to disease or injury of the spinal cord. Also **par/a·ple/gy** (-plē/jē). [< NL < Gk. < *para* beside + *plēssein* to strike] — **par·a·ple/gic** *adj.* & *n.*

par·a·psy·chol·o·gy (par/ə·sī·kol/ə·jē) *n.* The study of extrasensory perception and related psychic phenomena.

pa·ra·quet (par/ə·kēt) See PARAKEET.

par·a·site (par/ə·sīt) *n.* **1.** *Biol.* An animal or plant that lives in or on another organism, the host, and from whom it obtains nourishment. **2.** One who lives at another's expense without making proper return. [< L < Gk. *parasitos*, lit., one who eats at another's table] — **par/a·sit/ic, par/a·sit/i·cal** *adj.* — **par/a·sit/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

par·a·sit·ism (par/ə·sī/tiz·əm) *n.* The condition of being a parasite; parasitic mode of existence.

par·a·sol (par/ə·sôl, -sol) *n.* A small, light umbrella carried by women, used as protection against the sun. [< MF < Ital. < *para-* para-[2] + *sole* sun]

par·a·sym·pa·thet·ic (par/ə·sim/pə·thet/ik) *adj.* *Anat.* Denoting a part of the nervous system originating in the cranial and sacral regions and having among its functions the constriction of the pupil, the slowing of the heart, the dilation of the blood vessels, and the stimulation of the digestive and genitourinary systems.

ır·a·thy·roid (par′ə-thī′roid) *adj. Anat.* **1.** Lying near he thyroid gland. **2.** Of or pertaining to any of the several, su. four, small glands found near the thyroid gland and erving to control the amount of calcium in the blood. — *n.* One of the parathyroid glands.

ır·a·troops (par′ə-trōōps) *n.pl.* Troops trained and equiped to drop behind enemy lines by parachute. — **par′a·roop·er** *n.*

ır·a·ty·phoid (par′ə-tī′foid) *Pathol. adj.* Of or pertaining o paratyphoid fever. — *n.* Paratyphoid fever.

ıratyphoid fever *Pathol.* An infectious disease having ymptoms resembling those of typhoid fever, but caused by different bacterium.

ır a·vi·on (pär′ ä-vyôn′) *French* By airmail.

ır·boil (pär′boil′) *v.t.* **1.** To boil partially. **2.** To make ncomfortable with heat. [< OF < LL *perbullire* to boil horoughly]

ır·buck·le (pär′buk′əl) *n.* A sling for vertically raising a eavy object by passing a doubled rope around it, the free nds being pulled through the loop. — *v.t.* **·led, ·ling** To oist or lower by means of a parbuckle. [Earlier *parbunkle*; rigin uncertain]

ır·cel (pär′səl) *n.* **1.** Something that is wrapped up; packge. **2.** A quantity of some commodity put up for sale; lot. . An indefinite number of persons or things. **4.** A distinct ortion of land. — *v.t.* **par·celed** or **·celled, par·cel·ing** or **·el·ling** **1.** To divide or distribute in parts or shares: usu. *ith out.* **2.** To make up a parcel or parcels. — *adj. & adv.* 'art; partly. [< F < L *pars, partis* part]

ırcel post A postal service for the conveying and deliverng of parcels not exceeding a specified weight and size.

ırch (pärch) *v.t.* **1.** To make extremely dry. **2.** To make ery thirsty. **3.** To dry (corn, peas, etc.) by exposing to reat heat. **4.** To dry up or shrivel by exposing to cold. — *i.* **5.** To become dry. **6.** To become dry with thirst. [ME *archen*; ult. origin uncertain]

ır·chee·si (pär·chē′zē) *n.* A board game derived from pahisi. Also **par·che′si, par·chi′si.**

ırch·ment (pärch′mənt) *n.* **1.** The skin of sheep, goats, nd other animals prepared and polished with pumice stone, sed as a material for writing or painting upon. **2.** A writng on this material. **3.** Any of several types of paper made n imitation of parchment. [< OF < L *pergamenus* of ergamum, the city where it was first used]

ırd[1] (pärd] *n. Archaic* A leopard or panther. [< OF < L < Gk. *pardos*]

ırd[2] (pärd) *n. Slang* A partner. [Short for PARDNER]

ırd·ner (pärd′nər) *n. U.S. Dial* Chum; friend. [Alter. f PARTNER]

ır·don (pär′dən) *v.t.* **1.** To remit the penalty of (an ofense, insult, etc.). **2.** To forgive (a person) for an offense. . To grant courteous allowance for or to. — *n.* **1.** The act f pardoning; forgiveness. **2.** An official warrant declaring uch a remission. **3.** In the Roman Catholic Church, an ndulgence. [< OF < LL < *per-* through + *donare* to give] — **par′don·a·ble** *adj.* — **par′don·a·bly** *adv.*

ır·don·er (pär′dən·ər) *n.* **1.** One who pardons. **2.** In the Middle Ages, a layman who sold ecclesiastical indulgences.

ıre (pâr) *v.t.* **pared, par·ing** **1.** To cut off the covering ayer or part of. **2.** To cut off or trim away (a covering ayer or part): often with *off* or *away* **3.** To diminish gradully. [< OF *parer* to prepare, trim] — **par′er** *n.*

ır·e·gor·ic (par′ə·gôr′ik, -gor′ik) *n. Med.* A camphorated incture of opium, used primarily to treat diarrhea. [< LL < Gk. < *parēgoros* soothing]

ı·ren·chy·ma (pə·reng′ki·mə) *n.* **1.** *Biol.* The essential unctioning cellular substance of an animal organ, as distinguished from connective tissue. **2.** *Bot.* The soft cell tissue f higher plants, as found in stem pith or fruit pulp. Also **a·ren′chyme** (-kim). [< NL < Gk. < *para* beside + *nchyma* infusion] — **par·en·chym·a·tous** (par′eng·kim′ə·əs) *adj.*

ır·ent (pâr′ənt) *n.* **1.** A father or mother **2.** One exersing the functions of a father or mother. **3.** A progenitor; orefather. **4.** Any organism that generates another. **5.** ource; cause. [< OF < L *parere* to beget] — **pa·ren·tal** pə·ren′tal) *adj.* — **pa·ren′tal·ly** *adv.* — **par′ent·hood** *n.*

ır·ent·age (pâr′ən·tij) *n.* **1.** Descent or derivation from arents; lineage; origin. **2.** Derivation from a source or rigin. **3.** Parenthood. [< OF]

·ren·the·sis (pə·ren′thə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** Either r both of the upright curved lines ( ) used to enclose an inerjected, explanatory, or qualifying remark, mathematical uantities, etc. **2.** *Gram.* A word, phrase, or clause inserted n a sentence that is grammatically complete without it, set ff usu. by commas, dashes, or upright curved lines. **3.** An ntervening episode or incident. [< Med. L < Gk. < *para* eside + *en* in + *tithenai* to place]

pa·ren·the·size (pə·ren′thə·sīz) *v.t.* **·sized, ·siz·ing** **1.** To insert as a parenthetical statement. **2.** To insert parentheses in. **3.** To place within parentheses (def. 1).

par·en·thet·i·cal (par′ən·thet′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Thrown in; episodic. **2.** Abounding in or like parentheses; also, given to using parentheses. — **par′en·thet′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pa·re·sis (pə·rē′sis, par′ə·sis) *n. Pathol.* **1.** Partial paralysis affecting muscular motion but not sensation. **2.** General paresis. [< NL < Gk., a letting go] — **pa·ret·ic** (pə·ret′ik, -rē′tik) *adj.* — **pa·ret′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

par ex·cel·lence (pär ek′sə·läns, *Fr.* pàr ek·se·läns′) Beyond comparison; preeminently. [< F, lit., by excellence]

par·fait (pär·fā′) *n.* A frozen dessert or confection made with eggs, sugar, whipped cream, and fruit or other flavoring. [< F, perfect]

par·he·li·on (pär·hē′lē·ən) *n. pl.* **·li·a** (-lē·ə) *Meteorol.* One of two bright images sometimes appearing on a solar halo. Also **par·he′li·um** (-əm). [< L < Gk. < *para* beside + *hēlios* sun] — **par·he′lic, par·he·li·a·cal** (par′hi·li′ə·kəl) *adj.*

pari- *combining form* Equal. [< L *par, paris* equal]

pa·ri·ah (pə·rī′ə, par′ē·ə) *n.* **1.** A member of an extensive low caste of southern India and Burma. **2.** A social outcast. [< Tamil *parāiyan*, lit., (hereditary) drummer]

pa·ri·e·tal (pə·rī′ə·təl) *adj.* **1.** *Anat.* **a** Of, pertaining to, or forming the walls of a cavity or hollow organ. **b** Of or pertaining to the parietal bones. **2.** *Bot.* Attached to the wall of the ovary. **3.** *U.S.* Pertaining to residence or authority within the walls of a college. — *n.* A parietal bone. [< MF < L *paries* wall]

parietal bone *Anat.* Either of two bones that form a part of the top and sides of the cranium.

par·i·mu·tu·el (par′i·myōō′chōō·əl) *n.* **1.** A system of betting at races in which those who have bet on the winners share in the total amount wagered. Also **par′i·mu′tu·el.** **2.** A pari-mutuel machine. [< F, stake or mutual wager]

pari-mutuel machine A machine for recording pari-mutuel bets: also called *totalizator, totalizer.*

par·ing (pâr′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who pares. **2.** *Often pl.* The part pared off.

Par·is (par′is) In Greek mythology, a son of Priam whose abduction of Helen caused the Trojan War.

Paris green A poisonous compound prepared from copper acetate and arsenic trioxide, used chiefly as an insecticide.

par·ish (par′ish) *n.* **1.** *Eccl.* In the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and some other churches, a district with its own church. **2.** *U.S.* All those who worship at the same church. **3.** *Brit.* A political subdivision of a county. **4.** In Louisiana, a civil district corresponding to a county. **5.** The people of a parish. ◆ Collateral adjective: *parochial.* [< OF < LL < Gk. *paroikia*, orig., neighborhood, later diocese]

pa·rish·ion·er (pə·rish′ən·ər) *n.* A member of a parish.

Pa·ri·sian (pə·rizh′ən, -riz′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the city of Paris. — *n.* A native or resident of Paris.

par·i·ty (par′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Equality, as of condition, rank, value, etc.; also, a like state or degree. **2.** The equivalence in legal weight and quality of the legal tender of one class of money to another. **3.** Par (def. 3). **4.** Equality between the currency or prices of commodities of two countries or cities. **5.** Perfect analogy; close resemblance. **6.** *U.S.* A level for farm prices that gives to the farmer the same purchasing power that he averaged during each year of a chosen base period. [< MF < *paritas* equality]

park (pärk) *n.* **1.** A tract of land for public use in or near a city. **2.** An open square in a city. **3.** A national park (which see). **4.** An amusement park (which see). **5.** A large tract of land surrounding a country estate. **6.** *Mil.* An open area where guns, trucks, etc., are assembled for servicing and storage. **7.** In English law, a tract of land held through royal grant or by prescription. — *v.t.* **1.** To place or leave (an automobile, etc.) standing for a time, as on a street. **2.** *U.S. Slang* To place; set. **3.** To assemble or mass together: to *park* artillery. **4.** To enclose in or as in a park. — *v.i.* **5.** To park an automobile, etc. [< OF *parc* game preserve]

par·ka (pär′kə) *n. U.S. & Canadian* **1.** A hooded outer garment of undressed skins worn by Eskimos. **2.** A similar garment worn for skiing and other winter sports. [< Aleut]

Par·kin·son's disease (pär′kən·sənz) *Pathol.* A form of paralysis characterized by muscular rigidity, tremor, and weakness. Also **Park′in·son·ism.** [after James *Parkinson*, 1755–1824, English physician]

park·land (pärk′land′) *n. Often pl.* **1.** Land used or designated as a park. **2.** Grassland with trees.

park·way (pärk′wā) *n.* A wide thoroughfare adorned with spaces planted with turf and trees.

par·lance (pär′ləns) *n.* Manner of speech; language: legal *parlance.* [< OF < *parler* to speak]

par·lay (pär·lā′, pär′lē) *v.t. & v.i.* To place (an original bet

and its winnings) on a later race, contest, etc. — *n.* Such a bet. [< F < Ital *paroli* grand cast at dice]

par·ley (pär′lē) *n.* A conference, as with an enemy; a discussion of terms. — *v.i.* To hold a conference, esp. with an enemy. [< F *parlée*, fem. pp. of *parler* to speak]

par·lia·ment (pär′lə·mənt) *n.* **1.** An assembly for consultation and deliberation. **2.** A national legislature, esp. when composed of various estates. [< OF *parlement* speaking < *parler* to speak]

Par·lia·ment (pär′lə·mənt) *n.* **1.** The supreme legislature of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, composed of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. **2.** The legislature in any of Great Britain's colonies or dominions.

par·lia·men·tar·i·an (pär′lə·men·târ′ē·ən) *n.* One versed in parliamentary procedure or debate.

par·lia·men·ta·ry (pär′lə·men′tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or enacted by a parliament. **2.** According to the rules of a parliament: *parliamentary* procedure. **3.** Of a government, having a parliament.

parliamentary procedure The rules by which meetings of deliberative assemblies, societies, boards, clubs, etc., are formally conducted. Also **parliamentary law.**

par·lor (pär′lər) *n.* **1.** A room for reception of callers or entertainment of guests. **2.** A room in an inn, hotel, etc., for private conversation, appointments, etc. Also *Brit.* **par′lour.** [< AF < Med.L < ML *parabolare* to speak]

parlor car A railway car fitted with luxurious chairs, and run as a day coach: also called *chair car.*

par·lous (pär′ləs) *Archaic adj.* **1.** Dangerous or exciting. **2.** Shrewd. — *adv.* Exceedingly. [Var. of PERILOUS]

Par·me·san cheese (pär′mə·zan′) A hard, dry Italian cheese made from skim milk, grated and used to flavor spaghetti, soups, etc. [after *Parma*, a city in Italy]

Par·nas·sus (pär·nas′əs), **Mount** **1.** A mountain in central Greece, anciently regarded as sacred to Apollo and the Muses. **2.** The domain of poetry or of literature. **3.** A collection of poems or other literary works. — **Par·nas·si·an** (pär·nas′ē·ən) *adj.*

pa·ro·chi·al (pə·rō′kē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, supported by, or confined to a parish. **2.** Narrow; provincial; restricted in scope. [See PARISH.] — **pa·ro′chi·al·ism** *n.* — **pa·ro′chi·al·ly** *adv.*

parochial school A school, usu. elementary, supported and directed by the parish of a church.

par·o·dy (par′ə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** A humorous or burlesque imitation of a literary or musical work or style. **2.** An incompetent attempt to imitate another's work or style. — *v.t.* **·died, ·dy·ing** To make a parody of. [Ult. < Gk. *parōidia* burlesque poem or song] — **pa·rod·ic** (pə·rod′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **par′o·dist** *n.*

pa·rol (pə·rōl′) *n.* A word: now only in phrase **by parol,** by word of mouth. [< OF *parole* word]

par·ole (pə·rōl′) *n.* **1.** The conditional release of a prisoner before his sentence has expired. **2.** The duration of such conditional freedom. **3.** *Mil.* A pledge of honor by a prisoner of war that he will not seek to escape or will not serve against his captors until exchanged. — **on parole** Freed from prison under conditions of parole. — *v.t.* **·roled, ·rol·ing** To release (a prisoner) on parole. [< F *parole* (*d'honneur*) word (of honor)]

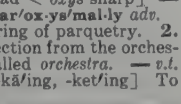
pa·rol·ee (pə·rō′lē) *n.* One released from prison on parole.

par·o·quet (par′ə·ket) See PARAKEET.

pa·rot·id (pə·rot′id) *Anat. adj.* **1.** Situated near the ear. **2.** Designating one of the paired salivary glands in front of and below the ear. — *n.* A parotid gland. [< F < L < Gk. *parōtis,* < *para-* beside + *ous, ōtos* ear]

par·ox·ysm (par′ək·siz′əm) *n.* **1.** A sudden and violent outburst, as of emotion or action: a *paroxysm* of tears. **2.** *Pathol.* A sudden intensification of the symptoms of a disease, usu. occurring at intervals. [< MF < Med.L < Gk. < *para-* beside + *oxynein* to goad < *oxys* sharp] — **par′ox·ys′mal** (-siz′məl) *adj.* — **par′ox·ys′mal·ly** *adv.*

par·quet (pär·kā′, -ket′) *n.* **1.** Flooring of parquetry. **2.** The main floor of a theater, esp. the section from the orchestra pit to the parquet circle: also called *orchestra.* — *v.t.* **·quet·ed** (-kād′, -ket′id), **·quet·ing** (-kā′ing, -ket′ing) To make (a floor, etc.) of parquetry. [< F < OF *parchet* small compartment, dim. of *parc*]



PARQUETRY

parquet circle The section of theater seats at the rear of the parquet and under the balcony.

par·quet·ry (pär′kit·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** Inlaid mosaic of wood, used esp. for floors.

parr (pär) *n.* **1.** A young salmon before its first migration seaward. **2.** The young of some other fishes, as the cod or pollack. [? < dial. E (Scottish)]

par·ra·keet (par′ə·kēt) See PARAKEET.

par·ri·cide (par′ə·sīd) *n.* **1.** The killing of a parent. **2.** One who has killed a parent. [< F < L *paricida* killer of a relative] — **par′ri·ci′dal** *adj.* — **par′ri·ci′dal·ly** *adv.*

par·ro·ket (par′ə·ket) See PARAKEET.

par·ro·quet (par′ə·ket) See PARAKEET.

par·rot (par′ət) *n.* **1.** Any of certain birds native in warm regions, having a hooked bill, and often brilliant plumage, including the macaws, parakeets, etc., some of which imitate human speech and laughter. **2.** One who repeats without understanding. — *v.t.* To repeat or imitate by rote. [ME, var. of *Perrot* < F < LL *Petrus*] — **par′rot·er** *n.*

parrot fish Any of many small fishes inhabiting warm seas and having vivid coloring and beaklike jaws.

par·ry (par′ē) *v.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To ward off (a thrust, blow, etc.) in fencing. **2.** To avoid or evade. — *v.i.* **3.** To ward off a thrust or blow. — *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A defensive movement, as in fencing. **2.** An evasion or diversion in a contest of wits. [< Ital. *parare* to ward off]

parse (pärs) *v.t.* **parsed, pars·ing** **1.** To analyze (a sentence) grammatically by giving the form, function, and syntactical relation of each of its words. **2.** To describe and analyze (a word) grammatically. [< L *pars, partis* part]

par·sec (pär′sek) *n. Astron.* A unit of length used in expressing stellar distances, corresponding to an annual parallax of one second of arc, or 3.26 light-years.

Par·see (pär′sē, pär·sē′) *n.* A member of a religious sect practicing a form of Zoroastrianism, descendants of Persians who fled to India in the eighth century to escape Moslem persecution. Also **Par′si.** [< Persian *Pārsī* a Persian] — **Par′see·ism, Par′si·ism, Par′sism** *n.*

Par·si·fal (pär′si·fäl, -fəl) A knight in Wagner's opera (1882) of this name.

par·si·mo·ni·ous (pär′sə·mō′nē·əs) *adj.* Characterized by or showing parsimony; penurious; niggardly. — **par′si·mo′ni·ous·ly** *adv.* — **par′si·mo′ni·ous·ness** *n.*

par·si·mo·ny (pär′sə·mō′nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** Undue sparingness in the expenditure of money; stinginess. [< L < *parsus,* pp. of *parcere* to spare]

pars·ley (pärs′lē) *n.* A cultivated herb, having aromatic leaves, widely used to garnish and flavor foods. [< OF < LL < L < Gk. < *petra* rock + *selinon* parsley]

pars·nip (pärs′nip) *n.* A European herb of the parsley family, with a large, sweetish, edible root. [ME < OF *pasnaie* + OE *næp* turnip]

par·son (pär′sən) *n.* **1.** A clergyman; minister. **2.** In the Anglican Church, a clergyman having full charge of a parish; a rector. [< OF < Med.L *persona* rector] — **par·son·i·cal** (pär·son′i·kəl), **par·son′ic** *adj.*

par·son·age (pär′sən·ij) *n.* **1.** A clergyman's dwelling; esp., a free official residence provided by the church. **2.** In English ecclesiastical law, the benefice of a parson.

part (pärt) *n.* **1.** A portion of a whole; segment. **2.** *Math.* One of a specified number of equal divisions; an aliquot division. **3.** A distinct piece or portion of a machine that fulfills a specific function in the working of the whole. **4.** Something less than the whole. **5.** An organ, member, or other portion of an animal or plant body. **6.** *Usu. pl.* A region; territory: in foreign *parts.* **7.** One's proper share, as of obligation or performance: to do one's *part.* **8.** Individual concern or participation in something. **9.** The role or lines assigned to an actor in a play. **10.** *Usu. pl.* An endowment of mind or character: a man of *parts.* **11.** *Music* **a** The melody intended for a single voice or instrument in a concerted piece: sometimes called *voice.* **b** The written or printed copy for the performer's use. **12.** Division, section, or installment of a literary work. **13.** The dividing line on the scalp made by combing sections of the hair in opposite directions. — **for one's part** As far as one is concerned. — **for the most part** To the greatest extent; in general. — **in good part** With good grace; good-naturedly. — **in part** Partly. — **part and parcel** An essential part: an emphatic phrase. — **to take part** To participate; share or cooperate: usu. with *in.* — **to take someone's part** To support someone in a contest or disagreement. — *v.t.* **1.** To divide or break (something) into parts. **2.** To sever or discontinue (a relationship or connection). **3.** To separate by being or coming between; keep or move apart. **4.** To comb (the hair) so as to leave a dividing line on the sides or elsewhere on the scalp. **5.** To separate (mingled substances) chemically or mechanically. — *v.i.* **6.** To become divided or broken into parts. **7.** To go away from each other; cease associating. **8.** To depart. — **to part from** To separate from; leave. — **to part with** **1.** To give up; relinquish. **2.** To part from. — *adv.* To some extent; partly. [< OF and OE < L *pars, partis*]

par·take (pär·tāk′) *v.* **·took, ·tak·en, ·tak·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To take part or have a share: with *in.* **2.** To receive or take a portion or share: with *of.* **3.** To have something of the quality or character: with *of.* — *v.t.* **4.** To take or have a part in; share. [Back formation < *partaker* < L < *pars, partis* part + *capere* to take] — **par·tak′er** *n.*

part·ed (pär′tid) *adj.* **1.** Situated or placed apart; separated. **2.** *Bot.* Cut almost but not quite to the base, as certain leaves. **3.** Divided into parts.

par·terre (pär·târ′) *n.* **1.** A flower garden having beds arranged in a pattern. **2.** The part of a theater on the main floor under the balcony and behind the parquet. [< MF < L *per* through, all over + *terra* land]

par·the·no·gen·e·sis (pär′thə·nō·jen′ə·sis) *n. Biol.* Reproduction by means of unfertilized eggs, seeds, or spores, as in many rotifers, insects, and algae. Also **par′the·nog′e·ny** (-noj′ə·nē). [< Gk. *parthenos* virgin + GENESIS] **— par′·the·no·ge·net′ic** (-jə·net′ik), **par′the·no·gen′ic** *adj.* **— par′·the·no·ge·net′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Par·the·non (pär′thə·non) The temple of Athena on the Acropolis at Athens, dedicated in 438 B.C., regarded as one of the finest examples of Doric architecture.

Par·thi·a (pär′thē·ə) An ancient kingdom occupying what is now NE Iran.

Par·thi·an (pär′thē·ən) *n.* An inhabitant of Parthia. **—** *adj.* Of or pertaining to Parthia or the Parthians. **— Parthian shot** Any aggressive remark or action made in leaving or fleeing, after the manner of Parthian cavalry who shot at their enemies while retreating.

par·tial (pär′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, constituting, or involving a part only. **2.** Favoring one side; biased. **3.** Having a special liking: usu. with *to*. **—** *n.* In acoustics, a partial tone. [< OF < LL < L *pars, partis* part] **— par′·tial·ly** *adv.*

partial eclipse *Astron.* An eclipse in which only part of the disk of a celestial body is obscured from view.

par·ti·al·i·ty (pär′shē·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being partial. **2.** Unfairness; bias. **3.** A particular fondness; predilection. Also **par′tial·ness** (-shəl·nis).

partial tone Any of the simple or pure tones that, taken collectively, constitute a complex tone

par·tic·i·pant (pär·tis′ə·pənt) *adj.* Sharing; taking part in. **—** *n.* One who participates; a sharer.

par·tic·i·pate (pär·tis′ə·pāt) *v.* **·pat·ed, ·pat·ing** *v.i.* To take part or have a share in common with others: with *in*. [< L < *pars, partis* part + *capere* to take] **— par·tic′i·pa′tion, par·tic′i·pance** *n.* **— par·tic′i·pa′tor** *n.*

par·ti·cip·i·al (pär′tə·sip′ē·əl) *Gram. adj.* **1.** Having the nature, form, or use of a participle. **2.** Characterized by, consisting of, or based on a participle. **—** *n.* A participle. **— par′ti·cip′i·al·ly** *adv.*

par·ti·ci·ple (pär′tə·sip′əl) *n. Gram.* A verbal adjective, often retaining some of the attributes of a verb, such as tense and the power of taking an object, but often also having the adjectival function of qualifying nouns. The **present participle** ends in *-ing* and the **past participle** commonly in *-d, -ed, -en, -n*, or *-t*. **— dangling participle** A participle that modifies the wrong substantive, as in *"Opening* the door, the *room* looked large." [< OF, var. of *participe* < L *participium* a sharing, partaking]

par·ti·cle (pär′ti·kəl) *n.* **1.** A minute part, piece, or portion, as of matter. **2.** A very small amount or slight degree. **3.** *Physics* One of the elementary components of an atom, as an electron, proton, neutron, meson, etc. **4.** *Gram.* **a** A short, uninflected part of speech, as an article, preposition, interjection, or conjunction. **b** A prefix or suffix. **5.** A small section or clause, as of a document. [< L *particula*, dim. of *pars, partis* part]

par·ti-col·ored (pär′tē·kul′ərd) *adj.* **1.** Differently colored in different parts. **2.** Diversified. Also spelled *party-colored*. [< F *partir*, to divide + COLORED]

par·tic·u·lar (pər·tik′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Peculiar or pertaining to a specified person, thing, time, or place; specific. **2.** Referring to one as distinguished from others. **3.** Especially noteworthy: of *particular* importance. **4.** Comprising all details or circumstances: a *particular* description. **5.** Requiring or giving minute attention to details; fastidious: *particular* in dress. **6.** *Logic* Including some, not all, of a class: opposed to *universal*. **—** *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* An item; detail. **2.** An individual instance; a single or separate case. **3.** *Logic* A particular proposition. **— in particular** Particularly. [< OF < LL *particularis* concerning a part]

par·tic·u·lar·i·ty (pər·tik′yə·lar′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being particular, as: **a** Exactitude in description. **b** Strict or careful attention to details; fastidiousness. **2.** That which is particular, as: **a** A circumstance or detail. **b** A special characteristic; peculiarity.

par·tic·u·lar·ize (pər·tik′yə·lə·rīz′) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To speak of or treat individually or in detail. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To give particular details; be specific. **— par·tic′u·lar·i·za′·tion** *n.* **— par·tic′u·lar·iz′er** *n.*

par·tic·u·lar·ly (pər·tik′yə·lər·lē) *adv.* **1.** With specific reference; distinctly. **2.** In an unusually great degree. **3.** Part by part; in detail. **4.** Severally; personally.

par·tic·u·late (pər·tik′yə·lāt) *adj.* Consisting of minute, separate particles.

part·ing (pär′ting) *adj.* **1.** Given or done at parting: a *parting* glance. **2.** Of or pertaining to a parting or a going away. **3.** Departing; declining. **4.** Separating; dividing. **—** *n.* **1.** The act of separating, or the state of being separated. **2.** A leave-taking; esp., a final separation. **3.** A place, line, or surface of separation. **4.** That which serves to part or separate objects.

parting shot Any retort or aggressive action made as one is leaving or fleeing. [< PARTHIAN SHOT by folk etymology]

par·ti·san (pär′tə·zən) *n.* **1.** One who supports or upholds a party, cause, etc.; esp., an overly zealous adherent or devotee. **2.** *Mil.* A member of a body of detached or irregular troops; a guerrilla. **—** *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or characteristic of a partisan. **2.** Advocated by or composed of members of one party. **3.** *Mil.* Of or carried on by partisans. Also **par′ti·zan.** **— Syn.** See ADHERENT. [< F < Ital. < L *pars, partis* part] **— par′ti·san·ship** *n.*

par·tite (pär′tīt) *adj.* Divided into or composed of parts: used in combination: *bipartite, tripartite*. [< L *partitus*, pp. of *partire* to divide]

par·ti·tion (pär·tish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of dividing, separating, distributing; also, the state of being divided, etc. **2.** Something that divides or separates, as a light interior wall dividing a room, an enclosure, a septum in a plant or animal structure, etc. **3.** One of the parts, sections, compartments, etc., into which a thing is divided. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To divide into parts, sections, segments, etc. **2.** To separate by a partition: often with *off*. [< OF < L *partire* to divide] **— par·ti′tion·er** *n.* **— par·ti′tion·ment** *n.*

par·ti·tive (pär′tə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Separating into integral parts or distinct divisions. **2.** *Gram.* Denoting a part as distinct from the whole. Example: *Of them* is the *partitive* genitive in the sentence "Many of them were there." **—** *n. Gram.* A partitive word or case. [< F *partitif* or L < *partitus*, pp. of *partire* to divide] **— par′ti·tive·ly** *adv.*

part·ly (pärt′lē) *adv.* In some part; partially.

part·ner (pärt′nər) *n.* One who is united or associated with another or others in some action, enterprise, etc.; as: **a** *Law* A member of a partnership. **b** A husband or wife; spouse. **c** One of a couple who dance together. **d** One of two or more players on the same side in a game. **e** A colleague or associate in some undertaking; a sharer. **—** *v.t. Rare* **1.** To make a partner. **2.** To be the partner of. [ME < fusion of *parcener* and *part*]

part·ner·ship (pärt′nər·ship) *n.* **1.** The state or relationship of being a partner; association. **2.** *Law* **a** A contractual relationship in which two or more persons combine capital, labor, etc., to carry on a business. **b** The contract that creates such a relationship. **c** The persons associated.

part of speech *Gram.* One of the eight traditional classes of words in English, noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, and interjection.

par·took (pär·tōōk′) Past tense of PARTAKE.

par·tridge (pär′trij) *n.* **1.** Any of certain small, plump game birds of the Old World. **2.** Any of various similar birds, as the ruffed grouse or the bobwhite. [< OF < L < Gk. *perdix, -ikos* partridge]

part song A song of three or more parts; esp., a secular choral piece without accompaniment.

part-time (pärt′tīm′) *adj.* For, during, or by part of the time: a *part-time* student.

par·tu·ri·ent (pär·tyŏŏr′ē·ənt, -tŏŏr′-) *adj.* **1.** Bringing forth or about to bring forth young. **2.** Of or pertaining to parturition. **3.** Producing or about to produce an idea, discovery, etc. [< L *parturiens, -entis*, ppr. of *parturire* to be in labor] **— par·tu′ri·en·cy** *n.*

par·tu·ri·tion (pär′tyŏŏ·rish′ən, -chŏŏ-) *n.* The act of bringing forth young; delivery; childbirth.

par·ty (pär′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A social gathering for pleasure or entertainment. **2.** A group of persons associated or gathered together for some common purpose; as: **a** A group united in promoting or maintaining a cause, policy, system, etc.; esp., a political group organized to gain control of a government through the election of its candidates to public office. **b** A small body of persons selected for some special mission or assignment: a demolition *party*. **c** A group formed for a sport or other diversion. **3.** *Law* Either of the persons or groups involved in legal proceedings. **4.** One who takes part or participates in an action, plan, etc.: a *party* to his crime. **5.** *Informal* A person. **—** *adj.* Of or pertaining to a party or parties. [< OF *partir* to divide]

par·ty-col·ored (pär′tē·kul′ərd) See PARTI-COLORED.

party line **1.** A telephone line or circuit serving two or more subscribers. Also **party wire.** **2.** A boundary line between the properties of two or more owners. **3.** The essential beliefs or policies of a political party.

pa·ter (pā′tər) *n. Brit. Informal* Father. [< L]
pa·ter·fa·mil·i·as (pā′tər·fə·mil′ē·əs) *n.* The father of a family. [< L < *pater* father + *familia* family]
pa·ter·nal (pə·tûr′nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a father; fatherly. **2.** Derived from, related through, or connected with one's father. [< LL < L < *pater* father] — **pa·ter′nal·ly** *adv.*
pa·ter·nal·ism (pə·tûr′nəl·iz′əm) *n.* The care or control of a country, community, group of employees, etc., in a manner suggestive of a father looking after his children. — **pa·ter′nal·is′tic** *adj.* — **pa·ter′nal·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
pa·ter·ni·ty (pə·tûr′nə·tē) *n.* **1.** The condition of being a father. **2.** Parentage on the male side. **3.** Origin in general.
pa·ter·nos·ter (pā′tər·nos′tər) *n.* **1.** The Lord's Prayer. *Matt.* vi 9–13. Also **Pa′ter Nos′ter.** **2.** A large bead of the rosary, indicating that a paternoster is to be recited. [< L *pater noster* our father]
path (path, päth) *n. pl.* **paths** (pathz, päthz, paths, päths) **1.** A walk or way used by man or animals on foot. **2.** A track or course. **3.** A course of life or action. [OE *pæth*]
Pa·than (pə·tän′, pət·hän′) *n.* An Afghan; esp., one of a people of Afghanistan of Indo-Iranian stock and Moslem religion. [< Hind. < Afghan *Pështūn* an Afghan]
pa·thet·ic (pə·thet′ik) *adj.* Of the nature of, expressing, or arousing sadness, pity, tenderness, etc. Also **pa·thet′i·cal.** [< LL < Gk. < *pathos* suffering] — **pa·thet′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **pa·thet′i·cal·ness** *n.*
pathetic fallacy The ascribing of human emotions and characteristics to nature or things of nature, as *a sad day.*
path·find·er (path′fīn′dər, päth′-) *n.* One skilled in leading or finding a way, esp. in unknown regions.
-pathia See -PATHY.
path·less (path′lis, päth′-) *adj.* Trackless; untrodden.
patho- *combining form* Suffering; disease. Also, before vowels, **path-.** [< Gk. *pathos* suffering]
path·o·gen (path′ə·jən) *n.* Any disease-producing bacterium or microorganism. Also **path′o·gene** (-jēn).
path·o·gen·e·sis (path′ə·jen′ə·sis) *n. Med.* The production or development of any diseased condition. Also **pa·thog·e·ny** (pə·thoj′ə·nē).
path·o·gen·ic (path′ə·jen′ik) *adj. Med.* Productive of or pertaining to the production of disease. Also **path′o·ge·net′ic** (-jə·net′ik).
path·o·log·i·cal (path′ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of pathology. **2.** Related to, involving, concerned with, or caused by disease. Also **path′o·log′ic.** — **path′o·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
pa·thol·o·gist (pə·thol′ə·jist) *n.* One skilled in pathology.
pa·thol·o·gy (pə·thol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The branch of medical science that treats of the origin, nature, causes, and development of disease. **2.** The sum of the conditions, processes, and effects in the course of a disease.
pa·thos (pā′thos) *n.* The quality, esp. in literature or art, that arouses feelings of pity, sorrow, compassion, etc. — **Syn.** See FEELING. [< Gk. < *pathein* to suffer]
path·way (path′wā′, päth′-) *n.* A path; footway.
-pathy *combining form* **1.** Suffering; affection. **2.** *Med.* Disease, or the treatment of disease: *psychopathy.* Also spelled *-pathia.* [< Gk. *pathos* suffering]
pa·tience (pā′shəns) *n.* **1.** The state, quality, or fact of being patient; also, the ability to be patient. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* Solitaire (def. 2). [< OF < L *pati* to suffer]
pa·tient (pā′shənt) *adj.* **1.** Possessing or demonstrating quiet, uncomplaining endurance under distress or annoyance. **2.** Tolerant, tender, and forbearing. **3.** Capable of tranquilly awaiting results. **4.** Persevering; diligent. — *n.* A person undergoing treatment for disease or injury. [< OF < L < *pati* to suffer] — **pa′tient·ly** *adv.*
pat·in (pat′n) See PATEN (def. 1).
pat·i·na[1] (pat′ə·nə, pə·tē′nə) *n. pl.* **·nae** (-nē) **1.** An earthen ware or metal bowl or basin used as a domestic utensil by the Romans. **2.** A paten (def. 1). [< L < Gk. *patanē*]
pat·i·na[2] (pat′ə·nə, pə·tē′nə) *n.* **1.** A green rust that covers ancient bronzes, copper coins, medals, etc. **2.** Any surface of antique appearance. Also called *patine.* [< F, prob. < L *patina* plate]
pat·ine (pə·tēn′ *for def. 1*, pat′n *for def. 2*) *n.* **1.** Patina[2]. **2.** See PATEN (def. 1).
pa·ti·o (pä′tē·ō, pat′ē·ō; *Sp.* pä′tyō) *n. pl.* **·ti·os** **1.** The open inner court of a Spanish or Spanish-American dwelling. **2.** *U.S.* A paved area adjoining a house, used for parties, barbecues, etc. [< Sp., ? < L *patere* to lie open]
pat·ois (pat′wä, *Fr.* pà·twà′) *n. pl.* **pat·ois** (pat′wäz, *Fr.* pà·twà′) A type of local dialect, esp. one that is rustic or illiterate. [< F; origin uncertain]
patri- *combining form* Father: *patricide.* [< L *pater, -tris* father]
pa·tri·arch (pā′trē·ärk) *n.* **1.** The leader of a family or tribe who rules by paternal right. **2.** One of the fathers of the Hebrew race, Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. **3.** One of the twelve sons of Jacob considered as the progenitors of the tribes of Israel. **4.** A venerable man; esp., the founder of a religion, order, etc. **5.** *Eccl.* **a** In the primitive Christian church, any of the bishops of Antioch, Alexandria, Rome, Constantinople, or Jerusalem. **b** In the Greek Orthodox Church, any of the bishops of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, or Jerusalem. [< OF < L < Gk. < *patria* family, clan + *archein* to rule]
pa·tri·ar·chal (pā′trē·är′kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or governed by a patriarch. **2.** Of the nature of a patriarchy. **3.** Having the nature or character of a patriarch. — **pa′tri·ar′chal·ly** *adv.*
pa·tri·ar·chate (pā′trē·är′kit) *n.* **1.** The office, dominion, or residence of a patriarch. **2.** A patriarchal system of government.
pa·tri·ar·chy (pā′trē·är′kē) *n. pl.* **·chies** **1.** A system of government in which the father or the male heir of his choice rules. **2.** Government by men.
pa·tri·cian (pə·trish′ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the aristocracy. **2.** Noble or aristocratic. — *n.* **1.** An aristocrat; esp., in ancient Rome, a member of the hereditary aristocracy. **2.** Any one of the upper classes. **3.** An honorary title bestowed by the later Roman emperors. [< OF < L *pater, -tris* senator, lit., father] — **pa·tri′cian·ly** *adv.*
pat·ri·cide (pat′rə·sīd) *n.* **1.** The killing of one's father. **2.** One who has killed his father. [< LL *patricidium*] — **pat′ri·ci′dal** *adj.*
pat·ri·lin·e·al (pat′rə·lin′ē·əl) *adj.* Derived from or descending through the male line.
pat·ri·mo·ny (pat′rə·mō′nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** An inheritance from a father or an ancestor; also, anything inherited. **2.** An endowment, as of a church. [< OF < L < *pater, -tris* father] — **pat′ri·mo′ni·al** *adj.* — **pat′ri·mo′ni·al·ly** *adv.*
pa·tri·ot (pā′trē·ət, -ot) *n.* One who loves his country and zealously guards its welfare; esp., a defender of popular liberty. [< F < LL < Gk. *patris* fatherland] — **pa′tri·ot′ic** *adj.* — **pa′tri·ot′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
pa·tri·ot·ism (pā′trē·ə·tiz′əm) *n.* Devotion to one's country.
pa·tris·tic (pə·tris′tik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the fathers of the Christian church or to their writings. Also **pa·tris′ti·cal.** — **pa·tris′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
pa·trol (pə·trōl′) *v.i. & v.t.* **·trolled, ·trol·ling** To walk or go through or around (an area, town, etc.) for the purpose of guarding or inspecting. — *n.* **1.** One or more soldiers, policemen, etc., patrolling a district. **2.** A reconnaissance or combat group sent out from the main body in air, ground, or naval warfare. **3.** The act of patrolling. **4.** A division of a troop of Boy Scouts. [< MF < *patrouiller*, var. of *patouiller*, orig., to paddle in mud] — **pa·trol′er** *n.*
patrol car A squad car.
pa·trol·man (pə·trōl′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** One who patrols. **2.** *U.S.* A policeman assigned to a beat.
patrol torpedo boat A small, highly maneuverable vessel, armed with torpedoes for action against enemy shipping: also called *PT boat.*
patrol wagon *U.S.* A police wagon for conveying prisoners.
pa·tron (pā′trən) *n.* **1.** One who protects, fosters, or supports some person, thing, or enterprise. **2.** A regular customer. **3.** A patron saint. [< OF < L *patronus* protector] — **pa′tron·al** *adj.* — **pa′tron·ess** *n.fem.*
pa·tron·age (pā′trən·ij, pat′rən-) *n.* **1.** The protection, support, or position of a patron. **2.** In the public service, the power or right to distribute offices, esp. political offices; also, the offices so distributed. **3.** The financial support given by customers to a commercial establishment. **4.** An overly condescending manner.
pa·tron·ize (pā′trən·īz, pat′rən-) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To act as a patron toward; give support to. **2.** To treat in a condescending manner. **3.** To trade with as a regular customer; frequent. — **pa′tron·iz′er** *n.* — **pa′tron·iz′ing·ly** *adv.*
patron saint A saint regarded as the special protector of a country, city, person, cause, etc.
pat·ro·nym·ic (pat′rə·nim′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to or derived from the name of one's father or paternal ancestor. — *n.* **1.** A family name. **2.** A name formed by adding a prefix or suffix to a proper name, as *Johnson*, son of John. [< L < Gk. < *patēr* father + *onoma* name] — **pat′ro·nym′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
pa·troon (pə·trōōn′) *n.* Formerly, under the old Dutch law, a holder of entailed estates, having some manorial rights. [< Du. < F < L *patronus* protector]
pat·ter[1] (pat′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To make a succession of light, sharp sounds. **2.** To move with light, quick steps. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to patter. — *n.* The act or sound of pattering. [Freq. of PAT[1]]
pat·ter[2] (pat′ər) *v.t. & v.i.* To speak or say glibly or rapidly; mumble mechanically or indistinctly. — *n.* **1.** Glib and rapid talk, as used by comedians, etc. **2.** Patois or dialect. **3.** Any professional jargon. **4.** Rapid speech set to music. [Short for PATERNOSTER] — **pat′ter·er** *n.*
pat·tern (pat′ərn) *n.* **1.** An original or model proposed for or worthy of imitation. **2.** Anything shaped or designed to serve as a model or guide in making something else. **3.** Any

decorative design or figure; also, such design worked on something. **4.** Arrangement of natural or accidental markings: the *pattern* of a butterfly's wings. **5.** The stylistic composition or design of a work of art. **6.** A complex of integrated parts functioning as a whole: the behavior *pattern* of a five-year-old. **7.** A representative example, sample, or instance. — *v.t.* **1.** To make after a model or pattern: with *on*, *upon*, or *after*. **2.** To decorate or furnish with a pattern. [< F *patron* patron]

pat·ty (pat′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** A small, flat piece of chopped meat, fish, etc. **2.** A small pie. [Alter. of F *pâté*]

patty shell A small puff-paste shell in which creamed meat, fish, vegetables, or fruit are served.

pau·ci·ty (pô′sə·tē) *n.* **1.** Smallness of number or quantity. **2.** Scarcity; insufficiency. [< OF or < L *paucus* few]

Paul (pôl), died 67? A.D., one of the apostles; the chief early Christian missionary to the Gentiles; author of several New Testament epistles: original name *Saul*. Also **Saint Paul, Paul the Apostle, Saul of Tarsus.**

Paul Bunyan The famous hero lumberjack of American folklore, of superhuman size and strength.

Paul·ine (pô′lēn, -līn) *adj.* Of the apostle Paul, his teachings, or writings. — **Paul′in·ism** *n.* — **Paul′in·ist** *n.*

paunch (pônch) *n.* **1.** The abdomen or the belly, esp. if protruding. **2.** A rumen (def. 1). [< OF < L *pantex*, *-ticis* belly] — **paunch′y** *adj.* — **paunch′i·ness** *n.*

pau·per (pô′pər) *n.* **1.** One who receives, or is entitled to receive, public charity. **2.** Any very poor person. [< Med.L < *pauper* poor] — **pau′per·ism** *n.*

pau·per·ize (pô′pər·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make a pauper of.

pause (pôz) *v.i.* **paused, paus·ing** **1.** To cease action or utterance temporarily; hesitate. **2.** To dwell or linger: with *on* or *upon*. — *n.* **1.** A temporary ceasing of action; rest. **2.** A holding back because of doubt or irresolution; hesitation. **3.** A momentary cessation in speaking or music for the sake of meaning or expression; also, a sign indicating such cessation. **4.** *Music* A hold. **5.** In prosody, a calculated interval of silence in a meter, or the place at which the voice naturally pauses in reading a verse: see CAESURA. [< OF < L < Gk. < *pauein* to stop] — **paus′er** *n.*

pav·an (pə·van′, -vän′) *n.* **1.** A slow, stately dance of the 16th and 17th centuries. **2.** Music for or in the manner of this dance. Also **pav·ane** (pə·van′, -vän′; *Fr.* pà·vàn′). [< MF < Sp. ? < L *pavo*, *-onis* peacock]

pave (pāv) *v.t.* **paved, pav·ing** To cover or surface with asphalt, gravel, concrete, etc., as a road. — **to pave the way (for)** To make preparation (for); lead up to. [< OF < L *pavire* to ram down] — **pav′er** *n.*

pave·ment (pāv′mənt) *n.* **1.** A hard, solid, surface covering for a road or footway. **2.** A paved road or footway. **3.** The material with which a surface is paved.

pa·vil·ion (pə·vil′yən) *n.* **1.** A movable or open structure, as a large tent or summerhouse. **2.** A related or connected part of a principal building, as for hospital patients. **3.** A canopy. — *v.t.* **1.** To provide with a pavilion. **2.** To shelter by a pavilion. [< OF < L *papilio*, *-onis* butterfly, tent]

pav·ing (pā′ving) *n.* **1.** The laying of a pavement. **2.** A pavement; also, the material used for pavement.

Pa·vo (pā′vō) A constellation, the Peacock. [< L]

pav·o·nine (pav′ə·nīn, -nin) *adj.* **1.** Resembling or characteristic of the peacock. **2.** Iridescent like the tail of a peacock. [< L *pavo*, *-onis* peacock]

paw (pô) *n.* **1.** The foot of an animal having nails or claws. **2.** *Informal* A human hand. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **1.** To strike or scrape with the feet or paws: to *paw* the air. **2.** *Informal* To handle or caress rudely or clumsily; maul. [< OF *powe*, prob. of Gmc. origin] — **paw′er** *n.*

pawl (pôl) *n.* *Mech.* A hinged or pivoted member shaped to engage with ratchet teeth, either to drive a ratchet wheel or to stop its reverse motion. [Origin uncertain]

pawn[1] (pôn) *n.* **1.** A chessman of lowest rank, that moves on file but captures diagonally. **2.** Any insignificant person used at another's will. [< AF, OF *peon* foot soldier]

pawn[2] (pôn) *n.* **1.** Something pledged as security for a loan. **2.** The condition of being held as a pledge for money loaned. **3.** The act of pawning. — *v.t.* **1.** To give as security for a loan. **2.** To risk or stake. [< OF *pan*, var. of early Frisian *pana* pledge] — **pawn′a·ble** *adj.* — **pawn′age** *n.* — **pawn′·er, pawn′or** *n.*

pawn·brok·er (pôn′brō′kər) *n.* One engaged in the business of lending money at interest on pledged personal property.

Paw·nee (pô·nē′) *n.* *pl.* **·nees** or **·nee** A member of one of four tribes of North American Indians formerly inhabiting the region between the Arkansas River and the Platte River, Nebraska, now living in Oklahoma.

pawn·shop (pôn′shop′) *n.* The shop of a pawnbroker.

pawn ticket A receipt for goods pawned.

paw·paw (pô′pô) See PAPAW.

pay[1] (pā) *v.* **paid** or (*Obs.* except for def. 2 of *to pay out*) **payed, pay·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give (someone) what is due for a debt, purchase, etc.; remunerate. **2.** To give (money, etc.) for a purchase, service rendered, etc. **3.** To provide or hand over the amount of, as a debt, bill, etc. **4.** To yield as return or recompense. **5.** To afford profit or benefit to. **6.** To defray, as expenses. **7.** To requite, as for an insult. **8.** To render or give, as a compliment, attention, etc. **9.** To make, as a call or visit. — *v.i.* **10.** To make recompense or payment. **11.** To be worthwhile: It *pays* to be honest — **to pay back** To repay. — **to pay off** **1.** To pay the entire amount of (a debt, mortgage, etc.). **2.** To pay the wages of and discharge. **3.** To gain revenge upon or for. **4.** *U.S. Informal* To afford full return. **5.** *Naut.* To turn or cause to turn to leeward. **6.** *U.S. Slang* To bribe. — **to pay out** **1.** To disburse or expend. **2.** *Naut.* To let out by slackening, as a rope or cable. — **to pay up** To make full payment (of). — *n.* **1.** That which is given as a recompense; wages. **2.** The act of paying, or the state of being paid. **3.** Paid employment. **4.** Requital; reward; also, retribution. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to payments, persons who pay, or services paid for: *pay* day. **2.** Constructed so as to require payment on use. **3.** Yielding enough metal to be worth mining: *pay* dirt. [< OF < L *pacare* to appease] — **pay′er** *n.*

— **Syn.** (verb) **1.** compensate, indemnify. **2.** spend, expend, disburse. **3.** settle, liquidate.

pay[2] (pā) *v.t.* **paid** or **payed, pay·ing** To coat with a waterproof substance, as pitch. [< AF < L < *pix*, *picis* pitch]

pay·a·ble (pā′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Due and unpaid. **2.** That can or will be paid. **3.** Likely to be profitable. — **pay′a·bly** *adv.*

pay·day (pā′dā′) *n.* The day on which wages are distributed.

pay dirt **1.** Soil containing enough metal, esp. gold, to be profitable to mine. **2.** Anything profitable.

pay·ee (pā·ē′) *n.* A person to whom money has been or is to be paid.

pay·load (pā′lōd′) *n.* **1.** That part of a cargo producing revenue. **2.** The warhead of a guided missile.

pay·mas·ter (pā′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* One who has charge of paying employees. — **pay′mis′tress** (-mis′tris) *n.fem.*

pay·ment (pā′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of paying, or that which is paid. **2.** Recompense. **3.** Punishment.

pay-off (pā′ôf′, -of′) *n.* **1.** *Informal* Any settlement, reward, or punishment. **2.** *Informal* The climax or outcome of an incident or narrative. **3.** *U.S. Slang* A bribe.

pay·roll (pā′rōl′) *n.* A list of those entitled to receive pay, with the amounts due them; also, the total sum of money needed to make the payments. Also **pay roll.**

pays (pāz) See PAIS.

pea (pē) *n.* *pl.* **peas** or **pease** **1.** A climbing annual leguminous herb having pinnate leaves and round, green, usu. edible seeds. **2.** The seed of any one of various related plants. [< PEASE, incorrectly taken as a plural]

peace (pēs) *n.* **1.** A state of mental or physical quiet or tranquillity; calm. **2.** The absence or cessation of war. **3.** Public order and tranquillity. **4.** A state of reconciliation after strife or enmity. **5.** Freedom from mental agitation or anxiety. — **at peace** **1.** In a quiet state; tranquil. **2.** In a state or condition of order and harmony. — **to hold (or keep) one's peace** To be silent. — *v.i.* *Obs. except as an imperative* To be or become quiet. [< OF < L *pax*, *pacis*]

Peace Corps A U.S. government organization, established in 1961, that trains and sends volunteers to live in and aid underdeveloped countries by teaching, farming, building, etc.

peace·a·ble (pē′sə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to peace. **2.** Peaceful; tranquil. — **peace′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **peace′a·bly** *adv.*

peace·ful (pēs′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Not in a state of war, riot, or commotion; undisturbed. **2.** Averse to strife. **3.** Inclined to or characteristic of peace. — **peace′ful·ly** *adv.* — **peace′·ful·ness** *n.*

peace·mak·er (pēs′mā′kər) *n.* One who effects a reconciliation between unfriendly parties. — **peace′mak′ing** *n.* & *adj.*

peace pipe The calumet.

peace·time (pēs′tīm′) *n.* A time of peace. — *adj.* Of, characterized by, or used in such a time.

peach[1] (pēch) *n.* **1.** The edible fruit of a tree of the rose family, wildly cultivated in many varieties. **2.** The tree itself. **3.** The yellowish pink color characteristic of the fruit. **4.** *Slang* Any particularly beautiful, pleasing, or excellent person or thing. [< OF < LL < L < Gk. *Persikon* (*mēlon*) Persian (fruit)]

peach[2] (pēch) *v.i.* *Slang* To inform against an accomplice; turn informer. [Aphetic var. of obs. *appeach* to accuse]

peach·y (pē′chē) *adj.* **peach·i·er, peach·i·est** **1.** Resembling a peach, esp. in color or downiness. **2.** *Slang* Delightfully pleasant, beautiful, etc. — **peach′i·ness** *n.*

pea·coat (pē′kōt′) *n.* A pea jacket. Also **pea coat.**

pea·cock (pē′kok′) *n.* The male of a gallinaceous crested bird having erectile, brilliantly iridescent tail coverts enormously elongated and marked with eyelike spots, and the neck and breast of a greenish blue. ◆ Collateral adjective: *pavonine.* — *v.i.* To strut vainly; make a display. [OE *pēa, pāwa* peacock (< L *pavo*) + COCK[1]]

MALE PEACOCK
(Body to 36 inches long; tail coverts to 6 feet)

peacock blue A vivid greenish blue.
pea·fowl (pē′foul′) *n.* A peacock or peahen.
pea green A light yellowish green.
pea·hen (pē′hen′) *n.* A female peafowl.
pea jacket A short coat of thick woolen cloth, worn by seamen. Also called *peacoat.* [< Du. *pij* coat of coarse wool + JACKET]
peak (pēk) *n.* **1.** A projecting point or edge; an end terminating in a point. **2.** A conspicuous or precipitous mountain; also, the summit of such a mountain. **3.** A point formed by the growth or cut of hair. **4.** The maximum development, strength, value, etc., of something. **5.** *Naut.* **a** The after upper corner of a fore-and-aft sail. **b** The upper end of a gaff. **c** The sharply narrowed part of a vessel at the bow or stern. — *v.t.* **1.** *Naut.* To raise to or almost to a vertical position, as a gaff or yard. **2.** To make into a peak or point. — *v.i.* **3.** To assume the form of a peak. [Var. of PIKE[4]]
peak·ed (pē′kid, pēkt) *adj.* Having a thin or sickly appearance. [Origin uncertain]
peal (pēl) *n.* **1.** A prolonged, sonorous sound, as of a bell or thunder. **2.** A set of large bells. **3.** A change rung on a set of bells. — *v.i. & v.t.* To sound with a peal or peals. [ME *pele,* aphetic var. of *apele* < OF *apeler* to appeal]
pe·an (pē′ən) See PAEAN.
pea·nut (pē′nut′) *n.* **1.** The nutlike seed or seed pod of an annual herbaceous vine ripening underground from the flowers that bury themselves after fertilization. **2.** The plant bearing this nut.
peanut brittle A hard candy containing roasted peanuts.
peanut butter A spread resembling butter in consistency, made from ground, roasted peanuts.
pear (pâr) *n.* **1.** The juicy, edible, fleshy fruit of a tree of the rose family. **2.** The tree bearing this fruit. [OE < W Gmc. < LL < L *pira,* pl. of *pirum* pear]
pearl[1] (pûrl) *n.* **1.** A smooth, rounded, variously tinted nacreous concretion formed as a deposit around a foreign body in the shells of various mollusks, and largely used as a gem. **2.** Something like or likened to such a jewel in form, luster, value, etc. **3.** Nacre or mother-of-pearl. **4.** A very pale bluish gray: also **pearl blue, pearl gray.** **5.** *Printing* A size of type smaller than agate, 5 points. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, consisting of, set with, or made of pearl or mother-of-pearl. **2.** Shaped like a pearl. — *v.i.* **1.** To seek or fish for pearls. **2.** To form beads like pearls. — *v.t.* **3.** To adorn or set with or as with pearls. **4.** To color or shape like pearls. **5.** To make into small round grains, as barley. [< OF < Med.L *perna* pearl < L, mussel] — **pearl′y** *adj.*
pearl[2] (pûrl) See PURL[2].
pearl·ash (purl′ash) *n.* Commercial potassium carbonate.
peas·ant (pez′ənt) *n.* **1.** In Europe, a farmer, farm laborer, or rustic workman. **2.** *Informal* A boorish, uncouth, or simple-minded person. [< AF < OF *pais* country < LL < *pagus* district]
peas·ant·ry (pez′ən·trē) *n.* **1.** The peasant class; a body of peasants. **2.** Rusticity.
pease (pēz) Alternate plural of PEA: now used only in the collective sense. [OE < LL < L, pl. of *pisum* < Gk. < *pisos,* pulse, pease]
pease·cod (pēz′kod) *n.* A pea pod. Also **peas′cod.**
pea·soup·er (pē′sōōp′ər) *n.* **1.** *Canadian* A French Canadian. **2.** *Brit.* A thick fog.
peat (pēt) *n.* **1.** A substance consisting of partially carbonized vegetable material, found usu. in bogs. **2.** A block of this substance, pressed and dried for fuel: also called *turf.* [ME < Med.L *peta* piece of peat] — **peat′y** *adj.*
peat bog A marsh with an accumulation of peat.
peat moss **1.** A moss of which peat is largely composed. **2.** *Brit.* A peat bog.
pea·vey (pē′vē) *n. pl.* **·vies** An iron-pointed lever fitted with a movable hook and used for handling logs. Also **pea′·vy.** [after Joseph *Peavey,* its inventor]
peb·ble (peb′əl) *n.* **1.** A small, rounded fragment of rock, shaped by the action of water, ice, etc. **2.** Quartz crystal; also, a lens made of it. **3.** Leather that has been pebbled. — *v.t.* **·bled, ·bling** **1.** To impart a rough grain to (leather). **2.** To cover or pelt with pebbles. [Back formation of OE *papol(stān)* pebble(stone)]
peb·bly (peb′lē, peb′əl·ē) *adj.* **·bli·er, ·bli·est** **1.** Covered with or full of pebbles. **2.** Having a texture resembling pebbles.
pe·can (pi·kan′, -kän′, pē′kan) *n.* **1.** A large hickory of the central and southern U.S., with edible, oval, thin-shelled nuts. **2.** The nut of this tree. [Earlier *pacan* < Algonquian (Cree) *pacan*]
pec·ca·dil·lo (pek′ə·dil′ō) *n. pl.* **·los** or **·loes** A slight or trifling sin. [< Sp., dim. of *pecado* sin < L < *peccare* to sin]
pec·cant (pek′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Guilty of sin; sinful. **2.** Corrupt and offensive. — **pec′can·cy** *n.* — **pec′cant·ly** *adv.*
pec·ca·ry (pek′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A hoglike animal of Central and South America. [< Sp. < Carib *pakira*]
pec·ca·vi (pe·kā′vī, -kä′vē) *n. pl.* **·vis** *Latin* A confession of guilt; literally, I have sinned.
peck[1] (pek) *v.t.* **1.** To strike with the beak, as a bird does, or with something pointed. **2.** To make by striking thus: to *peck* a hole in a wall. **3.** To pick up, as food, with the beak. — *v.i.* **4.** To make strokes with the beak or with something pointed. **5.** To eat in small amounts or without appetite: with *at.* — *n.* **1.** A quick, sharp blow, as with a beak. **2.** A mark or hole made by such a blow. **3.** *Informal* A quick kiss. [ME. Var. of PICK.] — **peck′er** *n.*
peck[2] (pek) *n.* **1.** A measure of capacity: the fourth of a bushel. See table front of book. **2.** A vessel for measuring a peck. **3.** *Slang* A great quantity. [< OF *pek*]
pec·tin (pek′tin) *n. Biochem.* Any of a class of carbohydrates contained in the cell walls of various fruits as apples, lemons, etc., used as the basis of fruit jellies.
pec·to·ral (pek′tər·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the breast or chest. **2.** Of or for diseases of the lungs or chest. — *n.* **1.** A pectoral organ, fin, or muscle. **2.** Any medicine for ailments of the chest. [< L < *pectus, -oris* breast]
pectoral fin *Zool.* One of the anterior paired fins of fishes, homologous with the anterior limb of higher vertebrates.
pec·u·late (pek′yə·lāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To steal or appropriate wrongfully (funds, esp. public funds entrusted to one's care); embezzle. [< L *peculatus,* pp. of *peculari* to embezzle] — **pec′u·la′tion** *n.* — **pec′u·la′tor** *n.*
pe·cul·iar (pi·kyōōl′yər) *adj.* **1.** Having a character exclusively its own; specific. **2.** Singular; strange. **3.** Select or special; separate. **4.** Belonging particularly or exclusively to one. — *n.* A person or thing that is peculiar; formerly, any private possession. [< MF *peculier* or < L < *peculium* private property] — **pe·cul′iar·ly** *adv.*
pe·cu·li·ar·i·ty (pi·kyōō′lē·ar′ə·tē, -kyōōl′yar′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A characteristic. **2.** The quality of being peculiar. — **Syn.** See CHARACTERISTIC.
pe·cu·ni·ar·y (pi·kyōō′nē·er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of or relating to money. **2.** Having a monetary penalty; entailing a fine. [< L < *pecunia* money < *pecus* cattle]
ped-[1] Var. of PEDI-[1].
ped-[2] Var. of PEDO-.
-ped Var. of -PEDE.
ped·a·gog·ic (ped′ə·goj′ik, -gō′jik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the science or art of teaching. **2.** Of or belonging to a pedagogue; affected with a conceit of learning. Also **ped′a·goj′i·cal.** — **ped′a·goj′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
ped·a·gog·ism (ped′ə·goj′iz·əm, -gôg′-) *n.* The nature, character, or business of a teacher. Also **ped′a·gogu′ism.**
ped·a·gogue (ped′ə·gog, -gôg) *n.* **1.** A schoolmaster; educator. **2.** A pedantic, narrow-minded teacher. Also **ped′a·gog.** [< OF < L < Gk. < *pais, paidos* child + *agōgos* leader]
ped·a·go·gy (ped′ə·gō′jē, -goj′ē) *n.* **1.** The science or profession of teaching. **2.** The theory of how to teach.
ped·al (ped′l) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a foot, feet, or a footlike part. **2.** Of or pertaining to a pedal. — *n. Mech.* A lever operated by the foot and having various functions: a bicycle *pedal;* a piano *pedal.* — *v.t. & v.i.* **ped·aled** or **·alled, ped·al·ing** or **·al·ling** To move or operate by working pedals. [< L < *pes, pedis* foot]
ped·al-push·ers (ped′l·pōōsh′ərz) *n.pl.* Slacks that come to just below the knees, worn by women and girls.
ped·ant (ped′ənt) *n.* One who makes needless display of his learning, or who insists upon the importance of trifling points of scholarship. [< MF < Ital. *pedante,* prob. < Med.L *paedagogans, -antis,* ppr. of *paedagogare* to teach] — **pe·dan·tic** (pi·dan′tik) *adj.* — **pe·dan′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
ped·ant·ry (ped′ən·trē) *n. pl.* **·ries** Ostentatious display of knowledge. **2.** Slavish adherence to forms or rules.
ped·ate (ped′āt) *adj.* **1.** Resembling or having the functions of a foot; also, having feet. **2.** *Bot.* Divided or parted as a fan, the lateral divisions being subdivided: said esp. of leaves. [< L *pedatus* having feet] — **ped′ate·ly** *adv.*
ped·dle (ped′l) *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.i.* **1.** To travel about selling small wares. **2.** To piddle. — *v.t.* **3.** To carry about and sell in small quantities. **4.** To sell or dispense in small quantities. [Appar. back formation < ME *pedlere* peddler]
ped·dler (ped′lər) *n.* One who peddles; a hawker. [ME < *ped* basket] — **ped′dler·y** *n.*
-pede *combining form* Footed: *centipede.* Also spelled *-ped,* as in *quadruped.* [< L *pes, pedis* foot]
ped·er·ast (ped′ə·rast, pē′də-) *n.* One addicted to peder asty: also spelled *paederast.*

ped·er·as·ty (ped′ə·ras′tē, pē′də-) *n.* Sex relations between men, esp. between men and boys. [< NL < Gk. < *pais, paidos* boy + *erastēs* lover] — **ped′er·as′tic** *adj.*

ped·es·tal (ped′is·təl) *n.* **1.** A base or support for a column, statue, or vase. **2.** Any foundation or support. — **to put on a pedestal** To hold in high estimation; to put in the position of an idol or hero. — *v.t.* **·taled** or **·tailed, ·tal·ing** or **·tal·ling** To place on a pedestal. [< MF < Ital. < *piè, piede* foot + *di* of + *stallo* stall, standing place]

pe·des·tri·an (pə·des′trē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Moving on foot; walking. **2.** Pertaining to common people; plebeian. **3.** Commonplace, prosaic, or dull, as prose. — *n.* One who journeys or moves from place to place on foot; a walker. [< L *pedester, -tris* on foot] — **pe·des′tri·an·ism** *n.*

pedi-[1] *combining form* Foot; related to the foot or feet. Also, before vowels, *ped-*. [< L *pes, pedis* foot]

pedi-[2] Var. of PEDO-.

pe·di·a·tri·cian (pē′dē·ə·trish′ən, ped′ē-) *n.* A physician specializing in pediatrics. Also **pe·di·at·rist** (pē′dē·at′rist).

pe·di·at·rics (pē′dē·at′riks, ped′ē-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) That branch of medicine dealing with the diseases and hygienic care of children: also spelled *paediatrics*. [< Gk. *pais, paidos* child + -IATRICS] — **pe′di·at′ric** *adj.*

ped·i·cab (ped′i·kab) *n.* A three-wheeled vehicle operated by pedaling and used for public hire, esp. in Asia.

ped·i·cel (ped′ə·səl) *n.* **1.** A stalk or supporting part. **2.** *Bot.* The stalk supporting a single flower in an inflorescence composed of flowers arranged upon a common peduncle. **3.** *Zool.* A footlike sucker or part. [< NL *pedicellus*, dim. of L *pediculus*, dim. of *pes, pedis* foot]

ped·i·cel·late (ped′ə·sə·lit, -lāt′) *adj.* On or having a pedicel.

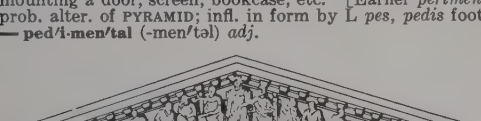
ped·i·cle (ped′i·kəl) *n.* A pedicel.

pe·dic·u·lo·sis (pə·dik′yə·lō′sis) *n.* *Pathol.* The condition of being infested with lice; lousiness. [< L *pediculus* little louse + -OSIS] — **pe·dic′u·lous** *adj.*

ped·i·cure (ped′i·kyŏŏr) *n.* **1.** Chiropody. **2.** A chiropodist; podiatrist. **3.** The cosmetic treatment of the feet and toenails. [< F < L *pes, pedis* foot + *curare* to care for]

ped·i·gree (ped′ə·grē) *n.* **1.** A line of ancestors; lineage. **2.** A list or table of descent and relationship, esp. of an animal of pure breed. [< MF *pié de grue* a crane's foot; from a three line mark denoting succession in pedigrees] — **ped′i·greed** *adj.*

ped·i·ment (ped′ə·mənt) *n.* *Archit.* **1.** A broad triangular part above a portico or door. **2.** Any similar piece surmounting a door, screen, bookcase, etc. [Earlier *periment*, prob. alter. of PYRAMID; infl. in form by L *pes, pedis* foot] — **ped′i·men′tal** (-men′təl) *adj.*



PEDIMENT
(Supreme Court Building, Washington, D.C.)

pedo- *combining form* Child; children; offspring: also, before vowels, *ped-*, as in *pedagogy*. Also spelled *paedo-*. [< Gk. *pais, paidos* child]

pe·dom·e·ter (pi·dom′ə·tər) *n.* An instrument that records the number of steps taken by the person who carries it. [< F < L *pes, pedis* foot + Gk. *metron* measure]

pe·dun·cle (pi·dung′kəl) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* The general stalk or support of an inflorescence. **2.** *Zool.* A stalk or stalklike part. [< NL *pedunculus* footstalk, dim. of *pes, pedis* foot] — **pe·dun′cu·lar** (-kyə·lər) *adj.* — **pe·dun′cu·late** (-kyə·lit, -lāt′), **pe·dun′cu·lat′ed** *adj.*

peek (pēk) *v.i.* To look furtively, slyly, or quickly; peep. — *n.* A peep, glance. [ME *piken*; origin uncertain]

peek-a-boo (pē′kə·bōō′) *n.* A children's game in which one hides one's face and calls out "peekaboo!"

peel[1] (pēl) *n.* The natural coating of certain kinds of fruit, as oranges and lemons; skin; rind. — *v.t.* **1.** To strip off the bark, skin, etc., of. **2.** To strip off; remove. — *v.i.* **3.** To lose bark, skin, etc. **4.** To come off: said of bark, skin, etc. **5.** *Slang* To undress. — **to keep one's eye peeled** *Informal* To keep watch; be alert. — **to peel off** *Aeron.* To veer off from a flight formation so as to dive or prepare for a landing. [ME < L *pilare* to deprive of hair] — **peel′er** *n.*

peel[2] (pēl) *n.* A long-handled implement used in moving bread, etc., about an oven. [< OF < L *pala* shovel]

peel·ing (pē′ling) *n.* Something peeled off, as rind, skin, etc.

peen (pēn) *n.* The end of a hammer head opposite the flat, striking face, usu. shaped like a wedge. — *v.t.* To beat, bend, or shape with the peen. [< ON]

peep[1] (pēp) *v.i.* **1.** To utter the small, sharp cry of a young bird or chick; chirp; cheep. **2.** To speak in a weak, small voice. — *n.* **1.** The cry of a chick or small bird, or of a young frog; chirp. **2.** A small sandpiper. [ME *pepen*; imit.]

peep[2] (pēp) *v.i.* **1.** To look through a small hole, from concealment, etc.; peek. **2.** To look furtively or quickly; peek. **3.** To begin to appear; be just visible. — *n.* **1.** A furtive look; a glimpse or glance. **2.** A peephole. **3.** The earliest appearance: the *peep* of day. [Prob. alter. of PEEK]

peep·er[1] (pē′pər) *n.* An animal that peeps, as a chick or any of several tree frogs.

peep·er[2] (pē′pər) *n.* **1.** One who peeps or peeks; a spying person. **2.** *Slang* An eye.

peep·hole (pēp′hōl′) *n.* An aperture, as a hole or crack, through which one may peep; also, a small window in a door.

peep·ing Tom (pē′ping tom′) An overly inquisitive or prying person; esp., one who peeps in at windows.

Peeping Tom of Coventry In British legend, a curious tailor who peeped at Lady Godiva and was struck blind.

peep·show (pēp′shō′) *n.* An exhibition of pictures, etc., viewed through a small orifice fitted with a magnifying lens.

peer[1] (pir) *v.i.* **1.** To look narrowly or searchingly, as in an effort to see clearly. **2.** To come partially into view. **3.** *Poetic* To appear. [Origin uncertain]

peer[2] (pir) *n.* **1.** An equal, as in natural gifts or in social rank. **2.** An equal before the law. **3.** A noble, esp. a British duke, marquis, earl, viscount, or baron; also, a prelate in the House of Lords. [< OF < L *par* equal]

peer·age (pir′ij) *n.* **1.** The office or rank of a peer or nobleman. **2.** Peers collectively. **3.** A book containing a genealogical list of the nobility.

peer·ess (pir′is) *n.* A woman who holds a title of nobility, either in her own right or by marriage with a peer.

peer·less (pir′lis) *adj.* Of unequaled excellence. — **peer′·less·ly** *adv.* — **peer′less·ness** *n.*

peer of the realm One of the lords of Parliament.

peeve (pēv) *v.t.* **peeved, peev·ing** *Informal* To make peevish. — *n.* *Informal* A complaint, annoyance, or grievance. [Back formation < PEEVISH]

pee·vish (pē′vish) *adj.* **1.** Irritable or querulous; cross. **2.** Showing discontent and vexation. [ME *pevische*; origin uncertain] — **pee′vish·ly** *adv.* — **pee′vish·ness** *n.*

pee·wee (pē′wē) *n.* **1.** See PEWEE. **2.** *Informal* Anything or anyone small or diminutive. — *adj.* Tiny. [Imit.]

peg (peg) *n.* **1.** A pin, usu. of wood or metal, used to fasten articles together, to stop a hole, etc. **2.** A projecting pin upon which something may be hung, or which may serve to keep a score, etc. **3.** In a stringed musical instrument, a pin for holding fast the end of a string and adjusting its tension. **4.** A reason or excuse. **5.** A degree or step, as in rank or estimation. **6.** *Brit.* A drink of brandy or whisky and soda. **7.** *Informal* A leg, often of wood. **8.** *Informal* A throw, as in baseball. — **to take (one) down a peg** To lower the self-esteem of (a person). — *v.* **pegged, peg·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To drive or force a peg into; fasten with pegs. **2.** To mark with pegs. **3.** To strike or pierce with a peg or sharp instrument. **4.** *Informal* To throw. — *v.i.* **5.** To work or strive hard and perseveringly: usu. with *away*. **6.** In croquet, to hit a peg. **7.** To mark the score with pegs. — *adj.* Peg-top. [ME < MDu. *pegge*]

Peg·a·sus (peg′ə·səs) In Greek mythology, a winged horse, symbol of poetic inspiration. — *n.* A constellation, the Winged Horse. [< L < Gk. *Pēgasos*]

peg·board (peg′bôrd) *n.* **1.** Any perforated board into which pegs may be inserted for holding things, keeping score, etc. **2.** *Brit.* A game in which a player arranges pegs in certain patterns on a perforated board: also called *solitaire*.

peg leg *Informal* **1.** An artificial leg of rodlike or tapering shape. **2.** A person with such a leg.

peg-top (peg′top′) *adj.* Wide at the hip and narrow at the ankle: said of trousers: also *peg*. Also **pegged.**

peg top A child's wooden spinning top, pear-shaped and having a sharp metal peg.

pei·gnoir (pān·wär′, pān′wär) *n.* A loose dressing gown or negligée worn by women. [< F < *peigner* to comb]

pe·jo·ra·tion (pē′jə·rā′shən, pej′ə-) *n.* The condition of becoming worse; deterioration.

pe·jo·ra·tive (pē′jə·rā′tiv, pej′ə-, pi·jôr′ə·tiv, -jor′-) *adj.* Having or giving a derogatory or disparaging meaning or sense: a *pejorative* statement. — *n.* A pejorative word. [< LL *pejorare* to make worse] — **pe′jo·ra′tive·ly** *adv.*

Pe·king·ese (pē′kə·nēz′ *for def. 1*; pē′king·ēz′ *for defs. 2, 3*) *n. pl.* **·ese** **1.** A variety of a pug dog, having long, silky hair, snub nose, and short legs. **2.** A native or inhabitant of Peking. **3.** The dialect spoken in Peking. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Peking. Also **Pe·kin·ese** (pē′kə·nēz′).

Pe·king man (pē′king′) *Paleontol.* An extinct manlike primate whose fossil remains were found near Peking, China.

pe·koe (pē′kō, *Brit.* pek′ō) *n.* A superior black tea of India, Ceylon, and Java, made from the downy tips of the young buds of the tea plant. [< dial. Chinese *pek* white + *ho* hair]

pe·lag·ic (pə·laj′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or inhabiting the sea or ocean far from land. [< L < Gk. < *pelagos* the sea]

pel·ar·go·ni·um (pel′är·gō′nē·əm) *n.* Any of a number of strong-scented, ornamental herbs or shrubs generally known as *geraniums*, having handsome, variously colored flowers. [< NL < Gk. *pelargos* stork]

pelf (pelf) *n.* Money; wealth, esp. if dishonestly acquired. [< OF *pelfre* booty; ult. origin uncertain]

pel·i·can (pel′i·kən) *n.* A large, gregarious, web-footed bird of warm regions, having a pouch on the lower jaw for the temporary storage of fish. [OE < LL < Gk. *pelekan*]

Pelican State Nickname of Louisiana.

pe·lisse (pə·lēs′) *n.* A long outer garment or cloak, originally made of fur or lined with fur. [< F < Med.L < L (*vestis*) *pellicia* (a garment) of skins or fur]

pel·la·gra (pə·lā′grə, -lag′rə) *n. Pathol.* A disease characterized by gastric disturbance, skin eruptions, etc., caused by a deficiency of nicotinic acid. [< NL, prob. < Ital. *pelle agra* rough skin] — **pel·la′grous** *adj.*

pel·let (pel′it) *n.* **1.** A small round ball, as of wax, paper, etc. **2.** A small bullet. **3.** A very small pill. **4.** A stone. **5.** A cannonball. — *v.t.* **1.** To make into pellets. **2.** To strike or hit with pellets. [< OF < Med.L < L *pila* ball]

pell-mell (pel′mel′) *adv.* **1.** In a confused or disordered way or manner. **2.** With a headlong rush; in wild haste. — *adj.* Devoid of order or method; confused. — *n.* A jumble; disorder. Also **pell′mell′**. [< F *pêlemêle* < OF *pesle-mesle*]

pel·lu·cid (pə·lōō′sid) *adj.* **1.** Permitting to a certain extent the passage of light. **2.** Transparently clear and simple: a *pellucid* style. [< L < *per-* through + *lucere* to shine] — **pel·lu′cid·ly** *adv.* — **pel·lu′cid·ness, pel·lu·cid·i·ty** (pel′·ōō·sid′ə·tē) *n.*

Pel·o·pon·ne·sian (pel′ə·pə·nē′zhən, -shən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Peloponnesus. — *n.* A native or inhabitant of the Peloponnesus.

Peloponnesian War See table for WAR.

pe·lo·ta (pe·lō′tə) *n.* A game popular among Basques, Spaniards, and Spanish Americans. It is played in a walled court with a hard rubber ball and a curved, wicker racquet. [< Sp., lit., a ball, aug. of *pella* < L *pila*]

pelt[1] (pelt) *n.* **1.** The skin of an animal, usu. with the fur left on. **2.** A garment made of skin. **3.** The human skin: a humorous term. [< OF < L *pellis* skin]

pelt[2] (pelt) *v.t.* **1.** To strike repeatedly with or as with blows. **2.** To throw or hurl (missiles). **3.** To assail with words. — *v.i.* **4.** To beat or descend with violence. **5.** To move rapidly; hurry. — *n.* **1.** A blow. **2.** A swift pace. [ME *pelten*, ? var. of *pulten* to thrust] — **pelt′er** *n.*

pel·tate (pel′tāt) *adj. Bot.* Attached at or near the center of the lower surface, as a leaf. Also **pel′tat·ed.** [< L *peltatus* armed with a shield] — **pel′tate·ly** *adv.*

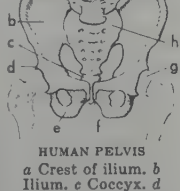
pelt·ry (pel′trē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** Pelts collectively. **2.** A pelt. **3.** A place for keeping or storing pelts.

pelvi- *combining form* Pelvis. [< L *pelvis* basin]

pel·vic (pel′vik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or near the pelvis.

pelvic arch *Anat.* In vertebrates, that part of the skeleton to which the hind limbs (in man, the lower limbs) are attached. Also **pelvic girdle.**

pel·vis (pel′vis) *n. pl.* **·ves** (-vēz) **1.** *Anat.* **a** The part of the skeleton that forms a bony girdle joining the lower or hind limbs to the body, composed, in man, of the two innominate bones and the sacrum. **b** The hollow interior portion of the kidney, into which the urine is discharged. For illus. see KIDNEY. **2.** A basinlike structure. [< L, basin]



HUMAN PELVIS
a Crest of ilium. *b* Ilium. *c* Coccyx. *d* Acetabulum. *e* Ischium. *f* Pubic symphysis. *g* Head of femur. *h* Sacrum. *i* Lumbar vertebrae.

pem·mi·can (pem′ə·kən) *n. U.S. & Canadian* **1.** Lean meat, usu. venison, cut into strips, dried, pounded into paste with fat and a few berries, and pressed into cakes. **2.** A similar concentrated and nutritious food made from beef and dried fruits, used by Arctic explorers, etc. Also **pem′i·can.** [< Algonquian (Cree) *pimekan* < *pime* fat]

pen[1] (pen) *n.* **1.** An instrument for writing with fluid ink, usu. a metal point split in the middle and fitted to a holder. **2.** A ball-point pen. **3.** The quality of one's penmanship. **4.** The profession of writing. **5.** The style of writing. **6.** A writer. — *v.t.* **penned, pen·ning** To write with a pen. [< OF < LL < L, wing, feather] — **pen′ner** *n.*

pen[2] (pen) *n.* **1.** A small enclosure, as for pigs; also, the animals contained in a pen. **2.** Any small place of confinement. **3.** *Slang* A penitentiary. — *v.t.* **penned** or **pent, pen·ning** To enclose in or as in a pen; confine. [OE *penn*]

pe·nal (pē′nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to punishment. **2.** Liable, or rendering liable, to punishment. **3.** Enacting or prescribing punishment: a *penal* code. **4.** Relating to the means, or place of punishment. [< OF < L *poena* penalty]

pe·nal·ize (pē′nəl·īz, pen′əl-) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To subject to a penalty, as for a violation. **2.** To declare, as an action, subject to a penalty. Also *Brit.* **pe′nal·ise.** — **pe′nal·i·za′tion** *n.*

pen·al·ty (pen′əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The legal punishment for having violated a law. **2.** A sum of money to be forfeited as punishment for illegal acts; fine. **3.** The disadvantage, loss, or suffering incurred by some act, error, state of being, etc.: the *penalty* of sin. **4.** In sports and games, any handicap imposed for a violation of rules.

pen·ance (pen′əns) *n.* **1.** *Eccl.* A sacramental rite involving contrition, confession of sins to a priest, the acceptance of penalties, and absolution; also, the penalty imposed. **2.** Any penalty, mortification, or act of piety voluntarily undertaken as an atonement for sin. — **to do penance** To perform an act or acts of penance. — *v.t.* **·anced, ·anc·ing** To impose a penance upon. [< OF < L *paenitere* to repent]

pence (pens) *Brit.* The plural of PENNY: used mostly in combination: *twopence.*

pen·chant (pen′chənt, *Fr.* pän·shäṅ′) *n.* A strong liking or inclination for something. [< F *pencher* to incline]

pen·cil (pen′səl) *n.* **1.** A writing, drawing, or marking implement consisting of a stick or thin strip of graphite, colored chalk, slate, etc., encased in wood or inserted in a mechanically operated holder. **2.** A pencillike instrument for applying cosmetics. **3.** A small stick of some substance: a styptic *pencil.* **4.** A set of rays, as of light, diverging from or converging upon a given point. **5.** In drawing or painting, the artist's skill or style. — *v.t.* **pen·ciled** or **·cilled, pen·cil·ing** or **·cil·ling** **1.** To mark, write, draw, or color with or as with a pencil. **2.** To use a pencil on. [< OF < L *penicillum* paintbrush] — **pen′cil·er** or **pen′cil·ler** *n.*

pend (pend) *v.i.* **1.** To await adjustment or settlement. **2.** *Dial.* To hang; depend. [< MF < L *pendere* to hang]

pen·dant (pen′dənt) *n.* **1.** Anything that hangs from something else, either for ornament or for use. **2.** Something hanging from a chandelier, ceiling, lamp, etc., by which a light is turned on and off. **3.** *Archit.* An ornament hanging from a ceiling, roof, etc. Also spelled *pendent.* — *adj.* See PENDENT. [See PEND.]

pen·dent (pen′dənt) *adj.* **1.** Hanging downward; suspended. **2.** Projecting; overhanging. **3.** Undetermined; pending. Also spelled *pendant.* — *n.* See PENDANT. [Var. of PENDANT] — **pen′dent·ly** *adv.*

pend·ing (pen′ding) *adj.* **1.** Remaining unfinished or undecided. **2.** Imminent; impending. — *prep.* **1.** During the process or continuance of. **2.** While awaiting; until.

pen·drag·on (pen·drag′ən) *n.* In ancient Britain, a supreme ruler or chief. [< Welsh, a chief leader in war]

pen·du·lous (pen′jōō·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Hanging, esp. so as to swing. **2.** Undecided; wavering. [< L *pendere* to hang] — **pen′du·lous·ly** *adv.* — **pen′du·lous·ness** *n.*

pen·du·lum (pen′jōō·ləm, -də-) *n.* **1.** A suspended body free to oscillate between two extremes. **2.** Such a device serving to regulate the movement of a clock. **3.** Something that changes often. [See PENDULOUS.]

Pe·nel·o·pe (pə·nel′ə·pē) In the *Odyssey*, the faithful wife of Odysseus, who, during his absence kept her many suitors in check under pretext of having to weave a shroud.

pen·e·tra·ble (pen′ə·trə·bəl) *adj.* That can be penetrated. — **pen′e·tra·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **pen′e·tra·bly** *adv.*

pen·e·trate (pen′ə·trāt) *v.* **·trat·ed, ·trat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To force a way into or through; pierce; enter. **2.** To spread or diffuse itself throughout. **3.** To perceive the meaning of; understand. **4.** To affect or move profoundly. — *v.i.* **5.** To enter or pass through something. **6.** To have an effect on the mind or emotions. [< L *penetrare* to put within] — **pen′e·tra·ble** (-trə·bəl) *adj.* — **pen′e·tra·bil′i·ty** *n.*

pen·e·trat·ing (pen′ə·trā′ting) *adj.* **1.** Tending or having power to penetrate. **2.** Acute; discerning: a *penetrating* mind. Also **pen′e·tra·tive.** — **pen′e·trat′ing·ly** *adv.* — **pen′e·trat′ing·ness** *n.*

pen·e·tra·tion (pen′ə·trā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or power of penetrating physically. **2.** Ability to penetrate mentally; acuteness; discernment. **3.** The depth to which a bullet sinks in a target.

pen·guin (pen′gwin, peng′-) *n.* A web-footed, flightless, aquatic bird of the southern hemisphere, with flipperlike wings and short legs. [< Welsh *pen* head + *gwyn* white]

pen·hold·er (pen′hōl′dər) *n.* **1.** A handle with a device for inserting a metallic pen. **2.** A rack for pens.

pen·i·cil·lin (pen′ə·sil′in) *n.* A powerful antibiotic found in a mold fungus, used to treat bacterial infections.

pen·i·cil·li·um (pen′ə·sil′ē·əm) *n. pl.* **·cil·li·a** (-sil′ē·ə) Any of various fungi growing on decaying fruits, ripening cheese, etc.; one of which is the principal source of penicillin. [< NL < L *penicillus* paintbrush]

pe·nin·su·la (pə·nin′sə·lə, -syə-) *n.* A piece of land almost surrounded by water, and connected with the mainland by an isthmus. [< L < *paene* almost + *insula* island] — **pe·nin′su·lar** *adj.*

Peninsula State A nickname for FLORIDA.

pe·nis (pē′nis) *n. pl.* **·nis·es** or **·nes** (-nēz) The copulatory organ of male animals. [< L, orig., tail] — **pe′ni·al** (-nē·əl), **pe′nile** (-nil, -nīl) *adj.*

pen·i·tence (pen′ə·təns) *n.* The state of being penitent; contrition. [< OF < L < *paenitere* to repent]

pen·i·tent (pen′ə·tənt) *adj.* Affected by a sense of one's own guilt, and resolved on amendment. — *n.* **1.** One who is penitent. **2.** One who confesses his sins to a priest and submits to the penance prescribed. — **pen′i·tent·ly** *adv.*

pen·i·ten·tial (pen′ə·ten′shəl) *adj.* Of or expressing penitence or penance. — *n.* A penitent. — **pen′i·ten′tial·ly** *adv.*

pen·i·ten·tia·ry (pen′ə·ten′shər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A prison, esp. one operated by a state or federal government for those convicted of serious crimes. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to penance. **2.** Relating to or used for the punishment of criminals. **3.** Rendering the offender liable to imprisonment. [See PENITENCE.]

pen·knife (pen′nīf′) *n. pl.* **·knives** (-nīvz′) A small pocket knife.

pen·man (pen′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** A person considered with regard to his handwriting. **2.** An author.

pen·man·ship (pen′mən·ship) *n.* **1.** The art of writing. **2.** The style or quality of handwriting.

pen name An author's assumed name; pseudonym; nom de plume. — **Syn.** See PSEUDONYM.

pen·nant (pen′ənt) *n.* **1.** A long, narrow flag, usu. triangular, used as a school emblem, etc. **2.** A similar flag awarded to sports winners. [< PENNON]

pen·nate (pen′āt) *adj.* Having wings or feathers. Also **pen′nat·ed.** [< L *pennatus* winged < *penna* feather]

-pennate *combining form* Having wings or feathers.

pen·ni (pen′ē) *n. pl.* **pen·nis** or **pen·ni·a** (pen′ē·ə) A Finnish coin and monetary unit, the hundredth part of a markka. [< Finnish < G *pfennig* penny]

pen·ni·less (pen′i·lis) *adj.* Poverty-stricken.

pen·non (pen′ən) *n.* **1.** A small, pointed flag, borne by medieval knights on their lances. **2.** Any banner or flag. **3.** A wing. [< OF *penon* streamer < L *penna* feather]

Pennsylvania Dutch **1.** Descendants of immigrants from SW Germany and from Switzerland, who settled in Pennsylvania in the 17th and 18th centuries. **2.** The language spoken by these people, a High German dialect with an admixture of English. [< early and dial. E *Dutch* (< G *Deutsch*) German] — **Penn′syl·va′·ni·a-Dutch** *adj.*

Penn·syl·va·ni·an (pen′səl·vā′nē·ən, -vān′yən) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to the State of Pennsylvania. **2.** *Geol.* Belonging to or denoting a Paleozoic period following the Mississippian and preceding the Permian periods. See table for GEOLOGY. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Pennsylvania. **2.** *Geol.* The Pennsylvanian period or rock system.

pen·ny (pen′ē) *n. pl.* **pen·nies** or *Brit.* **pence** (pens) **1.** In the U.S. and Canada, a cent. **2.** A coin of Great Britain, Ireland, and various Commonwealth Nations, equivalent to ½ shilling. **3.** In the United Kingdom, a coin equal in value to ‰ pound: also *new penny.* **4.** Money in general. — **a pretty penny** *Informal* A large or relatively large amount of money. [OE *penning, penig, pending*]

-penny *combining form* Costing (a specified number of) pennies: formerly designating the cost of nails per hundred, but now denoting their length, beginning at 1 inch for two-penny nails. [< PENNY]

penny ante **1.** A poker game in which the ante is limited to one cent. **2.** *Informal* Any piddling transaction.

penny pincher A parsimonious person. — **pen·ny-pinch·ing** (pen′ē·pinch′ing) *adj. & n.*

pen·ny·roy·al (pen′ē·roi′əl) *n.* A low, erect, strong-scented herb of North America yielding **oil of pennyroyal,** used in medicine. [Alter. of earlier *pulyole ryale*]

pen·ny·weight (pen′ē·wāt′) *n.* In troy weight, the twentieth part of an ounce, 24 grains, or 1.56 grams. See table front of book.

pen·ny-wise (pen′ē·wīz′) *adj.* Unduly economical in small matters. — **penny-wise and pound-foolish** Economical in small matters, but wasteful in large ones.

pen·ny·worth (pen′ē·wûrth′) *n.* **1.** As much as can be bought for a penny. **2.** A bargain. **3.** A small amount.

Pe·nob·scot (pə·nob′skot) *n.* One of a tribe of North American Indians of the Algonquian confederacy of 1749.

pe·nol·o·gy (pē·nol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** The science that treats of crime and of the management of prisons and reformatories. [< L *poena* penalty + -LOGY] — **pe·no·log·i·cal** (pē′nə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **pe·nol′o·gist** *n.*

pen·sile (pen′sil) *adj.* **1.** Hanging loosely. **2.** Constructing pensile nests: said of birds. [< L < *pendere* to hang] — **pen′sile·ness, pen·sil′i·ty** *n.*

pen·sion[1] (pen′shən) *n.* **1.** A periodic allowance to an individual or to his family, given when certain conditions, as age, length of service, etc., have been fulfilled. **2.** A grant or allowance paid to someone of recognized ability in the arts or sciences. — *v.t.* **1.** To grant a pension to. **2.** To dismiss with a pension: with *off.* [< OF < L *pensio, -onis* payment] — **pen′sion·a·ble** *adj.*

pen·sion[2] (pen′shən, *Fr.* pän·syôn′) *n. French* A boarding house; also, a boarding school. [< OF, payment, rent]

pen·sion·ar·y (pen′shən·er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Living by means of a pension. **2.** Consisting of or like a pension. — *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** **1.** A pensioner. **2.** A hireling.

pen·sion·er (pen′shən·ər) *n.* **1.** One who receives a pension or is dependent on the bounty of another. **2.** At Cambridge University, a student who pays his own expenses. **3.** A boarder, as in a convent or school.

pen·sive (pen′siv) *adj.* **1.** Engaged in or addicted to serious, quiet reflection. **2.** Expressive of, suggesting, or causing a melancholy thoughtfulness. [< OF < L *pensare* to think] — **pen′sive·ly** *adv.* — **pen′sive·ness** *n.*

pen·stock (pen′stok′) *n.* **1.** A trough or conduit for carrying water to a water wheel. **2.** A sluice or floodgate controlling the discharge of water, as from a pond.

pent (pent) Past participle of PEN[2]. — *adj.* Penned up or in; closely confined.

penta- *combining form* Five: *pentagon.* Also, before vowels, **pent-.** [< Gk. *pente* five]

pen·ta·gon (pen′tə·gon) *n. Geom.* A polygon having five sides and five angles. [< L < Gk. < *pente* five + *gōnia* angle] — **pen·tag·o·nal** (pen·tag′ə·nəl) *adj.* — **pen·tag′o·nal·ly** *adv.*

Pentagon, the **1.** A five-sided building in Arlington, Virginia, housing the U.S. Department of Defense and other offices. **2.** The military leadership of the U.S.

pen·ta·he·dron (pen′tə·hē′drən) *n. pl.* **·dra** (-drə) *Geom.* A polyhedron bounded by five plane faces. — **pen′ta·he′·dral** *adj.*

pen·tam·e·ter (pen·tam′ə·tər) *n.* **1.** A line of verse consisting of five metrical feet. **2.** Verse comprised of pentameters. — *adj.* Having five metrical feet. [< L < Gk. < *pente* five + *metron* a measure]

pen·tane (pen′tān) *n. Chem.* Any one of three isomeric, volatile, liquid hydrocarbons of the methane series, C_5H_{12}, two of which are contained in petroleum.

Pen·ta·teuch (pen′tə·tōōk, -tyōōk) *n.* The first five books of the Old Testament collectively, consisting of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. [< LL < Gk. < *pente* five + *teuchos* book] — **Pen′ta·teuch′al** *adj.*

pen·tath·lon (pen·tath′lən) *n.* An athletic contest consisting of five separate events, in all of which each contestant must participate. [< Gk. < *pente* five + *athlos* contest]

pen·ta·va·lent (pen′tə·vā′lənt, pen·tav′ə-) *adj. Chem.* Having a valence of five. [< PENTA- + L *valere* to have power or value]

Pen·te·cost (pen′tə·kôst, -kost) *n.* **1.** A Christian festival, the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles (*Acts* ii): also called *Whitsunday.* **2.** A Jewish festival, fifty days after the first day of Passover: also called *Shabuoth.* [< LL < Gk. *pentēkostē* (*hēmera*) the fiftieth (day)]

pen·te·cos·tal (pen′tə·kôs′təl, -kos′-) *adj. Often cap.* Of, pertaining to, or occurring at Pentecost.

pent·house (pent′hous′) *n.* An apartment or other structure on the roof of a building. [< OF, ? < LL *appendicium* appendage]

Pen·to·thal Sodium (pen′tə·thôl) A proprietary name for a brand of thiopental sodium.

pent-up (pent′up′) *adj.* Repressed: *pent-up* emotions.

pe·nuch·le (pē′nuk·əl), **pe·nuck·le** See PINOCHLE.

pe·nult (pē′nult, pi·nult′) *n.* The syllable next to the last in a word. Also **pe·nul·ti·ma** (pi·nul′tə·mə). [Short for *penultima* < L < *paene* almost + *ultimus* last]

pe·nul·ti·mate (pi·nul′tə·mit) *adj.* **1.** Next to the last. **2.** Of or belonging to the next to the last syllable. — *n.* A penultimate part. [< L *paene* almost + ULTIMATE]

pe·num·bra (pi·num′brə) *n. pl.* **·brae** (-brē) or **·bras** **1.** A partial shadow, as in an eclipse, within which the rays of light from an illuminating body are partly but not wholly intercepted. **2.** The dark fringe around the central part of a sunspot. [< NL < L *paene* almost + *umbra* shadow] — **pe·num′bral, pe·num′brous** (-brəs) *adj.*

pe·nu·ri·ous (pə·nōōr′ē·əs, -nyōōr′-) *adj.* **1.** Excessively sparing in the use of money; stingy. **2.** Extremely poor; needy. **3.** Affording or yielding little; scanty. [< MF < Med.L < L *penuria* want, poverty] — **pe·nu′ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pe·nu′ri·ous·ness** *n.*

pen·u·ry (pen′yə·rē) *n.* Extreme poverty or want. [< OF < L *penuria* want]

pe·on (pē′ən) *n.* **1.** In Latin America, a laborer; servant. **2.** Formerly, a debtor kept in servitude until he had worked out of his debt. [< Sp. < LL *pedo, -onis* foot soldier < L *pes, pedis* foot]

pe·on·age (pē′ən·ij) *n.* **1.** The condition of being a peon. **2.** The system by which debtors are held in servitude until they have worked out their debt. Also **pe′on·ism** (-iz′əm).

pe·o·ny (pē′ə·nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** A plant of the crowfoot family, having large crimson, rose, or white flowers. **2.** The flower. [OE < L < Gk. *Paion* Paeon, the Healer]

peo·ple (pē′pəl) *n. pl.* **peo·ple**; *for defs. 1 & 2, also* **peo·ples** **1.** The entire body of human beings living in the same country, under the same government, and speaking the same language: the *people* of England. **2.** A body of human beings having the same history, culture, and traditions, and usu. speaking the same language: the Polish *people*. **3.** In a state or nation, the body of persons invested with political rights. **4.** A group of persons having the same interests, profession, condition of life, etc.: poor *people*. **5.** Persons considered collectively: *people* say. **6.** Ordinary persons; the populace: usu. with *the*. **7.** One's family or relatives. **8.** Human beings as distinguished from animals. **9.** Animals collectively: the ant *people*. — *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To fill with inhabitants; populate. [< OF < L *populus* populace] — **peo′pler** *n.*

— **Syn.** A group having a common descent, language, culture, habitat, or government may be called a *people*. *Folk* is a homelier word for *people*, nearly as broad, and usu. stressing common traditions, customs, or behavior. A *nation* is a political entity, comprising the *people* (or *peoples*) under one government.

People's Party A political organization formed in the U.S. in 1891, advocating public control of railways, an income tax, and limitation of ownership of land.

pep (pep) *n. Informal* Energy and high spirits; vigorous activity. — *v.t.* **pepped, pep·ping** To fill or inspire with energy or pep: usu. with *up*. [Short for PEPPER]

pep·lum (pep′ləm) *n. pl.* **·lums** or **·la** (-lə) A short overskirt, ruffle, or flounce attached to a blouse or coat at the waist. [< L < Gk. *peplos* a woman's shawl]

pep·per (pep′ər) *n.* **1.** A pungent, aromatic condiment consisting of the dried immature berries of a plant. When ground entire it is **black pepper**, but when the outer coating of the seeds is removed, the product is **white pepper.** **2.** Any plant of the pepper family. **3.** Red pepper. **4.** Green pepper. — *v.t.* **1.** To sprinkle or season with pepper. **2.** To sprinkle freely. **3.** To shower, as with missiles; spatter; pelt. **4.** To make (speech or writing) vivid or pungent, as with humor, sarcasm, etc. — *v.i.* **5.** To discharge missiles at something. [OE, ult. < L < Gk. *peperi*]

pep·per-and-salt (pep′ər·ən·sôlt′) *adj.* Having or consisting of a mixture of white and black, so as to present a grayish appearance. — *n.* A pepper-and-salt cloth.

pep·per·box (pep′ər·boks′) **1.** A container for sprinkling pepper. **2.** A quick-tempered person.

pep·per·corn (pep′ər·kôrn′) *n.* **1.** A berry of the pepper plant. **2.** Anything trifling or insignificant.

pep·per·grass (pep′ər·gras′, -gräs′) *n.* A plant of the mustard family, having a pungent flavor, and used as a salad vegetable. Also **pep′per·wort** (-wûrt).

pepper mill A hand mill, often designed for table use, in which peppercorns are ground.

pep·per·mint (pep′ər·mint′) *n.* **1.** A pungent, aromatic herb used in medicine and confectionery. **2.** An oil made from this herb. **3.** A confection flavored with peppermint.

pepper pot **1.** A pepperbox. **2.** A stew of meat or fish with vegetables, flavored with pepper, etc.

pepper tree A tree of Central and South America whose seeds are used as a spice.

pep·per·y (pep′ər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or like pepper; pungent. **2.** Quick-tempered; hasty. **3.** Spicy and vivid, as speech or writing. — **pep′per·i·ness** *n.*

pep·py (pep′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** *Informal* Full of energy; lively. — **pep′pi·ness** *n.*

pep·sin (pep′sin) *n.* **1.** *Biochem.* An enzyme secreted by the gastric juices that promotes the digestion of proteins. **2.** A medicinal preparation obtained from the stomachs of various animals, as the pig and the calf, used to aid digestion. Also **pep′sine** (-sin). [< G < Gk. *pepsis* digestion]

pep talk *Informal* A brief, vigorous talk meant to inspire.

pep·tic (pep′tik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or promotive of digestion. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or caused by pepsin. **3.** Able to digest. — *n.* An agent that promotes digestion. [< Gk. *pepsis* digestion]

pep·tone (pep′tōn) *n. Biochem.* Any of the soluble compounds into which proteins are converted when acted upon by pepsin, by acids and alkalis, by putrefaction, etc. [< G < Gk. *peptos* digested] — **pep·ton·ic** (pep·ton′ik) *adj.*

Pe·quot (pē′kwot) *n.* One of a tribe of Algonquian Indians, formerly inhabiting southern New England.

per (pûr) *prep.* **1.** By; by means of; through: used in commercial and business English: *per* bearer. **2.** To or for each: ten cents *per* yard. **3.** By the; every: esp. in Latin phrases: *per diem*. [< L, through, by]

per- *prefix* **1.** Through; throughout: *pervade, perennial.* **2.** Thoroughly: *perturb.* **3.** Away: *pervert.* **4.** Very: *perfervid.* **5.** *Chem.* Indicating an excess amount of a specified element in a compound: hydrogen *peroxide.* [< L *per* through]

per·ad·ven·ture (pûr′əd·ven′chər) *adv. Archaic* Perchance; perhaps. [< OF *par aventure* by chance]

per·am·bu·late (pə·ram′byə·lāt) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To walk through or over. **2.** To walk through or around so as to inspect, etc. — *v.i.* **3.** To stroll. [< L < *per* through + *ambulare* to walk] — **per·am·bu·la·tion** (pə·ram′byə·lā′shən) *n.* — **per·am′bu·la·to′ry** (-tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

per·am·bu·la·tor (pə·ram′byə·lā′tər) *n.* **1.** One who perambulates. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* A baby carriage.

per an·num (pûr an′əm) *Latin* By the year.

per·cale (pər·kāl′, -kal′) *n.* A closely woven cotton fabric without gloss. [< F, prob. < Persian *pergālah*]

per cap·i·ta (pûr kap′ə·tə) *Latin* For each person; literally, by heads.

per·ceive (pər·sēv′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ceived, ·ceiv·ing** **1.** To become aware of (something) through the senses; see, hear, feel, taste, or smell. **2.** To come to understand; apprehend with the mind. [< OF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *capere* to take] — **per·ceiv′a·ble** *adj.* — **per·ceiv′a·bly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** sense. Compare SEE, DISCERN. **2.** comprehend.

per·cent (pər·sent′) *n.* **1.** Number of parts in or to every hundred, often specified: fifty *percent* of the people. **2.** Amount or quantity commensurate with the number of units in proportion to one hundred: ten *percent* of fifty is five: symbol, %. **3.** *pl.* Securities bearing a certain percentage of interest. Also **per cent., per cent** [Short for L *per centum* by the hundred]

per·cent·age (pər·sen′tij) *n.* **1.** Rate per hundred, or proportion in a hundred parts. **2.** A proportion or part considered in its quantitative relation to the whole. **3.** In commerce, the allowance, commission, duty, or interest on a hundred. **4.** *Informal* Advantage; profit.

per·cen·tile (pər·sen′tīl, -til) *n. Stat.* Any of 100 points spaced at equal intervals within the range of a plotted variable, each point denoting that percentage of the total cases lying below it in the series. — *adj.* Of a percentile.

per·cept (pûr′sept) *n. Psychol.* **1.** Something perceived. **2.** Immediate knowledge derived from perceiving. [< L *percipere* to perceive]

per·cep·ti·ble (pər·sep′tə·bəl) *adj.* That can be perceived; appreciable. — **per·cep′ti·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **per·cep′ti·bly** *adv.*

per·cep·tion (pər·sep′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of perceiving. **2.** The result or effect of perceiving. **3.** Any insight, knowledge, etc., arrived at by or as by perceiving. **4.** The capacity for perceiving. — **per·cep′tion·al** *adj.* — **per·cep′tu·al** (-chōō·əl) *adj.*

per·cep·tive (pər·sep′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Having the power of perception. **2.** Having a quick capacity for perceiving. **3.** Of or pertaining to perception. — **per·cep′tive·ly** *adv.* — **per·cep·tiv·i·ty** (pûr′sep·tiv′ə·tē), **per·cep′tive·ness** *n.*

perch[1] (pûrch) *n.* **1.** A horizontal staff or pole used as a roost for poultry. **2.** Any place on which birds alight or rest. **3.** Any place for sitting or standing, esp. if elevated. **4.** A rod (def. 9). — *v.i.* **1.** To alight or sit on or as on a perch; roost. — *v.t.* **2.** To set on or as on a perch. [< OF < L *pertica* pole] — **perch′er** (pûr′chər) *n.*

perch[2] (pûrch) *n. pl.* **perch** or **perches** **1.** A small, spiny-finned fresh-water food fish. **2.** Any of various other rerelated fishes. [< OF < L < Gk. *perkē*]

per·chance (pər·chans′, -chäns′) *adv.* Possibly; perhaps. [< OF *par chance* by chance]

Per·che·ron (pûr′chə·ron, -shə-) *n.* A breed of large draft horses. [after *Perche*, a region of nothern France]

per·cip·i·ent (pər·sip′ē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Having the power of perception. **2.** Perceiving rapidly or keenly. — *n.* One who or that which perceives. [< L < *per-* thoroughly + *capere* to take] — **per·cip′i·ence** or **·en·cy** *n.*

per·coid (pûr′koid) *adj.* Of or pertaining to an order of spiny-finned fishes, including the fresh-water perches; perch-like. — *n.* A percoid fish. Also **per·coi·de·an** (pər·koi′dē·ən). [< L *perca* perch[2] + -OID]

per·co·late (pûr′kə·lāt; *for n., also* pur′kə·lət) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** Of a liquid, to pass or cause to pass through fine interstices; filter. — *n.* That which has percolated. [< L < *per-* through + *colare* to strain] — **per′co·la′tion** *n.*

per·co·la·tor (pûr′kə·lā′tər) *n.* A type of coffeepot in which boiling water rises to the top in a tube and then filters down through finely ground coffee to a container below.

per·cus·sion (pər·kush′ən) *n.* **1.** The sharp striking of one body against another. **2.** The shock, vibration, or sound produced by a striking of one body against another. **3.** *Med.* A light, quick tapping of the finger tips upon the back, chest, or abdomen, for determining by resonance the condition of

the organ beneath. **4.** The act of striking the percussion cap in a firearm. **5.** *Music* Percussion instruments. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or operating by percussion. [< L < *per-* through + *quatere* to shake]

percussion cap A small cap of thin metal, containing mercury fulminate or some other detonator, formerly used in ammunition to explode the propelling charge.

percussion instruments Musical instruments whose tone is produced by striking, as the timpani, cymbals, piano, etc.

per di·em (per dē′əm, dī′əm) **1.** By the day. **2.** An allowance for expenses each day. [< L]

per·di·tion (pər·dish′ən) *n.* **1.** Eternal damnation; the utter loss of a soul. **2.** The place of eternal damnation; hell. [< OF < L < *per-* through, away + *dare* to give]

père (pâr) *n. French* Father: often used after a surname to distinguish father from son: Dumas *père*.

per·e·gri·nate (per′ə·gri·nāt′) *v.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To travel from place to place. — *v.t.* **2.** To travel through or along. [< L *peregrinari* to travel abroad] — **per′e·gri·na′tion** *n.* — **per′e·gri·na′tor** *n.*

per·e·grine (per′ə·grin) *adj.* **1.** Coming from foreign regions. **2.** Wandering. — *n.* The peregrine falcon. [< L < *peregre* abroad < *per-* through + *ager* land]

peregrine falcon **1.** A falcon generally blackish blue above and white or gray below, formerly much used in falconry. **2.** An American subspecies of this falcon.

per·emp·to·ry (pə·remp′tər·ē, per′əmp·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* **1.** Not admitting of appeal; decisive; absolute. **2.** Positive in opinion, etc.; imperious. **3.** Intolerant of opposition; dictatorial. **4.** *Law* Precluding or putting an end to debate or discussion; final. [< L < *per-* entirely + *emere* to take] — **per·emp′to·ri·ly** *adv.* — **per·emp′to·ri·ness** *n.*

per·en·ni·al (pə·ren′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Continuing or enduring through the year or through many years. **2.** Perpetual; everlasting; unceasing. **3.** *Bot.* Lasting more than two years. — *n.* A plant that grows for three or more years, usu. blossoming and fructifying annually. [< L < *per-* through + *annus* year] — **per·en′ni·al·ly** *adv.*

per·fect (*adj.* & *n.* pûr′fikt; *v.* pər·fekt′) *adj.* **1.** Having all the elements or qualities requisite to its nature or kind; complete. **2.** Without defect; flawless: *perfect* weather. **3.** Thoroughly and completely skilled or informed: a *perfect* violinist. **4.** Accurately corresponding to a type or original; exact: a *perfect* replica. **5.** Thorough; utter: He made a *perfect* nuisance of himself. **6.** Completely effective: a *perfect* answer. **7.** *Informal* Very great: a *perfect* horror of spiders. **8.** *Gram.* Denoting the tense of a verb expressing action completed in the past. Grammarians note in English a present perfect, past perfect (or pluperfect), and a future perfect tense. **9.** *Music* **a** Denoting the three intervals whose accuracy of intonation the human ear can recognize within precise limits, the **perfect octave**, the **perfect fifth**, and the **perfect fourth**. **b** Complete: a *perfect* cadence. — *n. Gram.* The perfect tense; also, a verb in this tense. — *v.t.* **1.** To bring to perfection; complete. **2.** To make thoroughly skilled or accomplished: to *perfect* oneself in an art. [< OF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *facere* to do, make] — **per·fect′er** *n.* — **per′fect·ly** *adv.* — **per′fect·ness** *n.*

per·fect·i·ble (pər·fek′tə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being made perfect or of arriving at perfection. — **per·fect′i·bil′i·ty** *n.*

per·fec·tion (pər·fek′shən) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being perfect. **2.** The embodiment of something that is perfect: As a hostess, she is *perfection*. **3.** Any quality, characteristic, or trait considered to be perfect. **4.** The highest degree of something. **5.** The act or process of perfecting.

per·fec·tion·ist (pər·fek′shən·ist) *n.* One who demands of himself or of others an exceedingly high degree of excellence.

per·fec·tive (pər·fek′tiv) *adj.* Tending to make perfect. — **per·fec′tive·ly** *adv.* — **per·fec′tive·ness** *n.*

per·fec·to (pər·fek′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** A cigar of medium size, shaped to taper at either end. [< Sp., perfect]

perfect participle Past participle.

perfect pitch Absolute pitch.

per·fer·vid (pər·fûr′vid) *adj.* Excessively fervid; ardent; zealous. [< NL < L *per-* thoroughly + *fervidus* burning]

per·fid·i·ous (pər·fid′ē·əs) *adj.* Marked by or guilty of perfidy; treacherous. [< L *perfidia*] — **per·fid′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **per·fid′i·ous·ness** *n.*

per·fi·dy (pûr′fə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** The act of violating faith, trust, or allegiance; treachery. [< MF < L < *per* through, under pretext of + *fides* faith]

per·fo·li·ate (pər·fō′lē·it, āt) *adj. Bot.* Growing so that the stem seems to pass through it, as a leaf. [< NL < L *per-* through + *folium* leaf] — **per·fo′li·a′tion** *n.*

per·fo·rate (*v.* pûr′fə·rāt; *adj.* pûr′fə·rit) *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** **1.** To make a hole or holes through, by or as by stamping or drilling. **2.** To pierce with holes in rows or patterns. — *adj.* Perforated. [< L < *per-* through + *forare* to bore] — **per′fo·ra·ble** *adj.* — **per′fo·ra′tive, per′fo·ra·to′ry** (-rə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **per′fo·ra′tor** *n.*

per·fo·rat·ed (pûr′fə·rā′tid) *adj.* Pierced with a hole or holes; esp., pierced with lines of holes, as sheets of stamps.

per·fo·ra·tion (pûr′fə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of perforating, or the state of being perforated. **2.** A hole or series of holes drilled in or stamped through something.

per·force (pər·fôrs′, -fōrs′) *adv.* By or of necessity; necessarily. [< OF < *par* by (< L *per-*) + *force* force]

per·form (pər·fôrm′) *v.t.* **1.** To carry out in action; execute; do. **2.** To fulfill; discharge, as a duty or command. **3.** To act (a part) or give a performance of (a play, piece of music, etc.). — *v.i.* **4.** To carry through to completion an action, undertaking, etc. **5.** To give an exhibition or performance. [< OF < *par-* thoroughly (< L *per-*) + *fournir* to accomplish] — **per·form′a·ble** *adj.*

per·form·ance (pər·fôr′məns) *n.* **1.** An entertainment of some kind before an audience or spectators. **2.** A public presentation: The music had its first *performance* here. **3.** The act or manner of performing a play, part, piece of music, etc. **4.** Manner of operating or functioning: The car's *performance* improved. **5.** Any act, deed, or accomplishment.

per·form·er (pər·fôr′mər) *n.* One who performs; esp., an actor, musician, etc.

per·fume (pər·fyōōm′; *for n., usu.* pûr′fyōōm) *n.* **1.** A fragrant substance, usu. a volatile liquid, prepared to emit a pleasant odor; scent. **2.** A pleasant odor, as from flowers; fragrance. — **Syn.** See SMELL. — *v.t.* **·fumed, ·fum·ing** To fill or scent with a fragrant odor. [< MF < Ital. < *per-* through (< L) + *fumare* to smoke < LL *fumus* smoke]

per·fum·er (pər·fyōō′mər) *n.* **1.** One who makes or deals in perfumes. **2.** One who or that which perfumes.

per·fum·er·y (pər·fyōō′mər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** The art or business of preparing perfumes. **2.** Perfumes in general, or a specific perfume. **3.** A place where perfumes are made.

per·func·to·ry (pər·fungk′tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Done mechanically; careless; cursory. **2.** Having no zest or enthusiasm; dull. [< LL < L < *per-* through + *fungi* to perform] — **per·func′to·ri·ly** *adv.* — **per·func′to·ri·ness** *n.*

per·fuse (pər·fyōōz′) *v.t.* **·fused, ·fus·ing** **1.** To permeate, suffuse, or sprinkle with a liquid, color, etc. **2.** To spread (a liquid, etc.) over or through something; diffuse. [< L < *per-* throughout + *fundere* to pour] — **per·fu′sion** (-fyōō′zhən) *n.* — **per·fu′sive** (-fyōō′siv) *adj.*

per·go·la (pûr′gə·lə) *n.* An arbor or covered walk made of trelliswork covered with vegetation or flowers. [< Ital., arbor < L *pergula* projecting roof, arbor]

per·haps (pər·haps′) *adv.* Maybe; possibly. [< PER + *happes*, pl. of *hap* chance]

peri- *prefix* **1.** Around; encircling: *periphery*. **2.** Situated near; adjoining: *perihelion*. [< Gk. *peri* around]

per·i·anth (per′ē·anth) *n. Bot.* The envelope of a flower, esp. one in which the calyx and corolla are so alike as to be indistinguishable. [< F < NL < Gk. *peri-* around + *anthos* flower]

per·i·car·di·al (per′ə·kär′dē·əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the pericardium. Also **per′i·car′di·ac** (-ak), **per′i·car′di·an.**

per·i·car·di·tis (per′ə·kär·dī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the pericardium.

per·i·car·di·um (per′ə·kär′dē·əm) *n. pl.* **·di·a** (-dē·ə) *Anat.* A membranous bag that surrounds and protects the heart. [< NL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *kardia* heart]

per·i·carp (per′ə·kärp) *n. Bot.* The wall of a ripened ovary or fruit, usu. in three layers, the epicarp, mesocarp, and endocarp: also called *seedcase*, *seed vessel*. [< NL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *karpos* fruit] — **per′i·car′pi·al** *adj.*

Per·i·cle·an (per′ə·klē′ən) *adj.* Pertaining to, characteristic of, or named after Pericles, or the period of his supremacy, when Greek art, drama, and statesmanship are considered to have been at their height.

per·i·cra·ni·um (per′ə·krā′nē·əm) *n. pl.* **·ni·a** (-nē·ə) *Anat.* The periosteum of the external surface of the cranium. [< NL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *kranion* skull] — **per′i·cra′·ni·al** *adj.*

per·i·gee (per′ə·jē) *n. Astron.* The point in the orbit of the moon or of an artificial satellite at which it is nearest the earth: opposed to *apogee*. [< MF < Med.L < Gk. < *peri-*, near + *gē* earth] — **per′i·ge′al, per′i·ge′an** *adj.*

per·i·gon (per′ə·gon) *n. Geom.* An angle equal to two straight angles or 360 degrees.

per·i·he·li·on (per′ə·hē′lē·ən) *n. pl.* **·li·a** (-lē·ə) *Astron.* The point in the orbit of a planet or comet where it is nearest the sun: opposed to *aphelion*. [< NL < Gk. *peri-* around, near + *hēlios* sun]

per·il (per′əl) *n.* Exposure to the chance of injury; danger; risk. — *v.t.* **·iled** or **·illed, ·il·ing** or **·il·ling** To expose to danger; imperil. [< OF < L *periculum* trial, danger]

per·i·lous (per′əl·əs) *adj.* Involving, or attended with peril;

hazardous; risky. — **per/il·ous·ly** *adv.* — **per/il·ous·ness** *n.*

pe·rim·e·ter (pə·rim′ə·tər) *n.* **1.** The boundary line of any figure of two dimensions. **2.** The sum of the sides of a plane figure. [< L < Gk. < *peri-* around + *metron* measure] — **per·i·met·ric** (per′ə·met′rik) or **·ri·cal** *adj.*

per·i·ne·um (per′ə·nē′əm) *n. pl.* **·ne·a** (-nē′ə) *Anat.* **1.** The region of the body between the genital organs and the rectum. **2.** The entire region comprising the anus and the internal genitals. Also **per/i·nae/um.** [< LL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *inein* to empty out] — **per/i·ne/al** *adj.*

pe·ri·od (pir′ē·əd) *n.* **1.** A portion of time marked or defined by certain conditions, events, etc.: a *period* of rest. **2.** A portion or lapse of time, as in a process or development, a stage. **3.** A portion of time into which something is divided: Our new school day has seven *periods.* **4.** *Astron.* The time it takes a planet or satellite to revolve once about its primary. **5.** *Geol.* One of the divisions of geologic time. **6.** *Physics* The time that elapses between any two successive similar phases of an oscillation or other regularly repeated cyclical motion. **7.** A dot (.) placed on the line, used as a mark of punctuation after every complete declarative sentence, after most abbreviations, etc. **8.** The pause at the end of a sentence. **9.** *Pathol.* A stage distinguishable in the course of a disease. **10.** Menstruation. **11.** The completion of something. [< OF < L < Gk. < *peri-* around + *hodos* way]

pe·ri·od·ic (pir′ē·od′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like a period. **2.** Recurring at regular intervals. **3.** Intermittent. **4.** Of or expressed in periodic sentences. **5.** *Physics* Recurring after a definite interval. — **pe/ri·od′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pe·ri·od·i·cal (pir′ē·od′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to publications that appear at fixed intervals of more than one day; also, published at regular intervals. **2.** Periodic. — *n.* A periodical publication.

pe·ri·o·dic·i·ty (pir′ē·ə·dis′ə·tē) *n.* The quality of being periodic or of recurring at definite intervals of time.

periodic law *Chem.* The statement that the physical and chemical properties of the elements are related to their atomic numbers, and that they recur periodically when the elements are arranged in the order of these numbers.

periodic sentence A sentence so constructed as to suspend completion of both sense and structure until the close.

periodic table *Chem.* A table in which the elements are arranged in groups as determined by the periodic law.

per·i·os·te·um (per′ē·os′tē·əm) *n. Anat.* A tough, fibrous vascular membrane that surrounds and nourishes the bones. [< NL < LL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *osteon* bone] — **per/i·os/te·al, per/i·os/te·ous** *adj.*

per·i·pa·tet·ic (per′i·pə·tet′ik) *adj.* Walking about from place to place. — *n.* One given to walking about. [< MF < L < Gk. < *peri-* around + *pateein* to walk]

Per·i·pa·tet·ic (per′i·pə·tet′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the philosophy of Aristotle, who lectured to his disciples while walking. — *n.* A disciple of Aristotle.

pe·riph·er·al (pə·rif′ər·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or consisting of a periphery. **2.** Capable of perceiving images laterally that are not directly in one's line of sight: *peripheral* vision. **3.** Not central; marginal: of *peripheral* importance. **4.** *Anat.* Outer; external. — **pe·riph′er·al·ly** *adv.*

pe·riph·er·y (pə·rif′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** The outer part surface, or boundary of something. **2.** A surrounding region, area, or country. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *pherein* to carry]

pe·riph·ra·sis (pə·rif′rə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) A roundabout method or instance of expressing something; circumlocution. Also **per·i·phrase** (per′i·frāz′). [< L < Gk. < *peri-* around + *phrazein* to declare]

per·i·phras·tic (per′ə·fras′tik) *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of or involving periphrasis; circumlocutory. **2.** *Gram.* Denoting a construction in which a phrase is substituted for an inflected form, as, *the hat of John* for *John's hat.* Also **per/i·phras′ti·cal.** — **per/i·phras′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

pe·rique (pə·rēk′) *n.* A dark, strongly flavored tobacco grown in Louisiana. [after nickname of Pierre Chenet, American tobacco grower who introduced this variety]

per·i·scope (per′ə·skōp) *n.* An instrument consisting of prisms or mirrors so arranged as to reflect light rays down a vertical tube, used to guide submarines, etc. [< Gk. *peri-* around + *skopeein* to look] — **per·i·scop·ic** (per′ə·skop′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

PERISCOPE

per·ish (per′ish) *v.i.* **1.** To suffer a violent or untimely death. **2.** To pass from existence. [< OF < L < *per-* away + *ire* to go]

per·ish·a·ble (per′ish·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Liable to perish. **2.** Liable to speedy decay, as fruit in transportation. — *n. Usu. pl.* Something liable to decay, as food. — **per/ish·a·ble·ness, per/ish·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **per/ish·a·bly** *adv.*

per·i·stal·sis (per′ə·stôl′sis, -stal′-) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) *Physiol.* A contractile muscular movement of any hollow organ, as of the alimentary canal, whereby the contents are gradually propelled toward the point of expulsion. [< NL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *stellein* to place] — **per/i·stal′tic** *adj.*

per·i·style (per′ə·stīl) *n. Archit.* **1.** A system of columns about a building or an internal court. **2.** An area or space so enclosed. [< MF < L < Gk. < *peri-* around + *stylos* pillar] — **per/i·sty′lar** *adj.*

per·i·to·ne·um (per′ə·tə·nē′əm) *n. pl.* **·ne·a** (-nē′ə) *Anat.* A serous membrane that lines the abdominal cavity and is a more or less complete covering for the viscera. Also **per/i·to·nae/um.** [< LL < Gk. < *peri-* around + *teinein* to stretch] — **per/i·to·ne′al** or **·nae′al** *adj.*

per·i·to·ni·tis (per′ə·tə·nī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the peritoneum.

per·i·wig (per′ə·wig) *n.* A peruke or wig. [Earlier *perwyke,* alt. of *perruck* < MF *perruque*]

per·i·win·kle[1] (per′ə·wing′kəl) *n.* Any of several small marine snails, some of which are edible. [OE *pinewincle,* ? < L *pina* mussel + OE *wincle* a shellfish]

per·i·win·kle[2] (per′ə·wing′kəl) *n.* A plant having shining, evergreen leaves and blue or sometimes white flowers: also called *myrtle.* [OE < L *pervinca*]

per·jure (pûr′jər) *v.t.* **·jured, ·jur·ing** **1.** To make (oneself) guilty of perjury. **2.** To find guilty of or involved in perjury. [< OF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *jurare* to swear] — **per′jur·er** *n.*

per·jured (pûr′jərd) *adj.* Guilty of or constituting perjury.

per·ju·ry (pûr′jə·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** *Law* The wilful giving of false testimony or the withholding of material facts or evidence while under oath in a judicial proceeding.

perk[1] (pûrk) *v.i.* **1.** To recover one's spirits or vigor: with *up.* **2.** To carry oneself or lift one's head jauntily. — *v.t.* **3.** To raise quickly or smartly, as the ears: often with *up.* **4.** To make (oneself) trim and smart in appearance: often with *up* or *out.* — *adj.* Perky. [ME *perken*; ? var. of PERCH[1]]

perk[2] (pûrk) *v.i. Informal* To percolate.

perk·y (pûr′kē) *adj.* **perk·i·er, perk·i·est** **1.** Jaunty; sprightly; pert. **2.** Spirited and self-assured. Also *perk.* — **perk′·i·ly** *adv.* — **perk′i·ness** *n.*

per·ma·frost (pûr′mə·frôst, -frost) *n.* The part of the earth's surface in arctic regions that is permanently frozen.

per·ma·nence (pûr′mə·nəns) *n.* The state or quality of being permanent.

per·ma·nen·cy (pûr′mə·nən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** Permanence. **2.** Something permanent.

per·ma·nent (pûr′mə·nənt) *adj.* Continuing in the same state or without essential change; enduring; durable; fixed. — *n.* A permanent wave. [< OF < L < *per-* through + *manere* to remain] — **per′ma·nent·ly** *adv.*

Permanent Court of International Justice An international tribunal established under the Covenant of the League of Nations (1921) and superseded in 1945 by the International Court of Justice: also called *World Court.*

permanent wave An artificial wave mechanically or chemically set in the hair and lasting several months.

per·man·ga·nate (pər·mang′gə·nāt) *n. Chem.* A dark purple salt of permanganic acid.

per·man·gan·ic acid (pûr′man·gan′ik) *Chem.* An acid, $HMnO_4$, that is a powerful oxidizer in aqueous solutions.

per·me·a·bil·i·ty (pûr′mē·ə·bil′ə·tē) *n.* The quality or condition of being permeable, as by liquids, gases, etc.

per·me·a·ble (pûr′mē·ə·bəl) *adj.* Allowing passage, esp. of fluids. — **per′me·a·bly** *adv.*

per·me·ance (pûr′mē·əns) *n.* **1.** The act of permeating. **2.** *Electr.* The ability to be traversed by magnetic lines of force.

per·me·ate (pûr′mē·āt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To spread thoroughly through; pervade. **2.** To pass through the pores or interstices of. — *v.i.* **3.** To spread itself. [< L < *per-* through + *meare* to pass] — **per′me·ant** *adj.* — **per′me·a′tion** *n.* — **per′me·a′tive** *adj.*

Per·mi·an (pûr′mē·ən) *Geol. adj.* Of or pertaining to the latest period of the Paleozoic era. — *n.* The Permian rock system or period. See table for GEOLOGY. [after *Perm,* former E. Russian province]

per·mis·si·ble (pər·mis′ə·bəl) *adj.* That can be permitted; allowable. — **per·mis′si·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **per·mis′si·bly** *adv.*

per·mis·sion (pər·mish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of permitting or allowing. **2.** Formal authorization or consent.

per·miss·ive (pər·mis′iv) *adj.* **1.** Permitting; granting permission. **2.** Permitted; optional. **3.** Not strict in discipline. — **per·mis′sive·ly** *adv.* — **per·mis′sive·ness** *n.*

per·mit (*v.* pər·mit′; *n.* pûr′mit) *v.* **·mit·ted, ·mit·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To allow the doing of; consent to. **2.** To give (someone) leave or consent; authorize. **3.** To afford opportunity for. — *v.i.* **4.** To afford possibility or opportunity. **5.** To allow. — *n.* **1.** Permission to do something. **2.** An official document or certificate authorizing performance of a specified activity; license. [< L < *per-* through + *mittere* to send, let go] — **per·mit′ter** *n.*

per·mut·a·ble (pər·myōō′tə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being changed or of undergoing change or interchange.

per·mu·ta·tion (pûr′myo͞o-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of rearranging; transformation. **2.** *Math.* Change in the order of sequence of elements or objects in a series; esp., the making of all possible changes of sequence, as *abc, acb, bac,* etc.

per·mute (pər·myo͞ot′) *v.t.* **·mut·ed, ·mut·ing** To subject to permutation, esp., to change the order of. [< OF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *mutare* to change]

per·ni·cious (pər·nish′əs) *adj.* **1.** Having the power of destroying or injuring; very injurious; deadly. **2.** Malicious; wicked. [< MF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *nex, necis* death] — **per·ni′cious·ly** *adv.* — **per·ni′cious·ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** Noxious, baneful, deleterious, detrimental.

pernicious anemia *Pathol.* Severe anemia characterized by inadequate development of red blood corpuscles and progressive disturbances in the muscular, nervous, and gastrointestinal systems.

per·nick·e·ty (pər·nik′ə·tē) *adj.* Persnickety.

per·o·rate (per′ə·rāt) *v.i.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** **1.** To speak at length; harangue. **2.** To sum up or conclude a speech.

per·o·ra·tion (per′ə·rā′shən) *n.* The concluding portion of an oration or the summing up of an argument. [< L < *per-* thoroughly + *orare* to speak]

per·ox·ide (pə·rok′sīd) *n. Chem.* **1.** An oxide having the highest proportion of oxygen for a given series. **2.** Hydrogen peroxide. Also **per·ox′id** (-sid). — *v.t.* **·id·ed, ·id·ing** To bleach, as hair, with peroxide.

per·pen·dic·u·lar (pûr′pən·dik′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Being at right angles to the plane of the horizon; upright or vertical. **2.** *Math.* Meeting a given line or plane at right angles — *n.* **1.** A perpendicular line or plane. **2.** A plumb rule. **3.** A line at right angles to another line or to a plane. [< OF < L *perpendiculum* plumb line] — **per′pen·dic′u·lar′i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.* — **per′pen·dic′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

per·pe·trate (pûr′pə·trāt) *v.t.* **·trat·ed, ·trat·ing** To do, perform, or commit (a crime, etc.). [< L < *per-* thoroughly + *patrare* to accomplish] — **per′pe·tra′tion** *n.* — **per′pe·tra′tor** *n.*

per·pet·u·al (pər·pech′o͞o·əl) *adj.* **1.** Continuing or lasting forever or for an unlimited time. **2.** Incessant. [< OF < L < *per-* through + *petere* to seek] — **per·pet′u·al·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** (adj.) **1.** eternal, endless, interminable.

perpetual motion Continuous motion of a mechanism, conceived of as a capacity of doing work indefinitely by the energy supplied through its own operation.

per·pet·u·ate (pər·pech′o͞o·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To make perpetual or enduring. **2.** To cause to remain known, current, etc.: to *perpetuate* a myth. [< L *perpetuare* to perpetuate] — **per·pet′u·a′tion** *n.* — **per·pet′u·a′tor** *n.*

per·pe·tu·i·ty (pûr′pə·to͞o′ə·tē, -tyo͞o′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The quality or state of being perpetual. **2.** Something perpetual, as a perpetual annuity. **3.** Unending or unlimited time. [See PERPETUAL.]

per·plex (pər·pleks′) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to hesitate or become confused, as from doubt, difficulties encountered, etc.; puzzle. **2.** To make complicated, intricate, or confusing.

— **Syn. 1.** bewilder, mystify, confound. Compare BAFFLE.

per·plexed (pər·plekst′) *adj.* **1.** Confused; puzzled; bewildered. **2.** Of a complicated character; involved. [Appar. alter. of obs. *perplex*, adj., intricate < L *perplexus* involved] — **per·plex′ed·ly** (-plek′sid·lē) *adv.*

per·plex·ing (pər·plek′sing) *adj.* Confusing; puzzling. — **per·plex′ing·ly** *adv.*

per·plex·i·ty (pər·plek′sə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state, quality, or condition of being perplexed; doubt; confusion; bewilderment. **2.** That which perplexes. **3.** The quality or condition of being intricate or complicated.

per·qui·site (pûr′kwə·zit) *n.* **1.** Any incidental profit, payment, etc., beyond what is earned as salary or wages. **2.** Any privilege or benefit owed or claimed as one's due. [< L *perquisitum* a thing diligently sought]

perse (pûrs) *adj.* Dark grayish blue. — *n.* A dark grayish blue. [< OF *pers* < LL *persus* < *Persicus* Persian]

per se (pûr sē′, sā′) *Latin* By itself; intrinsically.

per·se·cute (pûr′sə·kyo͞ot) *v.t.* **·cut·ed, ·cut·ing** **1.** To annoy or harass persistently. **2.** To maltreat or oppress because of race, religion, or beliefs. [< F < L *persecutus*, pp. of *persequi* to pursue] — **per′se·cu′tion** *n.* — **per′se·cu′tive** *adj.* — **per′se·cu′tor** *n.*

Per·seph·o·ne (pər·sef′ə·nē) In Greek mythology, the daughter of Zeus and Demeter, abducted to the underworld by Pluto, but allowed to return to the earth for part of each year: identified with the Roman *Proserpine.*

Per·seus (pûr′syo͞os, -sē·əs) In Greek mythology, the son of Zeus and Danae, slayer of Medusa and rescuer of Andromeda. — *n.* A northern constellation. See CONSTELLATION.

per·se·ver·ance (pûr′sə·vir′əns) *n.* **1.** The act or habit of persevering. **2.** *Theol.* In Calvinism, the continuance in grace and certain salvation of those chosen by God.

per·se·vere (pûr′sə·vir′) *v.i.* **·vered, ·ver·ing** To persist in any purpose or enterprise; strive in spite of difficulties, etc. [< OF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *severus* strict] — **per′se·ver′ing** *adj.* — **per′se·ver′ing·ly** *adv.*

Per·sian (pûr′zhən, -shən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Persia (now Iran), or its people, language, or culture. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Persia or Iran. **2.** The Iranian language of the Persians. [< OF < L *Persia* Persia]

Persian Empire An empire of SW Asia, extending from the Indus to the Mediterranean, destroyed by Alexander the Great (331 B.C.).

Persian lamb **1.** The lamb of the karakul sheep. **2.** Its black, gray, or brown curled fur.

Persian wheel A noria.

per·si·flage (pûr′sə·fläzh) *n.* A light, flippant style of conversation or writing. [< F < *persifler* to banter]

per·sim·mon (pər·sim′ən) *n.* **1.** Any of several trees having reddish orange fruit with an astringent taste when not ripe. **2.** The fruit of these trees. [< Algonquian]

per·sist (pər·sist′, -zist′) *v.i.* **1.** To continue firmly in some course, state, etc., esp. despite opposition or difficulties. **2.** To be insistent, as in repeating or continuing an action. **3.** To continue to exist; endure. [< L < *per-* thoroughly + *sistere* causative of *stare* to stand]

per·sis·tence (pər·sis′təns, -zis′-) *n.* **1.** The act, condition, or quality of persisting. **2.** Perseverance. **3.** The continuance of an effect longer than the cause that first produced it. Also **per·sis′ten·cy.**

per·sis·tent (pər·sis′tənt, -zis′-) *adj.* **1.** Persevering or stubborn in a course or resolve. **2.** Enduring; permanent. **3.** Constantly repeated. — **per·sis′tent·ly** *adv.*

per·snick·e·ty (pər·snik′ə·tē) *adj. Informal* **1.** Unduly fastidious; fussy. **2.** Demanding minute care or pains. Also *pernickety.* [< dial. E] — **per·snick′e·ti·ness** *n.*

per·son (pûr′sən) *n.* **1.** Any human being considered as a distinct entity or personality; an individual. **2.** The body of a human being. **3.** One's characteristic appearance or physical condition. **4.** *Law* Any human being, corporation, or body politic having legal rights and duties. **5.** *Theol.* One of the three individualities in the Trinity **6.** *Gram.* **a** A modification of the pronoun and verb that distinguishes the speaker (**first person**), the person or thing spoken to (**second person**), and the person or thing spoken of (**third person**). **b** Any of the forms or inflections indicating this, as *I* or *we, you, he, she, it.* — **in person** **1.** Physically present. **2.** Acting for oneself. [< F < L *persona* actor's mask, character]

per·so·na (pər·sō′nə) *n. pl.* **·nae** (-nē) *Usu. pl.* A character in a drama, novel, etc. [L, person]

per·son·a·ble (pûr′sən·ə·bəl) *adj.* Attractive or pleasing in personal appearance. — **per′son·a·bly** *adv.*

per·son·age (pûr′sən·ij) *n.* **1.** A man or woman of importance or rank. **2.** A person; individual. **3.** A character in fiction, drama, history, etc.

per·so·na gra·ta (pər·sō′nə grä′tə, grā′tə) *Latin* An acceptable or welcome person.

per·son·al (pûr′sən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or concerning a particular person; not general or public. **2.** Relating to, having the qualities of, or constituting a person or persons. **3.** Done in person: a *personal* service. **4.** Of or pertaining to the body or appearance: *personal* beauty. **5.** Directly referring to an individual, esp. in a critical or disparaging manner: *personal* remarks. **6.** *Law* Pertaining to property regarded as movable or temporary: distinguished from *real.* **7.** *Gram.* Denoting or indicating person: *personal* pronouns. — *n.* **1.** *Law* A movable or temporary article or property; chattel. **2.** A paragraph or advertisement of personal reference or application. [< OF < LL < L *persona* a person]

per·son·al·i·ty (pûr′sən·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Distinctive qualities or characteristics of a person. **2.** A person of outstanding or distinctive qualities. **3.** That which constitutes a person; personal existence. **4.** *Often pl.* A remark or reference, often disparaging, of a personal nature.

per·son·al·ize (pûr′sən·əl·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To make personal. **2.** To personify. **3.** To mark with one's name, initials, etc., as stationery or handkerchiefs.

per·son·al·ly (pûr′sən·əl·ē) *adv.* **1.** In person; not through an agent. **2.** As regards one's own opinions, tastes, etc. **3.** With regard to a person as an individual. **4.** As though intended for or directed toward oneself.

personal pronoun *Gram.* A pronoun that varies in form according to person, gender, case, and number, as *we, their, him.*

per·son·al·ty (pûr′sən·əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** *Law* Personal property.

per·so·na non gra·ta (pər·sō′nə non grä′tə, grā′tə) *Latin* A person who is not welcome or acceptable.

per·son·ate (pûr′sən·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To act the part of, as a character in a play. **2.** *Law* To impersonate

with intent to deceive. [See PERSON.] — **per′son·a′tion** *n.* — **per′son·a′tive** *adj.* — **per′son·a′tor** *n.*

per·son·i·fi·ca·tion (pər·son′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The figurative endowment of inanimate objects or qualities with personality or human attributes. **2.** Exemplification of a quality or attribute in one's person; embodiment: She was the *personification* of joy. **3.** Impersonation.

per·son·i·fy (pər·son′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To think of or represent as having life or human qualities. **2.** To represent (an abstraction or inanimate object) as a person. **3.** To be the embodiment of; typify. [< F < L *persona* mask, person + *facere* to make] — **per·son′i·fi′er** *n.*

per·son·nel (pûr′sə·nel′) *n.* The persons employed in a business, in military service, etc. [See PERSONAL.]

per·spec·tive (pər·spek′tiv) *n.* **1.** The art or theory of representing solid objects on a flat surface in such a way as to convey the impression of depth and distance. **2.** The effect of distance upon the appearance of objects. **3.** The relative importance of facts or matters from any special point of view. **4.** Judgment of facts, circumstances, etc., with regard to their importance. **5.** A distant view, vista, or prospect. — *adj.* Pertaining to, characterized by, or represented in perspective. [< Med.L < LL < L *per-* through + *specere* to look] — **per·spec′tive·ly** *adv.*

per·spi·ca·cious (pûr′spə·kā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Keenly discerning or understanding. **2.** *Archaic* Sharp-sighted. [< L *perspicax, -acis* sharp-sighted] — **per′spi·ca′cious·ly** *adv.* — **per′spi·ca′cious·ness** *n.*

per·spi·cac·i·ty (pûr′spə·kas′ə·tē) *n.* Keenness in mental penetration or discernment.

per·spi·cu·i·ty (pûr′spə·kyōō′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** Clearness of expression or style; lucidity. **2.** Perspicacity.

per·spic·u·ous (pər·spik′yōō·əs) *adj.* Having the quality of perspicuity; clear; lucid. — **per·spic′u·ous·ly** *adv.* — **per·spic′u·ous·ness** *n.*

per·spi·ra·tion (pûr′spə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of perspiring. **2.** The fluid excreted; sweat. **3.** Arduous physical effort. — **per·spir·a·to·ry** (pər·spī′rə·tôr′ē) *adj.*

per·spire (pər·spīr′) *v.* **·spired, ·spir·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To give off a saline fluid through the pores of the skin; sweat. — *v.t.* **2.** To give off through pores; exude. [< MF < L < *per-* through + *spirare* to breathe]

per·suade (pər·swād′) *v.t.* **·suad·ed, ·suad·ing** **1.** To induce (someone) to do something. **2.** To induce to a belief; convince. [< MF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *suadere* to advise] — **per·suad′a·ble** *adj.* — **per·suad′er** *n.*

per·sua·sion (pər·swā′zhən) *n.* **1.** The act of persuading or of using persuasive methods. **2.** Ability to persuade. **3.** The state of being persuaded; settled opinion; conviction. **4.** An accepted creed or belief. **5.** A religious sect. **6.** Party; group; faction.

per·sua·sive (pər·swā′siv) *adj.* Having power or tendency to persuade. — *n.* That which persuades or tends to persuade. — **per·sua′sive·ly** *adv.* — **per·sua′sive·ness** *n.*

pert (pûrt) *adj.* **1.** Impertinent; saucy. **2.** *Dial.* Handsome and lively. [Aphetic var. of ME *apert* < OF, open, impudent] — **pert′ly** *adv.* — **pert′ness** *n.*

per·tain (pər·tān′) *v.i.* **1.** To have reference; relate. **2.** To belong as an adjunct, function, quality, etc. **3.** To be fitting or appropriate. — **pertaining to** Having to do with; belonging or relating to. [< OF < L < *per-* through + *tenere* to hold]

per·ti·na·cious (pûr′tə·nā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Tenacious of purpose; adhering fixedly to a pursuit or opinion. **2.** Stubbornly or doggedly persistent. [< L < *per-* thoroughly, very + *tenax, -acis* tenacious] — **per′ti·na′cious·ly** *adv.*

per·ti·nac·i·ty (pûr′tə·nas′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** Tenacity of purpose; unyielding adherence. **2.** Obstinacy.

per·ti·nent (pûr′tə·nənt) *adj.* Related to or properly bearing upon the matter in hand; relevant. [See PERTAIN.] — **per′ti·nence, per′ti·nen·cy** *n.* — **per′ti·nent·ly** *adv.*

per·turb (pər·tûrb′) *v.t.* **1.** To disquiet or disturb greatly; alarm; agitate. **2.** To throw into disorder; cause confusion in. [< OF < L < *per-* thoroughly + *turbare* to disturb] — **per·turb′a·ble** *adj.* — **per′tur·ba′tion** *n.*

pe·ruke (pə·rōōk′) *n.* A wig; esp. one worn by men in the 17th and 18th centuries: also *periwig.* [< MF *perruque* < Ital. *perrucca*]

pe·rus·al (pə·rōō′zəl) *n.* The act or procedure of reading or examining carefully; a thorough reading or scrutiny.

pe·ruse (pə·rōōz′) *v.t.* **·rused, ·rus·ing** **1.** To read carefully or attentively. **2.** To read. **3.** To examine; scrutinize. [< PER- + USE, v.] — **pe·rus′a·ble** *adj.* — **pe·rus′er** *n.*

Pe·ru·vi·an (pə·rōō′vē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Peru or its inhabitants, etc. — *n.* A native or inhabitant of Peru.

Peruvian bark Cinchona.

per·vade (pər·vād′) *v.t.* **·vad·ed, ·vad·ing** To spread through every part of; be diffused throughout; permeate. [< L < *per-* through + *vadere* to go] — **per·va′sion** (-zhən) *n.*

per·va·sive (pər·vā′siv) *adj.* Thoroughly penetrating or permeating. — **per·va′sive·ly** *adv.* — **per·va′sive·ness** *n.*

per·verse (pər·vûrs′) *adj.* **1.** Willfully deviating from acceptable or conventional behavior, opinion, etc. **2.** Refractory; capricious. **3.** Petulant; cranky. **4.** Morally wrong or erring; wicked; perverted. [See PERVERT.] — **per·verse′ly** *adv.* — **per·verse′ness** *n.*

per·ver·sion (pər·vûr′zhən, -shən) *n.* **1.** The act of perverting, or the state of being perverted. **2.** A perverted form, act, use, etc. **3.** Deviation from the normal in sexual desires or activities.

per·ver·si·ty (pər·vûr′sə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being perverse. **2.** An instance of perverseness.

per·vert (*v.* pər·vûrt′; *n.* pûr′vərt) *v.t.* **1.** To turn to an improper use or purpose; misapply. **2.** To distort the meaning or intent of; misconstrue. **3.** To turn from approved opinions or conduct; lead astray. **4.** To deprave; debase; corrupt. — *n.* One characterized by or practicing sexual perversion. [< F < L < *per-* away + *vertere* to turn] — **per·vert′er** *n.* — **per·vert′i·ble** *adj.*

per·vert·ed (pər·vûr′tid) *adj.* **1.** Deviating widely from what is right or acceptable; distorted. **2.** Characterized by viciousness, sexual perversion, etc. — **per·vert′ed·ly** *adv.*

per·vi·ous (pûr′vē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being penetrated. **2.** Open to reason, suggestions, etc. [< L *pervius* having a way through] — **per′vi·ous·ly** *adv.* — **per′vi·ous·ness** *n.*

pe·se·ta (pə·sā′tə, *Sp.* pā·sā′tä) *n.* The standard monetary unit of Spain, equivalent to 100 centimos: in 1960 worth about 2 U.S. cents; also, a silver coin of this value. [< Sp., dim. of *peso* weight]

pes·ky (pes′kē) *adj.* **·ki·er, ·ki·est** *U.S. Informal* Annoying; troublesome. [Prob. < PEST + -Y²] — **pes′ki·ly** *adv.*

pe·so (pā′sō) *n.* *pl.* **·sos** **1.** The standard monetary unit of various Spanish-speaking countries, as Argentina, Mexico, or the Philippines, equivalent to 100 centavos. **2.** A coin or note of this denomination. [< Sp., orig., a weight < L *pensum*, orig. pp. neut. of *pendere* to weigh]

pes·sa·ry (pes′ə·rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** *Med.* **1.** A device worn internally to remedy a uterine displacement. **2.** A contraceptive device worn over or in the uterine cervix. [< Med.L < L < Gk. *pessos* oval stone]

pes·si·mism (pes′ə·miz′əm) *n.* **1.** A disposition to take a gloomy or cynical view of affairs: opposed to *optimism.* **2.** The doctrine that the world and life are essentially evil. [< L *pessimus* worst + -ISM] — **pes′si·mist** *n.* — **pes′si·mis′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **pes′si·mis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

pest (pest) *n.* **1.** An annoying person or thing. **2.** A destructive or injurious insect, plant, etc. **3.** A virulent epidemic, esp. of plague. [< MF < L *pestis* plague]

pes·ter (pes′tər) *v.t.* To harass with petty and persistent annoyances; bother; plague. [< OF < *em-* in + LL *pastorium* foot shackles] — **pes′ter·er** *n.*

pest·hole (pest′hōl′) *n.* A squalid or insanitary place in which disease is likely to occur and spread.

pes·ti·cide (pes′tə·sīd) *n.* A chemical or other substance used to destroy plant and animal pests. — **pes′ti·ci′dal** *adj.*

pes·tif·er·ous (pes·tif′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** *Informal* Annoying, bothersome. **2.** Carrying or spreading infectious disease. **3.** Having an evil or harmful influence. [< L < *pestis* plague + *ferre* to bear] — **pes·tif′er·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pes·tif′er·ous·ness** *n.*

pes·ti·lence (pes′tə·ləns) *n.* **1.** Any widespread, often fatal infectious or contagious disease, as cholera or the bubonic plague. **2.** A noxious or malign doctrine, influence, etc. — **pes′ti·len′tial** (-len′shəl) *adj.*

pes·ti·lent (pes′tə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Tending to produce infectious or epidemic disease. **2.** Having a malign influence or effect. **3.** Making trouble; vexatious. [< OF < L < *pestis* plague] — **pes′ti·lent·ly** *adv.*

pes·tle (pes′əl) *n.* **1.** An implement used for crushing, pulverizing, or mixing substances in or as in a mortar. **2.** A vertical moving bar employed in pounding, as in a stamp mill, etc. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To pound, grind, or mix with or as with a pestle. [< OF < L < *pistus*, pp. of *pinsere* to pound]

PESTLE (*a*) IN MORTAR (*b*)

pet[1] (pet) *n.* **1.** A tame animal treated lovingly or kept as a companion or playmate. **2.** Any loved and cherished creature or thing. **3.** A favorite: teacher's *pet.* — *adj.* **1.** Tamed or kept as a pet. **2.** Regarded as a favorite; cherished. — *v.* **pet·ted, pet·ting** — *v.t.* **1.** To stroke or caress. **2.** To treat indulgently; coddle. — *v.i.* **3.** *U.S. Slang* To make love by kissing and caressing. [< dial. E (Scottish), ? < F *petit* little one]

pet[2] (pet) *n.* A fit of pique or ill temper. [Origin unknown]

pet·al (pet′l) *n.* *Bot.* One of the divisions or leaflike parts of a corolla. For illus. see FLOWER. [< NL < Gk. *petalon* leaf] — **pet′aled** or **pet′alled** *adj.*

-petal *combining form* Seeking: *centripetal.* [< L *petere* to seek]

pet·a·lif·er·ous (pet′ə·lif′ər·əs) *adj.* Bearing petals.

pe·tard (pi·tärd′) *n.* **1.** An explosive device formerly used to break through walls, gates, etc. **2.** A small firecracker

exploding with a loud report. [< MF < OF < L *peditum*, orig. pp. neut. of *pedere* to break wind]

pet·cock (pet′cok′) *n. Mech.* A small valve or faucet, used for draining, releasing pressure, etc. Also **pet cock.** [? < obs. *pet* a fart + COCK[1]]

pe·ter (pē′tər) *v.i. Informal* To diminish gradually and then cease or disappear: followed by *out*. [Orig. U.S. mining slang, ? < F *péter* (*dans la main*) to come to nothing]

Pe·ter (pē′tər) One of the twelve apostles, reputed author of two New Testament epistles: called **Saint Peter.** Also *Simon Peter.* — *n.* Either of the two books of the New Testament that bear his name. [< LL < Gk. *petros* stone]

Peter Pan The hero of J. M. Barrie's play (1904) of the same name, a little boy who remained perpetually a child.

Peter Pan collar A flat collar with rounded ends, used on girls' and women's blouses, dresses, etc.

pet·i·o·late (pet′ē·ə·lāt) *adj.* Having a petiole. Also **pet′i·o·lat′ed.**

pet·i·ole (pet′ē·ōl) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* The stem or slender stalk of a leaf; a leafstalk. **2.** *Anat.* A peduncle. [< L *petiolus*, orig. dim. of *pes*, *pedis* foot] — **pet′i·o·lar** *adj.*

pet·it (pet′ē) *adj. Law* Small; lesser; minor: *petit* jury: also spelled *petty.* [< OF, small]

pe·tite (pə·tēt′) *adj. fem.* Diminutive; little. [< F]

petit four (pet′ē fôr′, fōr′; *Fr.* pə·tē′fōōr′) *pl.* **pet·its fours** or **petit fours** (pet′ē fôrz′, fōrz′; *Fr.* pə·tē′fōōr′) A little, decoratively iced cake. [< F, lit., little oven]

pe·ti·tion (pə·tish′ən) *n.* **1.** A formal request or prayer. **2.** A formal request addressed to a person or group in authority and asking for some benefit, the redress of a grievance, etc. **3.** *Law* A formal application in writing made to a court, requesting judicial action concerning some matter therein set forth. **4.** Something formally requested or entreated. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a petition to. **2.** To ask for. — *v.i.* **3.** To make a petition. [< OF < L < *petere* to seek] — **pe·ti′tion·ar′y** *adj.* — **pe·ti′tion·er** *n.*

petit jury The jury that sits at a trial in civil and criminal cases: also called *trial jury*: also spelled *petty jury.*

petit larceny See under LARCENY.

pe·tit mal (pə·tē′ mäl′) *Pathol.* A mild form of epilepsy characterized by a momentary loss of consciousness: distinguished from *grand mal.* [< F, lit., little sickness]

pet·it point (pet′ē) **1.** A fine tapestry stitch used in decorative needlework: also called *tent stitch.* **2.** Needlework done in this stitch.

Pe·trar·chan sonnet (pə·trär′kən) A sonnet having the rhyme scheme *abbaabba* in the octave, and having in the sestet a set of two or three different, variously combined rhymes, as *cdcdcd*, or *cdecde*, etc.

pet·rel (pet′rəl) *n.* Any of various small sea birds as the storm petrel. [? < LL *Petrellus*, dim. of *Peter*, after St. Peter, in an allusion to his walking on the water. *Matt.* xiv 29]

pet·ri·fac·tion (pet′rə·fak′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of petrifying, or the state of being petrified. **2.** Anything petrified. Also **pet′ri·fi·ca′tion** (-fə·kā′shən). [< PETRIFY.] — **pet′ri·fac′tive** *adj.*

pet·ri·fy (pet′rə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To convert (organic material) into a substance of stony character. **2.** To make fixed and unyielding. **3.** To daze or paralyze with fear, surprise, etc. — *v.i.* **4.** To become stone or like stone. [< MF < L *petra* a rock + *facere* to make]

petro- *combining form* Rock; stone. Also, before vowels, **petr-.** [< F < L < Gk. *petra* rock and *petros* stone]

pet·ro·chem·is·try (pet′rō·kem′is·trē) *n.* The chemistry of petroleum and its derivatives, esp. the natural and synthetic hydrocarbons. — **pet′ro·chem′i·cal** *adj. & n.*

pe·trog·ra·phy (pə·trog′rə·fē) *n.* The systematic description and classification of rocks. — **pe·trog′ra·pher** *n.* — **pet′ro·graph·ic** (pet′rə·graf′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **pet′ro·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pet·rol (pet′rəl) *n. Brit.* Gasoline.

pet·ro·la·tum (pet′rə·lā′təm) *n.* A greasy, semisolid substance obtained from petroleum, used as a stabilizer for certain explosives and in ointments. Also **petroleum jelly.**

pe·tro·le·um (pə·trō′lē·əm) *n.* An oily, liquid mixture of numerous hydrocarbons, found in subterranean deposits, used in its natural state for heat and light, and as the source of gasoline, benzine, kerosene, paraffin, etc.: also called *naphtha, rock oil.* [< Med.L < L *petra* rock (< Gk.) + *oleum* oil]

petroleum ether *Chem.* A distillate of petroleum used as a solvent of fats, waxes, etc.

pe·trol·ic (pə·trol′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to petroleum.

pe·trol·o·gy (pə·trol′ə·jē) *n.* The science of the origin, structure, constitution, and characteristics of rocks. — **pet·ro·log·ic** (pet′rə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **pet′ro·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **pe·trol′o·gist** *n.*

pet·ti·coat (pet′ē·kōt) *n.* **1.** A skirt or skirtlike garment hanging from the waist; esp., a woman's underskirt. **2.** Something resembling a petticoat. **3.** A woman: a humorous or disparaging term. **4.** An electric insulator shaped like an inverted cup, for use on high-tension wires. — *adj.* Of or influenced by women: *petticoat* politics.

pet·ti·fog (pet′i·fog, -fôg) *v.i.* **·fogged, ·fog·ging** **1.** To be unduly concerned over trivial matters; fuss. **2.** To be a pettifogger. [Appar. back formation < PETTIFOGGER]

pet·ti·fog·ger (pet′i·fog′ər, -fôg′ər) *n.* **1.** An inferior lawyer, esp. one dealing with insignificant cases, or resorting to tricks. **2.** One who quibbles or fusses over trivialities. [Earlier *petty fogger* < PETTY + obs. *fogger* a trickster for gain] — **pet′ti·fog′ger·y** *n.*

pet·tish (pet′ish) *adj.* Capriciously ill-tempered; petulant; peevish. [Prob. < PET[2] + -ISH] — **pet′tish·ly** *adv.*

pet·ty (pet′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** **1.** Having little worth or importance; trifling; insignificant. **2.** Having little scope or generosity; narrow-minded. **3.** Mean; spiteful. **4.** Having a comparatively low rank or position; minor. **5.** *Law* Petit. [< F *petit* small] — **pet′ti·ly** *adv.* — **pet′ti·ness** *n.*

petty cash A supply of money kept for minor expenses, as in a business office.

petty jury See PETIT JURY.

petty larceny See under LARCENY.

petty officer *Naval* Any of a class of noncommissioned officers. See table at GRADE.

pet·u·lant (pech′ōō·lənt) *adj.* Displaying or characterized by capricious fretfulness; peevish. [< OF < L *petulans*, *-antis* forward, ult. < *petere* to rush at] — **pet′u·lant·ly** *adv.* — **pet′u·lance, pet′u·lan·cy** *n.*

pe·tu·ni·a (pə·tōō′nē·ə, -tyōō′-) *n.* Any of various tropical American plants cultivated widely for their funnel-shaped, variously colored flowers. [< NL < F *petun* tobacco]

pew[1] (pyōō) *n.* **1.** A bench for seating people in church, frequently with a kneeling rack attached. **2.** Formerly, a boxlike enclosure with seats on three sides, occupied by a family attending church. [ME < OF < LL *podia*, pl. of *podium* height, balcony < Gk. *podion* base]

pew[2] (pyōō) *interj.* An expression of disgust or displeasure, as at a bad odor. [Origin unknown]

pe·wee (pē′wē) *n.* Any of various small, greenish gray flycatchers: also spelled *peewee.* [Imit.]

pe·wit (pē′wit, pyōō′it) *n.* Any of various birds having a high or shrill cry. [Imit.]

pew·ter (pyōō′tər) *n.* **1.** An alloy, usu. of tin and lead, formerly much used for tableware. **2.** Pewter articles collectively. **3.** The characteristic dull gray of pewter. — *adj.* **1.** Made of pewter. **2.** Dull gray. [< OF *peutre, pialtre*]

pe·yo·te (pā·ōt′tē, *Sp.* pā·yō′tā) *n.* Mescal. Also **pe·yo′tl** (-yot′l). [< Am. Sp. < Nahuatl *peyotl*, lit., caterpillar]

pfen·nig (pfen′iкh) *n. pl.* **·nigs** or **pfen·ni·ge** (pfen′i·gə) A small bronze coin of Germany, equivalent to one hundredth of a deutschemark. [< G, penny]

Phae·dra (fē′drə) In Greek mythology, the wife of Theseus, who fell in love with her stepson and killed herself because he spurned her. Also **Phæ′dra.**

Pha·e·thon (fā′ə·thon) In Greek mythology, the son of Helios, who borrowed his father's chariot of the sun, and would have set heaven and earth on fire by his careless driving if Zeus had not slain him with a thunderbolt.

pha·e·ton (fā′ə·tən, *esp. Brit.* fā′tən) *n.* **1.** A light, four-wheeled carriage, open at the sides, and sometimes having a top. **2.** An open automobile having front and back seats. [< F, ult. < Gk. *Phaethōn* Phaethon]

-phage *combining form* One who or that which eats or consumes: *bacteriophage.* [< Gk. *phagein* to eat]

phago- *combining form* Eating. Also, before vowels, **phag-.** [< Gk. *phagein* to eat]

phag·o·cyte (fag′ə·sīt) *n. Physiol.* A leucocyte that ingests and destroys harmful bacteria, etc., in the blood and tissues of the body. — **phag′o·cyt′ic** (-sit′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

-phagous *combining form* Consuming; tending to eat. [< Gk. *phagein* to eat]

-phagy *combining form* The consumption or eating of. Also **-phagia.** [< Gk. *phagein* to eat]

phal·ange (fal′ənj, fə·lanj′) *n. Anat.* A phalanx.

pha·lan·ge·al (fə·lan′jē·əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or resembling the phalanges of the fingers and toes. Also **pha·lan′gal** (-gəl), **pha·lan′ge·an.**

pha·lan·ger (fə·lan′jər) *n.* Any one of a family of small marsupials of Australia and New Guinea, having long, often prehensile tails. [< NL < *phalanges*, pl. of *phalanx* phalanx]

pha·lanx (fā′langks, *esp. Brit.* fal′angks) *n. pl.* **pha·lan·ges** (fə·lan′jēz) or **pha·lanx·es** **1.** In ancient Greece, a marching order of heavy infantry, with close ranks and files, joined shields, and spears overlapping. **2.** Any massed or compact body or corps. **3.** *Anat.* One of the bones articulating with the joints of the fingers or toes: also called *phalange.* [< L < Gk. *phalanx, phalangos* line of battle]

phal·a·rope (fal′ə·rōp) *n.* Any of several swimming birds resembling the sandpiper, but having lobate toes. [< F < NL < Gk. *phalaris* coot + *pous* foot]

phal·lism (fal′iz·əm) *n.* Worship of the generative power in nature as symbolized by the phallus. Also **phal′li·cism.** — **phal′li·cist, phal′list** *n.*

phal·lus (fal′əs) *n. pl.* **·li** (-ī) **1.** A representation of the male generative organ, often used as a symbol of the generative power of nature. **2.** *Anat.* The penis or the clitoris. [< L < Gk. *phallos* penis] — **phal′lic** *adj.*

-phane *combining form* Something resembling or similar to (a specified substance or material): *cellophane.* [< Gk. *-phanēs* < *phainein* to show]

phan·tasm (fan′taz·əm) *n.* **1.** An imaginary appearance; phantom. **2.** A mental image; fancy. [< Gk. *phantasma*]

phan·tas·ma·go·ri·a (fan·taz′mə·gôr′ē·ə, -gō′rē·ə) *n.* **1.** A changing, incoherent series of apparitions or phantasms, as in a dream. **2.** An exhibition of pictures projected on a screen and made to increase or diminish in size rapidly while continuously in focus; also, any exhibition of optical effects. **3.** An apparition. Also **phan·tas′ma·go′ry.** [< NL < Gk. *phantasma* apparition + (prob.) *agora* crowd] — **phan·tas′ma·go′ri·al, phan·tas′ma·gor′ic** (-gôr′ik, -gor′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

phan·tas·mal (fan·taz′məl) *adj.* Of or like a phantasm; unreal or illusive; spectral. Also **phan·tas′mic.**

phan·ta·sy (fan′tə·sē, -zē) See FANTASY.

phan·tom (fan′təm) *n.* **1.** Something that exists only in appearance. **2.** An apparition; specter. **3.** The visible representative of an abstract state or incorporeal person. — *adj.* Illusive; ghostlike. Also spelled *fantom.* [< OF < L < Gk. *phantasma* apparition < *phainein* to show]

-phany *combining form* Appearance; manifestation: *epiphany.* [< Gk. < *phainein* to appear]

Phar·aoh (fâr′ō, fā′rō, fär′ē·ō) *n.* Any one of the monarchs of ancient Egypt. [< LL < Gk. < Hebrew < Egyptian *pr-ʿōh* the great house] — **Phar′a·on′ic** (-ē·on′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

phar·i·sa·ic (far′ə·sā′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Pharisees. **2.** Observing the form, but neglecting the spirit, of religion; self-righteous. Also **phar′i·sa′i·cal** — **phar′i·sa′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phar′i·sa′i·cal·ness** *n.*

phar·i·sa·ism (far′ə·sā·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** *Often cap.* The principles of the Pharisees. **2.** Formality, self-righteousness, or hypocrisy. Also **phar′i·see·ism** (-sē·iz′əm).

Phar·i·see (far′ə·sē) *n.* **1.** A member of an ancient Jewish sect that accepted the Mosaic law and the oral traditions associated with it, and emphasized strict observance of ritual. **2.** A formal, sanctimonious, hypocritical person: also **phar′i·see.** [OE *fariseus,* infl. by OF *pharise,* both < L < Gk. < Aramaic *perishayā,* pl. of *perish*]

phar·ma·ceu·ti·cal (fär′mə·sōō′ti·kəl) *adj.* Pertaining to, using, or relating to pharmacy or the pharmacopoeia: also **phar·ma·cal** (fär′mə·kəl). Also **phar′ma·ceu′tic.** — *n.* A pharmaceutical product. [< L < Gk. < *pharmakon* drug] — **phar′ma·ceu′ti·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phar′ma·ceu′tist** *n.*

phar·ma·ceu·tics (fär′mə·sōō′tiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) Pharmacy (def. 1).

phar·ma·cist (fär′mə·sist) *n.* A qualified druggist.

pharmaco- *combining form* A drug; of or pertaining to drugs. Also, before vowels, **pharmac-.** [< Gk. *pharmakon* drug]

phar·ma·col·o·gy (fär′mə·kol′ə·jē) *n.* The science of the nature, preparation, administration, and effects of drugs. — **phar′ma·co·log′ic** (-kə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phar′ma·co·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phar′ma·col′o·gist** *n.*

phar·ma·co·poe·ia (fär′mə·kə·pē′ə) *n.* **1.** A book, usu. published by an authority, containing standard formulas and methods for the preparation of medicines, drugs, and other remedial substances. **2.** A collection of drugs. [< NL < Gk. < *pharmakon* drug + *poieein* to make] — **phar′ma·co·poe′ial** *adj.* — **phar′ma·co·poe′ist** *n.*

phar·ma·cy (fär′mə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The art or business of compounding and identifying drugs, and of compounding and dispensing medicines: also called *pharmaceutics.* **2.** A drugstore. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *pharmakon* drug]

pha·ryn·ge·al (fə·rin′jē·əl, far′in·jē′əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the pharynx. Also **pha·ryn′gal** (-gəl).

phar·yn·gi·tis (far′in·jī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the pharynx, as in diphtheria and sore throat.

pharyngo- *combining form* The throat; related to the throat. Also, before vowels, **pharyng-.** [< Gk. *pharynx* throat]

phar·ynx (far′ingks) *n. pl.* **pha·ryn·ges** (fə·rin′jēz) or **phar·ynx·es** *Anat.* The part of the alimentary canal between the palate and the esophagus, serving as a passage for air and food. For illus. see MOUTH, THROAT. [< NL < Gk. *pharynx, -yngos* throat]

phase (fāz) *n.* **1.** The view that anything presents to the eye; any one of varying distinctive manifestations of an object. **2.** *Astron.* One of the appearances or forms presented periodically by the moon and planets. **3.** *Physics* **a** Any particular stage in the complete cycle of a periodic system. **b** The fraction of a cycle through which a wave has passed at any instant. **4.** *Chem.* Any homogeneous part of a material system separated from other parts by physical boundaries, as ice in water. **5.** *Biol.* Any characteristic or decisive stage in the growth, development, or life pattern of an organism. Also **pha·sis** (fā′sis). — **in phase** Reaching corresponding phases simultaneously, as two waves. — **to phase out** (or **in**) *U.S.* To plan and execute the orderly and gradual completion or initiation of an enterprise. [< NL < Gk. < *phainein* to show] — **pha·sic** (fā′zik) *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** Aspect, side, fact.

-phasia *combining form Med.* Defect or malfunction of speech: *dysphasia.* Also **-phasy.** [< Gk. < *phanai* to speak]

pheas·ant (fez′ənt) *n.* **1.** A long-tailed, gallinaceous bird, originally of Asia, noted for the gorgeous plumage of the male; esp. the **ring-necked pheasant,** widely bred in the U.S. **2.** One of various other birds, as the ruffed grouse. [< AF < L < Gk. *Phasianos* (*ornis*) the Phasian (bird) < *Phasis* the Phasis, a river in the Georgian S.S.R.]

Phe·be (fē′bē) See PHOEBE.

phen- Var. of PHENO-.

phe·nac·e·tin (fə·nas′ə·tin) *n. Chem.* A white, crystalline, coal-tar compound, $C_{10}H_{13}NO_2$, used in medicine as an antipyretic. Also **phe·nac′e·tine.**

phe·nix (fē′niks) See PHOENIX.

pheno- *combining form Chem.* Related to benzene; a derivative of benzene. Also, before vowels, *phen-.* [< Gk. *phainō-* shining < *phainein* to show]

phe·no·bar·bi·tal (fē′nō·bär′bə·tal, -tôl) *n. Chem.* A white, odorless, slightly bitter, crystalline powder, $C_{12}H_{12}O_3N_2$, used as a sedative. Also **phe′no·bar′bi·tone** (-tōn).

phe·nol (fē′nōl, -nol) *n. Chem.* A white, crystalline, caustic compound, C_6H_5OH, derived from coal tar and used as a disinfectant: also called *carbolic acid.* [< Gk. *phaino-* shining < *phainein* to show + -OL¹]

phe·nol·phthal·ein (fē′nōl·thal′ēn, fē′nolf·thal′ē·in) *n. Chem.* A yellowish white derivative of phenol, $C_{20}H_{14}O_4$, used as a laxative, an indicator in acid-base titrations, etc.

phe·nom·e·na (fi·nom′ə·nə) Plural of PHENOMENON.

phe·nom·e·nal (fi·nom′ə·nəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to phenomena. **2.** Extraordinary or marvelous. **3.** *Philos.* Perceptible through the senses. — **phe·nom′e·nal·ly** *adv.*

phe·nom·e·nal·ism (fi·nom′ə·nəl·iz′əm) *n. Philos.* The doctrine that denies either our knowledge or the existence of a reality beyond phenomena. — **phe·nom′e·nal·ist** *n.* — **phe·nom′e·nal·is′tic** *adj.* — **phe·nom′e·nal·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

phe·nom·e·non (fi·nom′ə·non) *n. pl.* **phe·nom·e·na** (-nə); *for defs. 2 & 3, often* **phe·nom·e·nons** **1.** Something visible or directly observable, as an appearance, action, change, etc. **2.** Any unusual occurrence; marvel. **3.** *Informal* A person having some remarkable talent, power, or ability; prodigy. **4.** *Med.* Any notable characteristic or disease. [< LL < Gk. < *phainein* to show]

phe·no·type (fē′nə·tīp) *n. Biol.* The aggregate of genetic characteristics visibly manifested by an organism. [< F < Gk. *phainein* to show + -TYPE] — **phe′no·typ′ic** (-tip′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phe′no·typ′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

phen·yl (fen′əl, fē′nəl) *n. Chem.* The univalent radical C_6H_5, the basis of numerous aromatic compounds.

phew (fyōō, fōō) *interj.* An exclamation of disgust or surprise.

phi (fī, fē) *n.* The twenty-first letter in the Greek alphabet (Φ, φ): corresponding to English *ph* and *f.* See ALPHABET.

phi·al (fī′əl) See VIAL.

Phi Be·ta Kap·pa (fī bā′tə kap′ə, bē′tə) An American honorary society founded in 1776, having its membership based on conditions of high academic standing.

phil- Var. of PHILO-.

phi·lan·der (fi·lan′dər) *v.i.* To make love without serious intentions: said of a man. — *n.* A male flirt: also **phi·lan′der·er.** [< Gk. *philandros,* orig., loving men < *philein* to love + *anēr, andros* man]

phi·lan·thro·py (fi·lan′thrə·pē) *n. pl.* **·pies** **1.** The effort to promote the happiness or social elevation of mankind, as by making donations, etc. **2.** Love or benevolence toward mankind in general. [< LL < Gk. < *philein* to love + *anthropos* man] — **phil·an·throp·ic** (fil′ən·throp′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phil′an·throp′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phi·lan′thro·pist** *n.*

phi·lat·e·ly (fi·lat′ə·lē) *n.* The study and collection of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, etc.; stamp collecting. [< F < Gk. *philos* loving + *ateleia* exemption from tax as indicated by a stamp] — **phil·a·tel·ic** (fil′ə·tel′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phil′a·tel′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phi·lat′e·list** (-lat′ə·list) *n.*

-phile *combining form* One who supports or is fond of; one devoted to: *bibliophile.* Also **-phil.** [< Gk. *-philos* loving]

Phi·le·mon (fi·lē′mən) A Greek of Colossae, converted to Christianity by Saint Paul. — *n.* A book of the New Testament consisting of an epistle addressed by Saint Paul to him.

phil·har·mon·ic (fil′här·mon′ik, -ər·mon′-) *adj. Sometimes cap.* Fond of music: often used in the names of musical societies. [< F < Ital. < Gk. *philos* loving + *harmonia* music]

-philia *combining form* **1.** A tendency toward: *hemophilia.* **2.** An excessive affection or fondness for: *necrophilia.* Also spelled *-phily.* [< Gk. *-philia* < *phileein* to love]

Phil·ip (fil′ip) One of the twelve apostles: called **Saint Philip.**

Phi·lip·pi (fi·lip′ī) An ancient town in northern Macedonia, Greece; scene of the defeat of Brutus and Cassius by Octavian and Antony, 42 B.C., and of Saint Paul's first preaching in Europe. *Acts* xvi 12. — **Phi·lip′pi·an** *adj. & n.*

Phi·lip·pi·ans (fi·lip′ē·ənz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) A book of the New Testament consisting of an epistle of Saint Paul addressed to Christians at Philippi.

phil·ip·pic (fi·lip′ik) *n.* An impassioned speech characterized by invective. — **the Philippics** A series of twelve speeches in which Demosthenes denounced Philip of Macedon. [< L < Gk. *Philippikos* pertaining to Philip]

Phi·lis·ti·a (fi·lis′tē·ə) An ancient region on the Mediterranean, SW Palestine. *Ps.* lx 8.

Phi·lis·tine (fi·lis′tin, -tēn, -tīn, fil′əs-) *n.* One of a warlike race of ancient Philistia. 1 *Sam.* xvii 23. [< F < LL < Gk. < Hebrew *p'lishtim*]

Phi·lis·tine (fi·lis′tin, -tēn, -tīn, fil′əs-) *n.* An ignorant, narrow-minded person, devoid of culture and indifferent to art. [< G student slang *Philister* one of the ancient Philistines] — **Phi·lis′tin·ism** *n.*

philo- *combining form* Loving; fond of. Also, before vowels, *phil-.* [< Gk. *philos* loving < *phileein* to love]

phil·o·den·dron (fil′ə·den′drən) *n.* Any of various climbing plants of the arum family, having glossy, evergreen leaves and cultivated as an ornamental house plant. [< NL < Gk., neut. of *philodendros* fond of trees.]

phi·log·y·ny (fi·loj′ə·nē) *n.* Fondness for or devotion to women. [< Gk. < *philos* loving + *gynē* woman] — **phi·log′y·nist** *n.* — **phi·log′y·nous** *adj.*

phi·lol·o·gy (fi·lol′ə·jē) *n.* **1.** The study of written records, chiefly literary works, to set up accurate texts and determine their meaning. **2.** Linguistics, esp. comparative and historical. [< F < L < Gk. < *philologos* fond of argument or words.] — **phil·o·log·ic** (fil′ə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phil′·o·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phi·lol′o·gist, phi·lol′o·ger** *n.*

phil·o·mel (fil′ə·mel) *n. Poetic* The nightingale. Also **phil′·o·me′la** (-mē′lə). [< F < L < Gk. ? < *philos* loving + *melos* song]

phi·los·o·pher (fi·los′ə·fər) *n.* **1.** A student of or specialist in philosophy. **2.** One who lives, makes judgments, etc., according to a philosophy. **3.** One who is calm and patient under all circumstances. [< OF < L < Gk. *philosophos* lover of wisdom]

philosopher's stone An imaginary stone or substance capable of transmuting the baser metals into gold.

phil·o·soph·i·cal (fil′ə·sof′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or founded on the principles of philosophy. **2.** Proper to or characteristic of a philosopher. **3.** Self-restrained; rational; thoughtful. Also **phil′o·soph′ic.** — **phil′o·soph′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phil′o·soph′i·cal·ness** *n.*

phi·los·o·phize (fi·los′ə·fīz) *v.i.* **·phized, ·phiz·ing** To speculate like a philosopher; moralize. — **phi·los′o·phiz′er** *n.*

phi·los·o·phy (fi·los′ə·fē) *n. pl.* **·phies 1.** The inquiry into the most comprehensive principles of reality in general, or of some sector of it, as human knowledge or human values. **2.** The love of wisdom, and the search for it. **3.** A philosophical system; also, a treatise on such a system. **4.** The general laws that furnish the rational explanation of anything: the *philosophy* of banking. **5.** Practical wisdom; fortitude. [< OF < L < Gk. *philosophos* lover of wisdom]

-philous *combining form* Loving; fond of. [< Gk. *-philos*]

phil·ter (fil′tər) *n.* **1.** A charmed draft supposed to have power to excite sexual love. **2.** Any magic potion. — *v.t.* To charm with a philter. Also **phil′tre.** [< MF < L < Gk. < *phileein* to love]

-phily Var. of -PHILIA.

phle·bi·tis (fli·bī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the inner membrane of a vein. [< NL < Gk. *phleps, phlebos* blood vessel + -ITIS] — **phle·bit′ic** (-bit′ik) *adj.*

phlebo- *combining form* Venous. Also, before vowels, **phleb-.** [< Gk. *phleps, phlebos* blood vessel]

phle·bot·o·mize (fli·bot′ə·mīz) *v.t.* **·mized, ·miz·ing** To treat by phlebotomy.

phle·bot·o·my (fli·bot′ə·mē) *n. Surg.* The practice of opening a vein for letting blood as a remedial measure; bloodletting. [< OF < L < Gk. < *phleps, phlebos* blood vessel + *temnein* to cut] — **phleb·o·tom·ic** (fleb′ə·tom′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phle·bot′o·mist** *n.*

phlegm (flem) *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* A viscid, stringy mucus secreted in the air passages, esp. when produced as a discharge through the mouth. **2.** Cold, undemonstrative temper. **3.** One of the four natural humors in ancient physiology. [< MF < LL < Gk., flame, phlegm < *phlegein* to burn]

phleg·mat·ic (fleg·mat′ik) *adj.* Not easily moved or excited. Also **phleg·mat′i·cal.** — **phleg·mat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

phlo·em (flō′əm) *n. Bot.* The complex tissue serving for the conduction of the sap in plants. [< G < Gk. *phloos* bark]

phlo·gis·ton (flō·jis′tən) *n.* The hypothetical substance formerly assumed to be a necessary constituent of all combustible bodies, and to be given up by them in burning. [< NL < Gk., < *phlogizein* to set on fire]

phlox (floks) *n.* Any of various herbs with opposite leaves and clusters of variously colored flowers. [< NL < L < Gk., wallflower, lit., flame]

-phobe *combining form* One who fears or has an aversion to. [< LL < Gk. *phobeesthai* to fear]

pho·bi·a (fō′bē·ə) *n.* **1.** A compulsive and persistent fear of any specified type of object, stimulus, or situation. **2.** Any strong aversion or dislike. [< L < Gk. < *phobos* fear] — **pho′bic** (-bik) *adj.*

-phobia *combining form* An exaggerated and persistent dread of or aversion to. [< Gk. *phobos* fear]

In the following list each entry denotes a phobia for what is indicated:

acrophobia high places
agoraphobia open spaces
ailurophobia cats
androphobia men
astraphobia thunderstorms
autophobia self, being alone
bathophobia depths
cynophobia dogs
demophobia crowds
gynophobia women
hemophobia blood
musophobia mice
necrophobia dead bodies
nyctophobia night, darkness
ophidiophobia reptiles
phonophobia noise
pyrophobia fire
taphephobia being buried alive
thanatophobia death
zoophobia animals

phoe·be (fē′bē) *n.* An American bird, a flycatcher, having grayish brown plumage and a slightly crested head. [Imit. of its cry; infl. in form by PHOEBE]

Phoe·be (fē′bē) In Greek mythology, Artemis as goddess of the moon. — *n. Poetic* The moon. Also spelled *Phebe.* [< L < Gk., bright]

Phoe·bus (fē′bəs) In Greek mythology, Apollo as god of the sun. Also **Phoebus Apollo.** — *n. Poetic* The sun.

Phoe·ni·cian (fə·nē′shən, -nish′ən) *adj.* Of ancient Phoenicia, its people, or its language. — *n.* **1.** One of the people of ancient Phoenicia or any of its colonies. **2.** The Northwest Semitic language of these people.

phoe·nix (fē′niks) *n.* In Egyptian mythology, a bird of great beauty, said to live for 500 or 600 years and then consume itself by fire, rising from its ashes to live through another cycle, often used as a symbol of immortality. Also spelled *phenix.* [OE < Med.L < L < Gk. *phoinix* phoenix, Phoenician; purple red, crimson]

phon- Var. of PHONO-.

pho·nate (fō′nāt) *v.i.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** To make speech sounds. [< Gk. *phōnē* voice] — **pho·na′tion** *n.*

phone[1] (fōn) *Informal n.* A telephone. — *v.t. & v.i.* **phoned, phon·ing** To telephone. [Short for TELEPHONE]

phone[2] (fōn) *n. Phonet.* A sound used in human speech. [< Gk. *phōnē* a sound, voice]

-phone *combining form* Voice; sound: *microphone.* [< Gk. *phōnē* voice]

pho·neme (fō′nēm) *n. Ling.* A class of phonetically similar phones that alternate with each other according to phonetic environment and that function to distinguish utterances from one another, as /t/ and /p/ in the words *tin* and *pin.* See ALLOPHONE. [< F < Gk. *phōnēma* utterance]

pho·ne·mic (fə·nē′mik, fō-) *adj.* **1.** Of or referring to phonemes. **2.** Involving distinctive speech sounds: a *phonemic* difference. — **pho·ne′mi·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·ne·mics (fə·nē′miks, fō-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** A phonemic system. **2.** The study of phonemic systems.

pho·net·ic (fə·net′ik, fō-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to phonetics, or to speech sounds and their production. **2.** Representing the sounds of speech. Also **pho·net′i·cal.** [< NL < Gk. *phōnē* sound] — **pho′net′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·ne·ti·cian (fō′nə·tish′ən) *n.* A specialist in phonetics. Also **pho·net·i·cist** (fə·net′ə·sist), **pho′ne·tist.**

pho·net·ics (fə·net′iks, fō-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** The branch of linguistics dealing with the analysis, description, and classification of the sounds of speech. **2.** The system of sounds of a language: the *phonetics* of American English. **3.** Loosely, phonetic transcription.

pho·ney (fō′nē) See PHONY.

-phonia See -PHONY.

phon·ic (fon′ik, fō′nik) *adj.* Pertaining to or of the nature of sound, esp. speech sounds.

phon·ics (fon′iks, fō′niks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** The phonetic rudiments used in teaching reading and pronunciation. **2.** The science of sound; acoustics.

phono- *combining form* Sound; speech; voice. Also, before vowels, *phon-.* [< Gk. *phōnē* voice]

pho·no·gram (fō′nə·gram) *n.* A character symbolizing a speech sound, word, etc. **— pho/no·gram′ic** or **·gram′mic** *adj.* **— pho/no·gram′i·cal·ly** or **·gram′mi·cal·ly** *adv.*
pho·no·graph (fō′nə·graf, -gräf) *n.* A record player.
pho·no·graph·ic (fō′nə·graf′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or produced by a phonograph. **2.** Pertaining to or written in phonography. **— pho/no·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
phonograph record A grooved disk that reproduces sounds on a record player.
pho·nog·ra·phy (fō·nog′rə·fē, fə-) *n.* **1.** The art or science of representing words according to a system of sound elements; esp. a style of shorthand. **2.** The art of representing speech sounds by marks or letters.
pho·nol·o·gy (fō·nol′ə·jē) *n.* **1.** Phonemics. **2.** Phonemics and phonetics taken together. **3.** The history of the sound changes that have taken place in a language, or the study thereof. **— pho·no·log·ic** (fō′nə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* **— pho′·no·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **— pho·nol′o·gist** *n.*
pho·ny (fō′nē) *U.S. Slang adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** Fake; false; spurious; counterfeit. **—** *n. pl.* **·nies 1.** Something fake or not genuine. **2.** One who tries to be something he is not. Also spelled *phoney.* [? < British slang *fawney man* peddler of imitation jewelry, ult. < Irish *fainne* ring]
-phony *combining form* A (specified) type of sound or sounds: *cacophony.* Also *-phonia.* [< Gk. *phōnē* sound, voice]
-phore *combining form* A bearer or producer of: *semaphore.* [< NL < Gk. < *pherein* to bear]
-phorous *combining form* Bearing or producing: found in adjectives corresponding to nouns in *-phore.*
phos·gene (fos′jēn) *n. Chem.* A colorless, highly toxic gas, $COCl_2$, having a suffocating odor, used in organic chemistry and in warfare. [< Gk. *phōs* light + *-gene* -GEN]
phosph- Var. of PHOSPHO-.
phos·phate (fos′fāt) *n.* **1.** *Chem.* A salt or ester of phosphoric acid. **2.** *Agric.* Any fertilizer valued for its phosphoric acid. **3.** A beverage of carbonated water, containing small amounts of phosphoric acid. [< F]
phos·phat·ic (fos·fat′ik) *adj.* **1.** Relating to the phosphates. **2.** Containing some phosphate.
phos·phide (fos′fīd, -fid) *n. Chem.* A compound of phosphorus with a metal, as **calcium phosphide,** Ca_3P_2. Also **phos′phid** (-fid).
phos·phite (fos′fīt) *n.* A salt of phosphorous acid.
phospho- *combining form* Phosphorus; of or containing phosphorus, or any of its compounds. Also, before vowels, *phosph-.*
phos·phor (fos′fər) *n.* Any of a class of substances that will emit light under the action of certain chemicals or radiations. [< L < Gk. *phōs* light + *pherein* to bear]
Phos·phor (fos′fər) *n. Poetic* The morning star, esp. Venus. [< L *Phosphorus* morning star < Gk. *phōsphoros*]
phos·pho·rate (fos′fə·rāt′) *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To combine with phosphorus.
phos·phor·esce (fos′fə·res′) *v.i.* **·esced, esc·ing** To glow with a faint light unaccompanied by perceptible heat.
phos·phor·es·cence (fos′fə·res′əns) *n.* **1.** The emission of light without sensible heat; also, the light so emitted. **2.** The property of continuing to shine in the dark after exposure to light, shown by many mineral substances.
phos·phor·es·cent (fos′fə·res′ənt) *adj.* Exhibiting phosphorescence.
phos·phor·et·ed (fos′fə·ret′id) *adj. Chem.* Combined with phosphorus. Also **phos′phor·et′ted, phos′phu·ret′ed** (-fyə·ret′id) or **·ret′ted.**
phos·phor·ic (fos·fôr′ik, -for′-) *adj. Chem.* Pertaining to or derived from phosphorus, esp. in its highest valence.
phosphoric acid *Chem.* One of three acids of phosphorus, esp. *orthophosphoric acid* (H_3PO_4), used as a reagent.
phos·pho·rous (fos′fər·əs, fos·fôr′əs, -fō′rəs) *adj. Chem.* Of, pertaining to, resembling, containing, or derived from phosphorus, esp. in its lower valence.
phosphorous acid *Chem.* A crystalline acid, H_3PO_3, with a garlic taste, obtained by the oxidation of phosphorus.
phos·pho·rus (fos′fər·əs) *n.* A soft, nonmetallic element (symbol P), found only in combination; white or yellow phosphorus is luminous in the dark, highly flammable, and poisonous; red phosphorus does not glow, is less flammable, and nonpoisonous. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L *Phosphorus* morning star < Gk. *phōs* light + *pherein* to bear]
pho·tic (fō′tik) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to light or to the production of light. **2.** Designating those underwater regions penetrated by sunlight: the *photic* zone.
pho·to (fō′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** *Informal* A photograph.
photo- *combining form* **1.** Light; of, pertaining to, or produced by light. **2.** Photograph; photographic: *photoengrave.* [< Gk. *phōs* light]
pho·to·cell (fō′tō·sel′) *n.* A photoelectric cell.
pho·to·chem·is·try (fō′tō·kem′is·trē) *n.* The branch of chemistry dealing with chemical reactions produced or influenced by light. **— pho′to·chem′i·cal** *adj.*
pho·to·e·lec·tric (fō′tō·i·lek′trik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the electrical or electronic effects due to the action of light. Also **pho/to·e·lec′tri·cal.**
photoelectric cell An electron tube, one of whose electrodes is sensitive to variations in the intensity of light, incorporated in electrical circuits as a controlling, testing, and counting device: also *electric eye, photocell, phototube.*
pho·to·e·lec·tron (fō′tō·i·lek′tron) *n.* An electron emitted from a metal surface when exposed to suitable radiation.
pho·to·en·grave (fō′tō·in·grāv′) *v.t.* **·graved, ·grav·ing** To reproduce by photoengraving. **— pho′to·en·grav′er** *n.*
pho·to·en·grav·ing (fō′tō·in·grā′ving) *n.* **1.** The act or process of producing by the aid of photography a relief block or plate for printing. **2.** A plate or picture so produced.
photo finish **1.** A race so closely contested that only a photograph of the finish can determine the winner. **2.** *Informal* Any race or competition decided by a slim margin.
pho·to·flash bulb (fō′tō·flash′) *Photog.* A flash bulb.
pho·to·flood lamp (fō′tō·flud′) *Photog.* An electric lamp operating at excess voltage to give high illumination.
pho·to·gen·ic (fō′tō·jen′ik) *adj.* **1.** Being a good subject for a photograph, esp. for esthetic reasons. **2.** *Biol.* Producing phosphorescence. **— pho/to·gen′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
pho·to·gram·me·try (fō′tō·gram′ə·trē) *n.* The art and technique of making surveys or maps by photographs.
pho·to·graph (fō′tə·graf, -gräf) *n.* A picture taken by photography. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To take a photograph of. **—** *v.t.* **2.** To practice photography. **3.** To be depicted in photographs: He *photographs* beautifully. **— pho·tog·ra·pher** (fə·tog′rə·fər) *n.*
pho·to·graph·ic (fō′tə·graf′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, used in, or produced by photography. **2.** Of or like a photograph. Also **pho/to·graph′i·cal. — pho/to·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
pho·tog·ra·phy (fə·tog′rə·fē) *n.* **1.** The process of forming and fixing an image of an object or objects by the chemical action of light and other forms of radiant energy on photosensitive surfaces. **2.** The art or business of producing and printing photographs.
pho·to·gra·vure (fō′tō·grə·vyŏŏr′, -grāv′yər) *n.* **1.** The process of making an intaglio plate from a photograph for use in printing. **2.** A picture so produced. [< F]
pho·to·lith·o·graph (fō′tō·lith′ə·graf, -gräf) *v.t.* To reproduce by photolithography. **—** *n.* A picture produced by photolithography.
pho·to·li·thog·ra·phy (fō′tō·li·thog′rə·fē) *n.* The art or operation of producing on stone, largely by photographic means, a printing surface from which impressions may be taken by a lithographic process. **— pho/to·lith/o·graph′ic** (-lith′ə·graf′ik) *adj.*
pho·tol·y·sis (fō·tol′ə·sis) *n.* Chemical or biological decomposition due to the action of light. [< NL < Gk. *phōs* light + *lysein* to loosen] **— pho·to·lyt·ic** (fō′tə·lit′ik) *adj.*
pho·to·map (fō′tō·map′) *n.* A map composed of one or more aerial photographs.
pho·tom·e·ter (fō·tom′ə·tər) *n.* Any instrument for measuring or comparing the intensity of light.
pho·tom·e·try (fō·tom′ə·trē) *n.* **1.** The measurement of the intensity of light, esp. with a photometer. **2.** The branch of optics that treats of such measurement. **— pho·to·met·ric** (fō′tə·met′rik) or **·ri·cal** *adj.* **— pho·tom′e·trist** n.
pho·to·mi·cro·graph (fō′tō·mī′krə·graf, -gräf) *n.* A photograph taken through a microscope; a microphotograph. **— pho·to·mi·crog·ra·phy** (fō′tō·mī·krog′rə·fē) *n.*
pho·to·mon·tage (fō′tō·mon·täzh′, -mŏn-) *n.* Montage produced by photography.
pho·to·mu·ral (fō′tō·myŏŏr′əl) *n.* A photograph enlarged to a considerable size, used for wall decoration.
pho·ton (fō′ton) *n. Physics* A quantum of radiant energy moving with the velocity of light and an energy proportional to its frequency: also called *light quantum.* **— pho·ton′ic** *adj.*
pho·to·nu·cle·ar (fō′tō·nōō′klē·ər, -nyōō′-) *adj. Physics* Of, pertaining to, or designating a reaction initiated in an atomic nucleus by a photon.
pho·to·off·set (fō′tō·ôf′set, -of′-) *n.* Offset printing from a metal surface on which the text or design has been imprinted by photography.
pho·to·play (fō′tō·plā′) *n.* A play arranged for or presented in a motion-picture performance.
pho·to·sen·si·tive (fō′tō·sen′sə·tiv) *adj.* Sensitive to light. **— pho/to·sen′si·tiv′i·ty** *n.*
pho·to·sphere (fō′tə·sfir) *n. Astron.* The visible shining surface of the sun. **— pho/to·spher′ic** (-sfir′ik, -sfer′-) *adj.*
pho·to·stat (fō′tə·stat) *v.t. & v.i.* **·stat·ed** or **·stat·ted, ·stat·ing** or **·stat·ting** To make a reproduction (of) with a Photostat. **—** *n.* The reproduction so produced. **— pho/to·stat′·ic** *adj.* **— pho/to·stat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
Pho·to·stat (fō′tə·stat) *n.* A camera designed to reproduce facsimiles of documents, drawings, etc., directly as positives: a trade name. Also **pho′to·stat.**
pho·to·syn·the·sis (fō′tō·sin′thə·sis) *n. Biochem.* The process by which plants form carbohydrates from carbon di-

oxide, inorganic salts, and water through the agency of sunlight acting upon chlorophyll. — **pho/to·syn·thet/ic** (-sin·thet/ik) *adj.*

pho·to·tel·e·graph (fō/tō·tel/ə·graf, -gräf) *v.t. & v.i.* To transmit by phototelegraphy. — *n.* Something so transmitted.

pho·to·te·leg·ra·phy (fō/tō·tə·leg/rə·fē) *n.* The electrical or telegraphic transmission of messages, photographs, etc., by facsimile; telephotography. — **pho/to·tel/e·graph/ic** (-tel/ə·graf/ik) *adj.*

pho·to·trop·ic (fō/tə·trop/ik) *adj. Biol.* Turning in a particular direction under the influence of light. — **pho/to·trop/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·tot·ro·pism (fō·tot/rə·piz/əm) *n. Biol.* Phototropic growth or response.

pho·to·tube (fō/tō·tōōb′, -tyōōb′) *n.* A photoelectric cell.

pho·to·type (fō/tə·tīp′) *n.* **1.** A relief plate made for printing by photography. **2.** The process by which it is produced: also **pho·to·typ·y** (fō/tō·tī/pē). **3.** A picture printed from such a plate. — **pho/to·typ/ic** (-tip/ik) *adj.*

phrase (frāz) *n.* **1.** *Gram.* A group of two or more associated words, not containing a subject and predicate: distinguished from *clause*. **2.** A word or group of words spoken in one breath. **3.** A concise, catchy expression. **4.** *Music* A short division of time comprising several statements of one or more motifs. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·phrased, ·phras·ing** **1.** To express in words or phrases. **2.** To divide (a sentence, etc.) into phrases when speaking. **3.** *Music* To divide (a melody) into phrases. [< LL < Gk. *phrazein* to point out] — **phras·al** (frā/zəl) *adj.* — **phras/ing** *n.*

phra·se·ol·o·gy (frā/zē·ol/ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The choice and arrangement of words and phrases in expressing ideas. **2.** A compilation or handbook of phrases. [< NL < Gk. *phrasis* speech + *logos* word] — **phra/se·o·log/i·cal** (-ə·loj/i·kəl) *adj.* — **phra/se·ol/o·gist** (-jist) *n.*

phren·ic (fren/ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the mind. **2.** *Anat.* Of or pertaining to the diaphragm: the *phrenic* nerve. [< NL < Gk. *phrēn, phrenos* diaphragm, mind]

phreno- *combining form* **1.** Mind; brain. **2.** Diaphragm; of or related to the diaphragm. Also, before vowels, **phren-**. [< Gk. *phrēn, phrenos* the diaphragm (thought to be the seat of intellect)]

phre·nol·o·gy (fri·nol/ə·jē) *n.* The doctrine that the conformation of the human skull allegedly indicates the degree of development of various mental faculties and characteristics. [< Gk. *phrēn, phrenos* mind + -LOGY] — **phren·o·log·ic** (fren/ə·loj/ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phre·nol/o·gist** *n.*

Phryg·i·a (frij/ē·ə) An ancient country in west central Asia Minor. — **Phryg/i·an** *n. & adj.*

phthal·e·in (thal/ē·in, -ēn, fthal/-) *n. Chem.* Any of a series of compounds formed by combining a phenol with phthalic acid or its anhydride, and yielding dyes in some derivatives. Also **phthal/e·ine.** [< PHTHAL(IC) + *-ein*, var. of -IN]

phthal·ic acid (thal/ik, fthal/-) *Chem.* One of three aromatic crystalline compounds, $C_8H_6O_4$, derived variously.

phthi·sis (thī/sis, fthī/-) *n. Pathol.* Tuberculosis of the lungs. Also **phthis/ic.** [< L < Gk., a wasting away < *phthinein* to decay] — **phthis/i·cal, phthis·ick·y** (fiz/ik·ē) *adj.*

phyceae *combining form Bot.* Seaweed: used in the names of various classes of algae. [< Gk. *phykos* seaweed]

phyco- *combining form* Seaweed; of or related to seaweed. [< Gk. *phykos* seaweed]

phy·la (fī/lə) Plural of PHYLUM.

phy·lac·ter·y (fi·lak/tər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ter·ies** **1.** In traditional Judaism, one of two small leather cases containing a strip or strips of parchment inscribed with Scriptural passages, and bound on the forehead or around the left arm during morning prayer. [< LL < Gk. *phylaktērion* safeguard]

phyllo- *combining form* Leaf; pertaining to a leaf. Also, before vowels, **phyll-**. [< Gk. *phyllon* leaf]

phyl·lo·tax·is (fil/ə·tak/sis) *n. Bot.* **1.** The arrangement of leaves upon a stem. **2.** The laws of this arrangement. Also **phyl/lo·tax/y.** [< NL < Gk. *phyllon* leaf + *taxis* arrangement] — **phyl/lo·tac/tic** (-tak/tik) *adj.*

phyllous *combining form* Having (a specified kind or number of) leaves. [< Gk. *phyllon* leaf]

phylo- *combining form* Tribe; race; species. Also, before vowels, **phyl-**. [< Gk. *phylē, phylon* tribe]

phy·log·e·ny (fi·loj/ə·nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** *Biol.* The history of the evolution of a species or group: distinguished from *ontogeny*. **2.** Tribal or racial history. Also **phy·lo·gen·e·sis** (fī/lə·jen/ə·sis). [< Gk. *phylon* race + *-geneia* birth, origin] — **phy/lo·ge·net/ic** (-jə·net/ik) *adj.* — **phy/lo·ge·net/i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phy/lo·gen/ic** *adj.*

phy·lum (fī/ləm) *n. pl.* **·la** (-lə) *Biol.* A great division of animals or plants of which the members are believed to have a common evolutionary ancestor. [< NL < Gk. *phylon* race]

-phyre *combining form Geol.* A porphyritic rock. [See PORPHYRY.]

physi- Var. of PHYSIO-.

phys·ic (fiz/ik) *n.* A cathartic; a purge. — *v.t.* **·icked, ·ick·ing** **1.** To treat with medicine, esp. with a cathartic. **2.** To cure or relieve. [< L < Gk. *physikē* (*epistēmē*) (the knowledge) of nature]

phys·i·cal (fiz/i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to the human body, as distinguished from the mind or spirit. **2.** Of the nature of or pertaining to matter or material things. **3.** Of or relating to the material universe or to the sciences that treat of it. **4.** Of or pertaining to physics: a *physical* law. **5.** Apparent to the senses; external: *physical* changes. [See PHYSIC.] — **phys/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

physical chemistry The branch of chemistry that deals with the physical properties of substances, esp. with reference to the laws governing their quantitative energy transformations and chemical interactions.

physical education Athletic training and development of the human body; also, education in hygiene.

physical geography Geography dealing with the natural features of the earth, as vegetation, land forms, drainage, ocean currents, climate, etc.: also called *physiography*.

physical science Any of the sciences that treat of inanimate matter or energy, as physics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, etc.

physical therapy The treatment of disability, injury, and disease by external physical means, as by electricity, heat, light, massage, exercise, etc.: also called *physiotherapy*.

phy·si·cian (fi·zish/ən) *n.* **1.** One who is legally authorized to practice medicine; a doctor. **2.** A doctor engaged in general practice. **3.** Any healer. [See PHYSIC.]

phys·i·cist (fiz/ə·sist) *n.* A specialist in physics.

physico- *combining form* Physics. [< Gk. *physikos* < *physis* nature. See PHYSIC.]

phys·i·co·chem·i·cal (fiz/i·kō·kem/i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the physical and chemical properties of matter. **2.** Pertaining to physical chemistry.

phys·ics (fiz/iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The science that treats of motion, matter, and energy, and of their interactions.

physio- *combining form* Nature; related to natural functions or phenomena. Also, before vowels, *physi-*. [< Gk. *physis* nature. See PHYSIC.]

phys·i·og·no·my (fiz/ē·og/nə·mē, *esp. Brit.* fiz/ē·on/ə·mē) *n. pl.* **·mies** **1.** The face or features considered as revealing character or disposition. **2.** The outward look of a thing. **3.** The practice of discerning character in the features of the face or form of the body. [< OF < Med.L *phisnomia* < Gk. *physiognōmonia* the judging of a man's nature (by his features)] — **phys/i·og·nom/ic** (-og·nom/ik, *esp. Brit.* -ə·nom/ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phys/i·og·nom/i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phys/i·og/no·mist** *n.*

phys·i·og·ra·phy (fiz/ē·og/rə·fē) *n.* **1.** A description of nature. **2.** Physical geography. — **phys/i·og/ra·pher** *n.* — **phys/i·o·graph/ic** (-ə·graf/ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **phys/i·o·graph/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

phys·i·ol·o·gy (fiz/ē·ol/ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The science that treats of the processes and mechanisms by which living animals and plants function under varied conditions. **2.** The aggregate of vital processes: the *physiology* of the frog. [< F < L < Gk. < *physiologos* speaker on nature] — **phys/i·o·log/i·cal, phys/i·o·log/ic** *adj.* — **phys/i·o·log/i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **phys/i·ol/o·gist** *n.*

phys·i·o·ther·a·py (fiz/ē·ō·ther/ə·pē) *n.* Physical therapy.

phy·sique (fi·zēk′) *n.* The structure, strength, or appearance of the body. [< F, orig. adj., physical]

-phyte *combining form* A (specified) kind of plant; a plant having a (specified) habitat. [< Gk. *phyton* plant]

phyto- *combining form* Plant; of or related to vegetation. Also, before vowels, **phyt-**. [< Gk. *phyton* plant]

pi[1] (pī) *n.* **1.** The sixteenth letter in the Greek alphabet (Π, π): corresponding to English *p*. See ALPHABET. **2.** *Math.* **a** This letter used to designate the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. **b** The ratio itself (3.14159 . . .). [def. 2 < Gk. *p*(*eriphereia*) periphery]

pi[2] (pī) *n.* **1.** *Printing* Type that has been thrown into disorder. **2.** Any jumble or disorder. — *v.t.* **pied, pie·ing** To jumble or disorder, as type. Also spelled *pie*. [Var. of PIE[1]]

pi·a ma·ter (pī/ə mā/tər) *Anat.* The delicate inner membrane that envelops the brain and spinal cord. [< Med.L, tender mother]

pi·a·nis·si·mo (pē/ə·nis/i·mō, *Ital.* pyä·nēs/sē·mo) *Music adj. & adv.* Very soft or very softly: a direction to the performer. — *n. pl.* **·mos** A passage so played. [< Ital. < L *planissimus*, superl. of *planus* soft]

pi·an·ist (pē·an/ist, pē/ə·nist) *n.* One who plays the piano; esp., an expert or professional performer on the piano. [< F *pianiste* and < Ital. *pianista*]

pi·an·o[1] (pē·an′ō) *n.* *pl.* **·os** A musical instrument having felt-covered hammers operated from a manual keyboard that strike upon steel wires to produce musical tones; a pianoforte. [< Ital., short for *pianoforte*. See PIANOFORTE.]

pi·a·no[2] (pē·ä′nō, *Ital.* pyä′nō) *Music adj. & adv.* Soft or softly: a direction to the performer. — *n.* *pl.* **·os** A passage so played. [< Ital. < L *planus* flat, soft]

pi·an·o·for·te (pē·an′ə·fôr′tā, -fôr′-, -fôrt′, -fôrt′) *n.* A piano. [< Ital. < *piano e forte* soft and loud]

pi·as·ter (pē·as′tər) *n.* **1.** A monetary unit of various countries, as Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Syria: the hundredth part of a pound. **2.** A Turkish coin and monetary unit: also called *kurus*. **3.** The Spanish peso or dollar. Also **pi·as′tre.** [< F < Ital. *piastra*, lit., plate of metal]

pi·az·za (pē·az′ə, *Ital.* pyät′tsä) *n.* **1.** An open area or public square in a city or town, esp. in Italy. **2.** A covered outer walk or gallery. **3.** *Chiefly U.S.* A veranda or porch. [< Ital., square, market place]

pi·broch (pē′brokh) *n.* A martial air played on the bagpipe. [< Gaelic *piobaireachd* art of playing the bagpipe]

pi·ca (pī′kə) *n.* **1.** A size of type; 12-point; about ⅙ inch; also, a standard unit of measurement for thickness and length of leads, borders, etc. **2.** A size of typewriter type equivalent to 12-point, with 10 characters to the inch. [< Med.L, a book of church rules]

pic·a·dor (pik′ə·dôr, *Sp.* pē′kä·ŧhôr′) *n.* In bullfighting, a horseman who seeks to weaken the bull by pricking him with a lance. [< Sp., lit., pricker < *picar* to prick]

pic·a·resque (pik′ə·resk′) *adj.* **1.** Of or involving rogues or vagabonds. **2.** Denoting a form of fiction involving rogues and vagabonds. [< Sp. *picaresco* roguish]

pic·a·roon (pik′ə·rōōn′) *n.* **1.** One who lives by cheating or robbery; a pirate, rogue, or adventurer. **2.** A pirate vessel. [< Sp. *picarōn*, aug. of *picaro* rogue]

pic·a·yune (pik′i·yōōn′) *adj. U.S.* **1.** Of small value; paltry; contemptible. **2.** Petty; niggling; mean. Also **pic′a·yun′ish.** — *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A coin of little value. **2.** *U.S.* Anything of trifling value. [< F *picaillon* farthing]

pic·ca·lil·li (pik′ə·lil′ē) *n.* A relish of chopped vegetables.

pic·co·lo (pik′ə·lō) *n.* *pl.* **·los** A small flute pitched an octave higher than the ordinary flute. [< Ital., small]

pick[1] (pik) *v.t.* **1.** To choose; select, as from a group or number. **2.** To detach or pluck, as with the fingers. **3.** To clear (a field, tree, etc.) in such a manner. **4.** To clear of or harvest; gather. **5.** To prepare by removing the feathers, hulls, leaves, etc. **6.** To remove extraneous matter from (the teeth, etc.), as with the fingers or with a pointed instrument. **7.** To touch, irritate, or remove (something) with a fingernail, etc. **8.** To nibble at or peck. **9.** To eat in a dainty or overfastidious manner. **10.** To break up, penetrate, or indent with or as with a pointed instrument. **11.** To form in this manner: to *pick* a hole. **12.** To pull apart, as rags. **13.** To seek or point out critically: to *pick* flaws. **14.** To remove the contents of by stealth: to *pick* a pocket. **15.** To open (a lock) by means other than the key. **16.** To provoke: to *pick* a fight. — *v.i.* **17.** To work with a pick. **18.** To pluck or remove fruit, flowers, etc.; harvest. **19.** To eat daintily or without appetite; nibble. **20.** To select carefully. **21.** To steal. — **to pick apart** (or **to pieces**) **1.** To pull apart. **2.** To destroy by shrewd or critical analysis. — **to pick at** **1.** To touch or toy with. **2.** To eat without appetite. **3.** *U.S. Informal* To nag at. — **to pick off** **1.** To remove by picking. **2.** To hit, as with a bullet. **3.** In baseball, to catch (a base runner) off base. — **to pick on** **1.** To determine on; choose. **2.** *Informal* To tease or annoy. — **to pick one's way** (or **steps**) To advance by careful selection of one's course. — **to pick out** **1.** To choose or select. **2.** To distinguish (something) from its surroundings. **3.** To produce the notes of (a tune, etc.) singly or slowly, as by ear. — **to pick over** To examine carefully or one by one. — **to pick up** **1.** To take up, as with the hand. **2.** To take up or receive into a group, vehicle, etc. **3.** To acquire casually or by chance. **4.** To gain speed; accelerate. **5.** To be able to perceive or receive, as a radio station. **6.** To break (ground, etc.) with a pick. **7.** *U.S.* To make (a room, etc.) tidy. **8.** *Informal* To recover spirits, health, etc.; improve. **9.** *Informal* To make the acquaintance of (a stranger, esp. of the opposite sex) under casual circumstances. — *n.* **1.** Right of selection; choice. **2.** That which is selected, esp. the choicest part. **3.** The quantity of certain crops that are picked by hand. **4.** The act of picking. [ME *piken*, *pikken* < OE *pīcan*, *pician*] — **pick′er** *n.*

pick[2] (pik) *n.* **1.** A double-headed, pointed metal tool mounted on a wooden handle, used for breaking ground, etc. **2.** Any of various implements for picking. **3.** A plectrum. [Appar. var. of PIKE[1]]

pick·a·back (pik′ə·bak′) *adv.* Piggyback. [Earlier *pick-back*, *pickpack*]

pick·a·nin·ny (pik′ə·nin′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·nies** A Negro child: a condescending or offensive term. Also **pic′ca·nin′ny.** [Dim. of Sp. *pequeño* little, small]

pick·ax (pik′aks′) *n.* A pick or mattock with one end of the head edged like a chisel and the other pointed; also, a pick with both ends pointed. Also **pick′axe′.**

picked (pikt) *adj.* **1.** Carefully selected. **2.** Cleaned by picking out refuse, stalks, etc.

picked-o·ver (pikt′ō′vər) *adj.* Handled; left after the best have been removed.

pick·er·el (pik′ər·əl, -rel) *n.* Any of various North American fresh-water fishes of the pike family, esp. the small species having a narrow snout and sharp teeth. [Dim. of PIKE[1]]

pick·er·el·weed (pik′ər·əl·wēd′) *n.* Any of various perennial plants found in the shallows of North American lakes.

pick·et (pik′it) *n.* **1.** A pointed stick or post, used as a fence paling, tent peg, etc.; a stake. **2.** A person stationed at the outside of a place affected by a strike, for the purpose of publicizing alleged grievances, etc. **3.** A person engaged in publicly protesting a proposed law, policy, etc. **4.** *Mil.* A soldier or detachment of soldiers posted to guard a camp, army, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To be a picket or station pickets outside of. **2.** To fence or fortify with pickets. **3.** To tie to a picket, as a horse. **4.** *Mil.* **a** To guard by means of a picket. **b** To post as a picket. — *v.i.* **5.** To act as a picket (defs. 2 & 3). [< F *piquet* pointed stake]

pick·et·er (pik′it·ər) *n.* A picket (defs. 2 & 3).

picket fence A fence made of upright pickets.

picket line A line of people picketing a business, etc.

pick·ing (pik′ing) *n* **1.** The act of picking; also, that which is or may be picked. **2.** *pl.* That which is left: scanty *pickings*. **3.** *Usu. pl.* That which is taken by questionable means; spoils.

pick·le (pik′əl) *n.* **1.** A cucumber that has been preserved and flavored in a liquid solution, usu. of brine or vinegar. **2.** Any article of food so preserved or flavored. **3.** A liquid preservative, as brine or vinegar, sometimes spiced, for meat, fish, etc. **4.** Diluted acid used in cleaning metal castings, etc. **5.** *Informal* An embarrassing condition or position. — *v.t.* **·led, ·ling** **1.** To preserve or flavor in pickle. **2.** *Metall.* To treat with a pickle. [Appar. < MDu. *pekel*, *peeckel*]

pick·led (pik′əld) *adj.* **1.** Preserved in pickle. **2.** Of wood work, etc., having a bleached finish. **3.** *Slang* Drunk.

pick·lock (pik′lok′) *n.* **1.** A special implement for opening a lock. **2.** One who picks locks, esp. illegally.

pick-me-up (pik′mē′up′) *n.* *Informal* A drink, esp. an alcoholic drink, taken to renew one's energy or spirits.

pick·pock·et (pik′pok′it) *n.* One who steals from pockets.

pick·up (pik′up′) *n.* **1.** Acceleration, as in the speed of an automobile, engine, etc. **2.** *Electronics* A crystal, ceramic, or magnetic device that converts the oscillations of a needle in a record groove into electrical impulses. **3.** The tone arm of a record player. **4.** A small, usu. open truck for light loads. **5.** *Telecom.* **a** In radio, the location of microphones in relation to program elements. **b** The place where a broadcast originates. **c** In television, the scanning of an image by the electron beam. **d** The scanning apparatus. **6.** In baseball, the act of fielding a ball that has touched the ground. **7.** *Informal* A period of renewed or increased activity: a *pickup* in business. **8.** *Informal* Something that stimulates or renews in spirit. **9.** *Slang* A stranger with whom a casual acquaintance is made.

pic·nic (pik′nik) *n.* **1.** An outdoor social outing for which food is usu. provided by the people participating. **2.** *Slang* An easy or pleasant time or experience. — *v.i.* **·nicked, ·nick·ing** To have or attend a picnic. [< F *pique-nique*, prob. reduplication of *piquer* to pick, peck] — **pic′nick·er** *n.*

pico- *combining form* One trillionth (10^{-12}) of a specified quantity or dimension. [< NL < Sp., small quantity]

pi·cot (pē′kō) *n.* A small thread loop on ornamental edging, ribbon, etc. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·coted** (-kōd), **·cot·ing** (-kō·ing) To sew with this edging. [< F, dim. of OF *pic* point]

pic·ric acid (pik′rik) *Chem.* A yellow, crystalline, bitter compound, $C_6H_2(NO_2)_3OH$, used in dyeing and in certain explosives.

picro- *combining form* Bitter. Also, before vowels, **picr-.** [< Gk. *pikros* bitter]

Pict (pikt) *n.* One of an ancient people of uncertain origin who inhabited Britain and the Scottish Highlands.

Pict·ish (pik′tish) *n.* The language of the Picts, of undetermined relationship. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Picts.

pic·to·graph (pik′tə·graf, -gräf) *n.* **1.** A picture representing an idea, as a hieroglyph. **2.** A record of such pictures. [< L *pictus* painted + -GRAPH] — **pic′to·graph′ic** *adj.* — **pic′to·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **pic·tog·ra·phy** (pik·tog′rə·fē) *n.*

pic·to·ri·al (pik·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, composed of, or concerned with pictures. **2.** Graphic; vivid **3.** Containing or illustrated by pictures. — *n.* A periodical that devotes considerable space to pictures [< LL < L *pictus*, pp. of *pingere* to paint] — **pic·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

pic·ture (pik′chər) *n.* **1.** A visual representation of an object or scene upon a flat surface, as a painting, drawing, engraving, or photograph. **2.** A vivid or graphic verbal description. **3.** A mental image or impression of the nature of

a situation, event, etc. **4.** An overall situation, esp. as perceived from a particular vantage point. **5.** One who or that which resembles or embodies another person or thing: She is the *picture* of despair. **6.** A motion picture. **7.** Something attractive or pleasant: pretty as a *picture*. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** **1.** To form a mental image of. **2.** To describe graphically; depict verbally. **3.** To make a picture of. [< L *pictus*, pp. of *pingere* to paint]

picture gallery A room or hall for exhibiting pictures.

picture hat A woman's hat having a very wide brim and often trimmed with plumes.

pic·tur·esque (pik′chə·resk′) *adj.* **1.** Having a striking, irregular beauty, quaintness, or charm. **2.** Abounding in striking or original expression or imagery; richly graphic. **3.** Like or suitable for a picture; having pictorial quality. — **pic′tur·esque′ly** *adv.* — **pic′tur·esque′ness** *n.*

picture tube Kinescope.

picture window A large window consisting of a single pane of glass, designed to frame a view of the outside.

picture writing **1.** The use of pictures or pictorial symbols in writing. **2.** A writing so made.

pid·dle (pid′l) *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To trifle; dawdle: usually with *away*. — *v.i.* **2.** To trifle; dawdle. **3.** To urinate. [Origin uncertain]

pid·dling (pid′ling) *adj.* Unimportant; trivial; trifling.

pidg·in (pij′in) *n.* A mixed language combining the vocabulary and grammar of dissimilar languages. [< Chinese pronun. of *business*]

Pidgin English A jargon composed of English and elements of local non-English dialects, used as the language of commerce in areas of China, Melanesia, Northern Australia, and West Africa. Also called **Pidgin.**

pie[1] (pī) *n.* **1.** A baked food consisting of one or two layers or crusts of pastry with a filling of fruit, custard, meat, etc. **2.** A layer cake filled with cream, jam, etc. **3.** See PI[2]. **4.** *Slang* Anything very good or very easy. **5.** *Slang* Political graft. [? < PIE[2]; with ref. to the variety of objects collected by magpies]

pie[2] (pī) *n.* A magpie. [< OF < L *pica* magpie]

pie·bald (pī′bôld′) *adj.* Having spots, esp. of white and black. — *n.* A spotted or mottled animal, esp. a horse. [< PIE[2] + BALD; because like a magpie's plumage]

piece (pēs) *n.* **1.** A portion or quantity existing as an individual entity or mass: a *piece* of paper. **2.** A small portion considered as forming or having formed a distinct part of a whole. **3.** A coin: a fifty-cent *piece*. **4.** An instance; example: a *piece* of luck. **5.** One of a class or group: a *piece* of furniture. **6.** A work of esthetic interest, as a literary or musical composition, a play, etc. **7.** Point of view; opinion: to speak one's *piece*. **8.** One of the disks or counters used in checkers, backgammon, etc. **9.** A quantity or length, as of wallpaper, in which an article is manufactured or sold. **10.** *Dial.* A short time, space, or distance: to walk a *piece*. **11.** *Dial.* A snack between regular meals. **12.** *Archaic or Dial.* A person; individual. — **a piece of one's mind** *Informal* Criticism or censure frankly expressed. — **of a** (or **one**) **piece** **1.** Of the same kind, sort, or class. **2.** Of the same piece; undivided. — **to go to pieces** **1.** To fall apart. **2.** *Informal* To lose moral or emotional self-control. — **to have a piece of** *U.S. Slang* To have a financial interest in. — *v.t.* **pieced, piec·ing** **1.** To add or attach a piece or pieces to, as for enlargement. **2.** To unite or reunite the pieces of, as in mending. **3.** To unite (parts) into a whole. [< OF < Med.L *pecia*; ult. origin uncertain] — **piec′er** *n.*

pièce de ré·sis·tance (pyes də rā·zē·stäns′) *French* **1.** A principal or most important item. **2.** The chief dish of a dinner.

piece goods Fabrics made in standard lengths.

piece·meal (pēs′mēl′) *adv.* **1.** Piece by piece; gradually. **2.** In pieces. — *adj.* Made up of pieces. [ME < *pece* piece + *-mele* a part]

piece·work (pēs′wûrk′) *n.* Work done or paid for by the piece or quantity. — **piece′work′er** *n.*

pie chart *Stat.* A graph in the form of a circle divided into sectors.

pied (pīd) *adj.* Spotted; piebald; mottled. [< PIE[2]]

pied-à-terre (pyä·dä·târ′) *n. French* A temporary or secondary lodging; literally, foot on the ground.

pied·mont (pēd′mont) *adj. Geog.* At the foot of a mountain. [< L < pes, *pedis* foot + *mons, montis* mountain]

pie plant *U.S. Dial.* The common variety of rhubarb.

pier (pir) *n.* **1.** A structure extending over the water, secured by piles and serving as a landing place for vessels; wharf. **2.** A plain, detached mass of masonry, usu. serving as a support: the *pier* of a bridge. **3.** An upright projecting portion of a wall; a buttress. **4.** A solid portion of a wall between window openings, etc. [< OF *per* < Med.L *pera*]

pierce (pirs) *v.* **pierced, pierc·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pass into or through, with or as if with a pointed instrument; puncture; stab. **2.** To force a way into or through: to *pierce* the wilderness. **3.** To make an opening or hole in, into, or through. **4.** To make or cut (an opening or hole) in or through something. **5.** To cut through as if stabbing; cleave. **6.** To affect sharply or deeply, as with emotion, pain, etc. **7.** To solve; understand: to *pierce* a mystery. — *v.i.* **8.** To enter; penetrate. [< OF *percer*] — **pierc′er** *n.* — **pierc′ing·ly** *adv.* — **pierc′ing·ness** *n.*

pier glass A large, high mirror intended to fill the space, or pier, between two windows.

Pi·e·ri·a (pī·ir′ē·ə) A coastal region of ancient Macedon, at the base of Mount Olympus, legendary birthplace of the nine Muses. — **Pi·e′ri·an** *adj.*

Pier·rot (pye·rō′) Formerly, a stock character in French pantomimes, wearing white pantaloons and a loose white jacket with big buttons. [< F, dim. of *Pierre* Peter]

Pie·tà (pyä·tä′) *n.* In painting, sculpture, etc., a representation of Mary mourning over the body of Christ in her arms. [< Ital., lit., pity]

pi·e·tism (pī′ə·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** Piety or godliness; devotion. **2.** Affected or exaggerated piety. [< G *pietismus*] — **pi′e·tist** *n.* — **pi′e·tis′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **pi·e·tis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

pi·e·ty (pī′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Reverence toward God or the gods. **2.** Honor and obedience due to parents, etc. **3.** A pious act, wish, etc. **4.** The state or quality of being pious. [< OF < L < *pius* dutiful]

piezo- *combining form* Pressure; related to or produced by pressure. [< Gk. *piezein* to press]

pi·e·zo·e·lec·tric·i·ty (pī·ē′zō·i·lek′tris′ə·tē, -ē′lik-) *n.* Electricity or electric phenomena resulting from pressure upon certain bodies, esp. crystals. — **pi·e′zo·e·lec′tric** or **·tri·cal** *adj.* — **pi·e′zo·e·lec′tri·cal·ly** *adv.*

pif·fle (pif′əl) *Informal v.i.* **·fled, ·fling** To talk nonsensically; babble. — *n.* Nonsense; babble. [? Blend of PIDDLE and TRIFLE]

pig (pig) *n.* **1.** A cloven-hoofed mammal having a long, mobile snout; esp., a small, young one: also called *hog, swine*. ◆ Collateral adjective: *porcine*. **2.** The flesh of a pig; pork. **3.** An oblong mass of metal, esp. iron or lead, just run from the smelter and cast in a rough mold; also, the mold. **4.** Pig iron or iron pigs in general. **5.** *Informal* A person who is filthy, gluttonous, or coarse. **6.** *Informal* A railroad locomotive. — *v.i.* **pigged, pig·ging** **1.** To bring forth pigs. **2.** To act or live like pigs: with *it*. [ME *pigge*; ult. origin uncertain]

pig·eon (pij′ən) *n.* **1.** A bird having short legs, a small head and a sturdy body; esp., the domestic pigeon or rock dove. **2.** *Slang* One who is easily swindled. [< OF < LL *pipio, -onis* young chirping bird]

pigeon breast *Pathol.* A deformity in which the chest is narrow and pointed. — **pig′eon-breast′ed** *adj.*

pigeon hawk A small American falcon.

pig·eon-heart·ed (pij′ən·här′tid) *adj.* Timid; fearful.

pig·eon-hole (pij′ən·hōl′) *n.* **1.** A hole for pigeons to nest in. **2.** A small compartment, as in a desk, for filing papers. — *v.t.* **·holed, ·hol·ing** **1.** To place in a pigeonhole; file. **2.** To file away and ignore. **3.** To place in categories.

pig·eon-toed (pij′ən·tōd′) *adj.* Having the toes or feet turned inward.

pig·ger·y (pig′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ger·ies** A place for keeping or raising pigs.

pig·gish (pig′ish) *adj.* Like a pig; greedy; dirty; selfish. — **pig′gish·ly** *adv.* — **pig′gish·ness** *n.*

pig·gy (pig′ē) *n. pl.* **·gies** A little pig. Also **pig′gie.**

pig·gy-back (pig′ē·bak′) *adv.* **1.** On the back or shoulders: to ride *piggyback*: also *pickaback*. **2.** On a railway flat car; to ship trailers *piggyback*. — **pig′gy·back′ing** *n.*

piggy bank A coin bank in the shape of a pig.

pig·head·ed (pig′hed′id) *adj.* Stupidly obstinate. — **pig′·head′ed·ly** *adv.* — **pig′head′ed·ness** *n.*

pig iron Crude iron poured from a blast furnace into variously shaped molds or pigs of sand or the like.

pig latin A jargon in which the initial sound of a word is usu. transposed to the end and to which *-ay* (ā) is added, as in *Illkay the umbay* for *Kill the bum*. Also **pig Latin.**

pig·ment (pig′mənt) *n.* **1.** Any of a class of finely powdered, insoluble coloring matters suitable for making paints, enamels, etc. **2.** Any substance that imparts color to animal or vegetable tissues, as melanin and chlorophyll. [< L *pingere* to paint] — **pig′men·tar′y** (-ter′ē) *adj.*

pig·men·ta·tion (pig′mən·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** Coloration resulting from pigment. **2.** *Biol.* Deposition of pigment by cells.

pig·ment·ed (pig′mən·tid) *adj.* Having pigmentation.

pig·my (pig′mē) See PYGMY.

Pig·my (pig′mē) See PYGMY.

pig·nut (pig′nut′) *n.* **1.** The fruit of a species of hickory common in the U.S. **2.** The tree.

pig·pen (pig′pen′) *n.* A pen or sty where pigs are kept.
pig·skin (pig′skin′) *n.* **1.** The skin of a pig. **2.** Something made of this skin, as a saddle. **3.** *U.S. Informal* A football.
pig·sty (pig′stī′) *n. pl.* **·sties** A sty or pen for pigs.
pig·tail (pig′tāl′) *n.* **1.** A braid or plait of hair extending down from the back of the head. **2.** A twist of tobacco.
pike[1] (pīk) *n.* A long pole having a metal spearhead. — *v.t.* **piked, pik·ing** To run through or kill with a pike. [< MF *pique*]
pike[2] (pīk) *n.* **1.** A widely-distributed, voracious fresh-water food fish having a slender body and a long snout. **2.** Any of several other fishes resembling the pike. [< PIKE[5] with ref. to its pointed snout]
pike[3] (pīk) *n.* **1.** A turnpike. **2.** The fee for using a turnpike road. — *v.i.* **piked, pik·ing** *Slang* To go in haste: usu. with *along*. [Short for TURNPIKE]
pike[4] (pīk) *n. Brit. Dial.* A mountain peak or pointed hill.
pike[5] (pīk) *n.* A spike or sharp point, as the end of a spear.
piked (pīkt, pī′kid) *adj.* Having a pike; pointed. [< PIKE[5]]
pik·er (pī′kər) *n. U.S. Slang* **1.** One who bets or speculates in a small, niggardly way. **2.** One who acts in a petty or niggling way. [Origin uncertain]
pike·staff (pīk′staf′, -stäf′) *n. pl.* **·staves** (-stāvz′) The wooden handle of a pike. [< PIKE[5] + STAFF[1]]
pi·laf (pi·läf′) *n.* An Oriental dish of rice, raisins, spice, and a meat or fowl sauce. Also **pi·laff′**, **pi·lau** (pi·lou′, -lô′), **pi·law′** (-lô′). [< Persian and Turkish *pilāw*]
pi·lar (pī′lər) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or covered with hair. [< NL < L *pilus* hair]
pi·las·ter (pi·las′tər) *n. Archit.* A rectangular column, with capital and base, engaged in a wall. [< MF < Ital. < L *pila* column]

PILASTER

pil·chard (pil′chərd) *n.* A small, herringlike food fish, the sardine of Mediterranean and European Atlantic waters. [Earlier *pilcher*; origin uncertain]
pile[1] (pīl) *n.* **1.** A quantity of anything gathered or thrown together in one place; a heap. **2.** A funeral pyre. **3.** A massive building or group of buildings. **4.** *Informal* A large accumulation, quantity, or number of something. **5.** *Physics* A reactor. **6.** *Slang* A large amount of money. — *v.* **piled, pil·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make a heap or pile of: often with *up*. **2.** To cover or burden with a pile or piles: to *pile* a plate with food. — *v.i.* **3.** To form a heap or pile. **4.** To proceed or go in a confused mass: with *in*, *on*, *off*, *out*, etc. — **to pile up** To accumulate. [< OF < L *pila* pillar, pier]
pile[2] (pīl) *n.* **1.** A heavy timber forced into the earth to form a foundation for a building, pier, etc.: also called *spile*. **2.** Any similar supporting structure, as of steel or concrete. — *v.t.* **piled, pil·ing** **1.** To drive piles into. **2.** To furnish or strengthen with piles. [OE *pil* dart, pointed stake]
pile[3] (pīl) *n.* **1.** The cut or uncut loops that form the surface of certain fabrics, as velvets, plushes, and corduroys. **2.** The surface so formed. **3.** Hair collectively; fur; wool. **4.** Soft, fine hair; down. [< L *pilus* hair] — **piled** *adj.*
pi·le·at·ed (pi′lē·ā′tid, pil′ē-) *adj.* **1.** *Bot.* Provided with a pileus or cap. **2.** *Ornithol.* Having the feathers of the pileum elongated or conspicuous; crested. Also **pi′le·ate.** [< L *pileatus* capped]
pile driver A machine for driving piles.
pi·le·ous (pī′lē·əs) *adj.* Pilose.
piles (pīlz) *n.pl.* Hemorrhoids. [< LL *pila* ball]
pi·le·um (pī′lē·əm, pil′ē-) *n. pl.* **·le·a** (-lē·ə) *Ornithol.* The top of the head of a bird, from the base of the bill to the nape and above the eyes. [< L, var. of *pileus* felt cap]
pi·le·us (pī′lē·əs, pil′ē-) *n. pl.* **·le·i** (-lē·ī) *Bot.* The umbrella-shaped portion of a mushroom. [< L felt cap]
pil·fer (pil′fər) *v.t. & v.i.* To steal in small quantities [< OF *pelfrer* to rob] — **pil′fer·age** (-fər·ij) *n.* — **pil′fer·er** *n.*
pil·grim (pil′grim) *n.* **1.** One who journeys to some sacred place from religious motives. **2.** Any wanderer or wayfarer. [ME < OF < L < *per-* through + *ager*, *agri* land]
Pil·grim (pil′grim) *n.* One of the English Puritans who founded Plymouth Colony in 1620.
pil·grim·age (pil′grə·mij) *n.* **1.** A journey made to a shrine or sacred place. **2.** Any long or arduous journey.
Pilgrim Fathers The founders of Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts, in 1620.
Pilgrim's Progress A religious allegory by John Bunyan.
pil·ing (pī′ling) *n.* **1.** Piles collectively. **2.** A structure formed of piles. **3.** The act or process of driving piles.
pill (pil) *n.* **1.** A pellet or globule containing medicine, convenient for swallowing whole. **2.** A disagreeable necessity. **3.** *Slang* A person difficult to bear with; a bore. **4.** *Slang* A ball or disk, as a baseball or golfball. — **the pill** or **the Pill** Any of various oral contraceptive drugs in tablet form, taken by women. — *v.t.* **1.** To form into pills. **2.** To dose with pills. [< L *pila* ball]
pil·lage (pil′ij) *n.* **1.** The act of taking money or property by open violence; looting. **2.** Spoil; booty. — *v.* **·laged, ·lag·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To plunder. **2.** To take as loot. — *v.i.* **3.** To take plunder. [< OF < *piller* to plunder] — **pil′lag·er** *n.*
pil·lar (pil′ər) *n.* **1.** A vertical, freestanding support, usu. slender in relation to its height; column; shaft. **2.** A structure of similar form used as a decoration or monument. **3.** Anything resembling a pillar in form or function. **4.** One who strongly supports a work or cause. — **from pillar to post** From one predicament to another. — *v.t.* To support or adorn with pillars. [< OF < LL < L *pila* pillar]
pill·box (pil′boks′) *n.* **1.** A small box for pills. **2.** A small, round, concrete emplacement for a machine gun, antitank gun, etc. **3.** A small, round hat with a flat top.
pil·lion (pil′yən) *n.* A pad or seat behind the saddle of a horse or motorcycle for a second rider. [Appar. < Scottish Gaelic *pillean*, dim. of *pell* cushion]
pil·lo·ry (pil′ə·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A framework in which an offender was fastened by the neck and wrists and exposed to public scorn. — *v.t.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** **1.** To set in the pillory. **2.** To hold up to public scorn or ridicule. [< OF *pellori*]
pil·low (pil′ō) *n.* **1.** A case, usu. of cloth, filled with a soft or yielding material, as feathers or foam rubber, used to cushion the head, as during sleep. **2.** A small, usu. decorative cushion. **3.** Any body rest. **4.** Anything resembling a pillow. — *v.t.* **1.** To rest on or as on a pillow. **2.** To act as a pillow for. — *v.i.* **3.** To recline on or as on a pillow. [ME < OE < L *pulvinus* cushion] — **pil′low·y** *adj.*
pil·low·case (pil′ō·kās′) *n.* A covering drawn over a pillow. Also **pillow slip.**
pi·lose (pī′lōs) *adj.* Hairy; also *pileous*, *pilous*. [< L *pilus* hair] — **pi·los·i·ty** (pī·los′ə·tē) *n.*
pi·lot (pī′lət) *n.* **1.** One who operates or guides an aircraft or spacecraft during flight. **2.** One who is trained and licensed to conduct ships in and out of port or through certain waters difficult to navigate. **3.** The helmsman of a ship. **4.** Any guide. **5.** *Mech.* A part that steadies or guides the action of a tool or other part. **6.** A pilot light (which see). — *v.t.* **1.** To act as the pilot of; steer. **2.** To guide or conduct, as through difficult circumstances. **3.** To serve as a pilot on, over, or in. — *adj.* **1.** Serving as a guide or control. **2.** Serving as a trial situation. **3.** Of or pertaining to a pilot or pilots. [< MF *pillotte*, *pilot* < Ital. *pilota*]
pi·lot·age (pī′lət·ij) *n.* **1.** The act of piloting a vessel or aircraft. **2.** The fee for such service.
pilot balloon A small balloon sent aloft to show the direction and velocity of the wind.
pilot fish An oceanic fish often seen in warm latitudes in company with sharks.
pi·lot·house (pī′lət·hous′) *n.* An enclosed structure, usu. in the forward part of a ship, containing the steering wheel and compass: also called *wheelhouse*.
pilot lamp A small electric light that shows whether a given circuit, motor, etc., is functioning: also called *pilot light*.
pilot light **1.** A minute jet of gas kept burning for igniting an ordinary burner as soon as the gas is turned on: also **pilot burner.** **2.** A pilot lamp (which see).
pilot officer In the Royal, Royal Canadian, and other Commonwealth air forces, a commissioned officer ranking next below a flight officer. See table at GRADE.
pi·lous (pī′ləs) *adj.* Pilose.
pil·sner (pil′znər) *n. Often cap.* Beer of a kind originally brewed in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Also **pil′sen·er** (-zə·nər).
Pilt·down man (pilt′doun) A spurious type of early man postulated from skull fragments planted by a hoaxer near Piltdown, England.
Pi·ma (pē′mə) *n. pl.* **Pi·mas** or **Pi·ma** **1.** One of a tribe of North American Indians of southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. **2.** The Uto-Aztecan language of this tribe.
Pi·man (pē′mən) *n.* A branch of the Uto-Aztecan stock of North American Indians. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to this linguistic branch.
pi·men·to (pi·men′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** **1.** The dried, unripe, aromatic berries of a West Indian tree of the myrtle family. **2.** Pimiento, [< Sp. < Med.L *pigmentum* spiced drink, spice]
pimento cheese A cheese with pimientos added.
pi·mien·to (pi·myen′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** A sweet pepper or its ripe fruit, used as a relish and as a stuffing in olives: also called *pimento*. [< Sp. < *pimienta* pepper]
pimp (pimp) *n.* A pander; esp., one who solicits for a prostitute in exchange for part of her earnings. — *v.i.* To act as a pimp. [? < F < MF < L *pipire* to murmur seductively]
pim·per·nel (pim′pər·nel) *n.* A plant of the primrose family, usu. with red flowers, as the common **scarlet pimpernel.** [< OF < Med.L < LL, ? < L *piper* pepper]
pim·ple (pim′pəl) *n.* A small swelling or elevation of the skin, with an inflamed base. [ME < OE *piplian* to break out in pimples] — **pim′pled, pim′ply** *adj.*
pin (pin) *n.* **1.** A short, stiff piece of wire with a sharp point and a round, usu. flattened head, used for fastening together

parts of clothing, sheets of paper, etc. **2.** An ornament mounted on a pin or having a pin with a clasp. **3.** Anything resembling a pin in form or use, as a hairpin or clothespin. **4.** A peg or bar, as of metal or wood, used in fastening or supporting, as the bolt of a door, a linchpin, etc. **5.** A rolling pin. **6.** Something of no importance; a trifle. **7.** In bowling and other ball-throwing games, one of the rounded wooden clubs, that are set up as the target. **8.** In golf, a pole with a small flag attached to mark the position of a hole. **9.** *pl. Informal* The legs. **10.** *Music* A peg. **11.** *Naut.* **a** A belaying pin. **b** A thole. **— on pins and needles** Uneasy or anxious; nervous. — *v.t.* **pinned, pin·ning** **1.** To fasten with or as with a pin or pins. **2.** To seize and hold firmly; make unable to move. **3.** To transfix with a pin, spear, etc. **4.** To force (someone) to make up his mind, follow a definite course of action, etc.: usu. with *down*. **5.** *U.S. Slang* In colleges and universities, to give one's fraternity pin to (a girl) as an expression of the intention to become engaged. **6.** *U.S. Slang* To hold responsible for (a wrongdoing, etc.); accuse of: with *on*. [OE *pinn* peg] **— pin'ner** *n.*

pi·na·ceous (pī·nā'shəs) *adj. Bot.* Pertaining or belonging to the pine family of widely distributed coniferous trees and shrubs having needlelike leaves and bearing hard, woody cones. [< NL < L *pinus* pine]

pin·a·fore (pin'ə·fôr, -fōr) *n.* A sleeveless apronlike garment, esp. one for protecting a child's dress.

pin·ball (pin'bôl') *n.* A game in which a ball is propelled by a spring to the top of an inclined board, and in its descent touches any of various numbered pins, holes, etc., the contacts so made determining the player's score.

pince-nez (pans'nā', pins'-, *Fr.* paṅs·nā') *n. pl.* **pince-nez** Eyeglasses held upon the nose by a spring. [< F, lit., pinch-nose < *pincer* to pinch + *nez* nose]

pin·cer-like (pin'sər·lik') *adj.* Resembling the action or form of one or both jaws of pincers: a *pincerlike* movement.

pin·cers (pin'sərz) *n.pl.* (*sometimes construed as sing.*) **1.** An instrument having two handles and a pair of jaws working on a pivot, used for holding objects. **2.** *Zool.* A nipperlike organ, as the claw of a lobster. Also **pinch·ers** (pin'chərz). [ME *pinsours*, appar. < AF *pincer* to pinch]

pinch (pinch) *v.t.* **1.** To squeeze between two hard edges or surfaces, as a finger and thumb, etc. **2.** To bend or compress painfully. **3.** To affect with pain or distress: The cold *pinched* his fingers. **4.** To contract or make thin, as from cold or hunger. **5.** To reduce in means; distress, as for lack of money. **6.** *Slang* To capture or arrest. **7.** *Slang* To steal. — *v.i.* **8.** To squeeze; hurt. **9.** To be careful with money; be stingy. **— to pinch pennies** To be economical or stingy — *n.* **1.** The act of pinching, or the state of being pinched. **2.** So much of a substance as can be taken between the finger and thumb; a small amount. **3.** An emergency. **4.** *Slang* A theft. **5.** *Slang* An arrest or raid. [< AF *pincher*, OF *pincier*] **— pinch'er** *n.*

pinch·beck (pinch'bek) *n.* **1.** An alloy of copper, zinc, and tin, forming a cheap imitation of gold. **2.** Anything spurious or pretentious. — *adj.* **1.** Made of pinchbeck. **2.** Cheap; spurious. [after Christopher *Pinchbeck*, 1670?–1732, English inventor]

pinch-hit (pinch'hit') *v.i.* **-hit, -hit·ting** **1.** In baseball, to go to bat in place of a regular player. **2.** *U.S. Informal* To substitute for another in an emergency. **— pinch hitter**

pin·cush·ion (pin'kōōsh'ən) *n.* A small cushion into which pins are stuck when they are not in use.

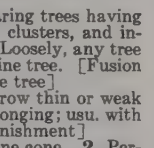
pine[1] (pīn) *n.* **1.** Any of various cone-bearing trees having needle-shaped evergreen leaves growing in clusters, and including many important timber trees. **2.** Loosely, any tree of the pine family. **3.** The wood of any pine tree. [Fusion of OE *pin* and OF *pin*, both < L *pinus* pine tree]

pine[2] (pīn) *v.* **pined, pin·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To grow thin or weak with longing, grief, etc. **2.** To have great longing; usu. with *for*. [OE *pīn* torment, ult. < L *poena* punishment]

pin·e·al (pin'ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Shaped like a pine cone. **2.** Pertaining to the pineal body. [< F < L *pinea* pine cone]

pineal body *Anat.* A small, reddish gray, vascular, conical body of rudimentary glandular structure found in the brain and having no known function. Also **pineal gland.**

pine·ap·ple (pīn'ap'əl) *n.* **1.** A tropical American plant having spiny, recurved leaves and a cone-shaped fruit tipped with a rosette of spiked leaves. **2.** Its edible fruit. **3.** *Slang* A hand grenade.



PINEAPPLE

pine cone The cone-shaped fruit of the pine tree.

pine needle The needle-shaped leaf of a pine tree.

pine tar A dark, viscous tar obtained by the destructive distillation of the wood of pine trees, used to treat skin ailments.

Pine-Tree (pīn'trē') **State** Nickname of Maine.

pine·y (pī'nē) See PINY.

pin·feath·er (pin'feth'ər) *n. Ornithol.* A rudimentary feather, esp. one just beginning to grow through the skin.

pin·fold (pin'fōld') *n.* A pound for stray animals, esp. for cattle. — *v.t.* To shut in a pinfold. [OE *pundfald*]

ping (ping) *n.* A brief, sharp, high-pitched sound. — *v.i.* To make this sound. [Imit.]

ping-pong (ping'pong', -pông') *n.* The game of table tennis. [< *Ping Pong*, a trade name]

pin·head (pin'hed') *n.* **1.** The head of a pin. **2.** Any small or insignificant object. **3.** A small minnow. **4.** A microcephalic. **5.** *Slang* A brainless or stupid person.

pin·hole (pin'hōl') *n.* A minute puncture made by or as by a pin.

pin·ion[1] (pin'yən) *n.* **1.** The wing of a bird. **2.** A feather; quill. **3.** The outer segment of a bird's wing, bearing the flight feathers. **4.** The anterior border of the wing of an insect. — *v.t.* **1.** To cut off one pinion or bind the wings of (a bird) so as to prevent flight. **2.** To cut or bind (the wings) of a bird. **3.** To bind or hold the arms of (someone). **4.** To shackle; confine. [< OF < L *penna*, *pinna* feather]

pin·ion[2] (pin'yən) *n. Mech.* A toothed wheel driving or driven by a larger cogwheel. For illus. see DIFFERENTIAL GEAR. [< F < OF < L *pinna*, orig., pinnacle]

pink[1] (pingk) *n.* **1.** A pale hue of crimson. **2.** Any of several garden plants with narrow, grasslike leaves and fragrant flowers. **3.** The flower of any of these plants, as the carnation. **4.** The highest or best condition, degree, or example. **5.** *Informal* A person who holds somewhat radical economic or political views: a contemptuous term. **— in the pink (of condition)** *Informal* In excellent health. — *adj.* **1.** Being pink in color. **2.** *Informal* Moderately radical. [Origin uncertain] **— pink'ish** *adj.*

pink[2] (pingk) *v.t.* **1.** To prick or stab with a pointed weapon. **2.** To decorate, as cloth or leather, with a pattern of holes. **3.** To cut or finish the edges of (cloth) with a notched pattern, as to prevent raveling or for decoration. **4.** *Brit.* To adorn; deck. [ME *pynken*]

pink-eye (pingk'ī') *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* An acute, contagious conjunctivitis marked by redness of the eyeball. **2.** *Vet.* A febrile, contagious keratitis of sheep.

pink·ie (pingk'ē) *n. U.S. Informal* The little or fifth finger. Also **pink'y.** [Prob. < obs. *pink* small]

pink·ing shears (pingk'ing) Shears with serrated blades for scalloping the edges of fabrics.

pink rhododendron A tall rhododendron having rosy purple flowers: State flower of Washington.

pin money **1.** An allowance of money for minor incidental expenses. **2.** An allowance made by a husband to his wife for her personal expenses.

pin·na (pin'ə) *n. pl.* **pin·nae** (pin'ē) **1.** *Bot.* A single leaflet of a pinnate leaf. **2.** *Anat.* The auricle of the ear. **3.** *Zool.* A feather, wing, fin, or the like. [< NL < L *pinna*, *penna* feather] **— pin'nal** *adj.*

pin·nace (pin'is) *n. Naut.* **1.** Any ship's boat. **2.** Formerly, a small vessel used as a tender, scout, etc. [< OF < Ital. *pinaccia*, prob. < L *pinus* pine]

pin·na·cle (pin'ə·kəl) *n.* **1.** A small turret or tall ornament, as on a parapet. **2.** Anything resembling a pinnacle, as a mountain peak. **3.** The highest point or place; apex; summit. — *v.t.* **·cled, ·cling** **1.** To place on or as on a pinnacle. **2.** To furnish with a pinnacle; crown. [< OF < LL *pinnaculum*, dim. of L *pinna* wing, pinnacle]

pin·nate (pin'āt, -it) *adj.* **1.** Like a feather. **2.** *Bot.* Having the shape or arrangement of a feather: said of compound leaves or leaflets arranged on each side of a common axis. Also **pin'nat·ed.** [< L < *pinna* feather, wing] **— pin'nate·ly** *adv.* **— pin·na'tion** *n.*

pinnati- *combining form* **1.** *Bot.* Feathered; resembling a feather. **2.** *Zool.* Pinni-. [< L *pinna* feather]

pinni- *combining form Zool.* Web; fin: *pinniped.* Also *pinnati.* [< L *pinna* feather]

pi·noch·le (pē'nuk·əl, -nok-) *n.* A card game for two, three, or four persons, played with a double deck of 48 cards with no card below a nine: also spelled *penuchle*, *penuckle.* Also **pi'noc·le.** [Origin uncertain]

pi·ñon (pin'yən, pēn'yōn; *Sp.* pē·nyōn') *n.* **1.** Any of various pine trees of the southwestern U.S., having edible seeds: also spelled *pinyon.* **2.** A seed from such a tree. [< Sp. < L *pinea* pine cone]

pin·point (pin'point') *n.* **1.** The point of a pin. **2.** Something extremely small. — *v.t.* To locate or define precisely.

pin·scher (pin'shər) *n.* A Doberman pinscher. [< G, terrier]

pint (pīnt) *n.* **1.** A dry and liquid measure of capacity equal to half a quart. See table front of book. **2.** A container having such a capacity. [< OF *pinte*]

Pin·ta (pin′tə, *Sp.* pēn′tä) *n.* One of the three ships of Columbus on his initial voyage to America.
pin·tail (pin′tāl′) *n.* **1.** A duck of the northern hemisphere, the male of which has a long, sharp tail. **2.** A sharp-tailed grouse of North America.
pin·tle (pin′təl) *n.* A pin upon which anything pivots, as a rudder, hinge, etc. [OE *pintel* penis]
pin·to (pin′tō) *adj. SW U.S.* Piebald; pied, as an animal. — *n. pl.* **·tos** **1.** *SW U.S.* A pied animal: said esp. of a horse or pony. **2.** A kind of spotted bean of the southwestern U.S.: also **pinto bean.** [< Am. Sp. < Sp., lit., painted, ult. < L *pingere* to paint]
pin·up (pin′up′) *n. Slang* **1.** A picture of a sexually attractive young woman hung on a wall. **2.** A young woman who is the subject of such a picture. — *adj.* **1.** Capable of being affixed to a wall, etc.: a *pinup* lamp. **2.** *U.S. Slang* Having the qualities of or suitable for a pinup: a *pinup* girl.
pin·wheel (pin′hwēl′) *n.* **1.** A firework that revolves when ignited, forming a wheel of fire. **2.** A child's toy resembling a windmill, revolving on a pin attached to a stick.
pin·worm (pin′wûrm′) *n.* A nematode worm parasitic in the lower intestines and rectum of man, esp. of children.
pin·y (pī′nē) *adj.* **pin·i·er, pin·i·est** Pertaining to, suggestive of, or covered with pines: also spelled *piney.*
pin·yon (pin′yən) See PIÑON (def. 1).
pi·o·neer (pī′ə·nir′) *n.* **1.** One of the first explorers, settlers, or colonists of a new country or region. **2.** One of the first investigators or developers in a new field of research, enterprise, etc. **3.** *Mil.* An engineer who goes before the main body, building roads, bridges, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To prepare (a way, etc.). **2.** To prepare the way for. **3.** To be a pioneer of. — *v.i.* **4.** To act as a pioneer. [< OF *peonier* foot soldier < ML < L *pes, pedis* foot]
pi·ous (pī′əs) *adj.* **1.** Actuated by reverence for a Supreme Being; religious; godly. **2.** Marked by a reverential spirit. **3.** Practiced in the name of religion. [< L *pius* dutiful, respectful] — **pi′ous·ly** *adv.* — **pi′ous·ness** *n.*
pip[1] (pip) *n.* The seed of an apple, orange, etc. [Short for PIPPIN]
pip[2] (pip) *n.* **1.** A spot, as on a playing card, domino, or die. **2.** A sharp audible or visible signal produced mechanically or electronically, as in radar. [< earlier *peep*; origin unknown]
pip[3] (pip) *v.* **pipped, pip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To break through (the shell), as a chick in the egg. — *v.i.* **2.** To peep; chirp. [Prob. var. of PEEP[1]]
pip[4] (pip) *n.* **1.** *Vet.* A contagious disease of fowls marked by mucus in the throat or by a scale on the tongue. **2.** *Slang* A mild human ailment: used humorously. [< MDu. < LL < L *pituita* mucus, the pip]
pipe (pīp) *n.* **1.** An apparatus, usu. a small bowl with a hollow stem, for smoking tobacco, opium, etc. **2.** Enough tobacco to fill the bowl of a pipe. **3.** A long conducting passage of wood, metal, tiling, etc., for conveying a fluid. **4.** A single tube or long, hollow case. **5.** Any hollow or tubular part in an animal or plant body. **6.** *Music* **a** A tubular flute or woodwind instrument. **b** An organ pipe. **c** *pl.* The bagpipe. **7.** The voice; also, a bird's note or call. **8.** A large cask for wine; also, a liquid measure of half a tun. **9.** A boatswain's whistle. — *v.* **piped, pip·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To play on a pipe. **2.** To make a shrill sound. **3.** *Naut.* To signal the crew by means of a boatswain's pipe. — *v.t.* **4.** To convey by or as by means of pipes. **5.** To provide with pipes. **6.** To play, as a tune, on a pipe. **7.** To utter shrilly or in a high key. **8.** *Naut.* To call to order by means of a boatswain's pipe. **9.** To lead, entice, or bring by piping. **10.** To trim, as a dress, with piping. — **to pipe down** *Slang* To become silent; stop talking or making noise. — **to pipe up** **1.** To start playing or singing. **2.** To speak out, esp. in a shrill voice. [OE, ult. < L *pipare* to cheep]
pipe-clay (pīp′klā′) *v.t.* To whiten with pipe clay.
pipe clay A white clay used for pottery, for making tobacco pipes, and for whitening military accouterments.
pipe dream A groundless hope or wish; a daydream.
pipe·fit·ting (pīp′fit′ing) *n.* **1.** A piece of pipe used to connect two or more pipes together. **2.** The work of joining pipes together. — **pipe′fit′ter** *n.*
pipe·line (pīp′līn′) *n.* **1.** A line of pipe, as for the transmission of water, oil, etc. **2.** A channel for the transmission of information, usu. private or secret. — *v.t.* **·lined, ·lin·ing** **1.** To convey by pipeline. **2.** To furnish with a pipeline.
pipe organ An organ having pipes, as distinguished from an electric organ, etc.
pip·er (pī′pər) *n.* **1.** One who plays upon a pipe, esp. a bagpipe. **2.** One who installs pipes.
pipe stem **1.** The stem of a tobacco pipe. **2.** Anything resembling this. Also **pipe-stem** (pīp′stem′).
pi·pette (pī·pet′, pi-) *n.* A small tube, often graduated, for removing or transferring measured quantities of a liquid. Also **pi·pet′.** [< F, dim. of *pipe* pipe]
pip·ing (pī′ping) *adj.* **1.** Playing on the pipe. **2.** Hissing or sizzling: *piping* hot. **3.** Having a shrill sound. **4.** Characterized by peaceful rather than martial music. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who pipes. **2.** Music of or suggesting that of pipes; a wailing or whistling sound. **3.** A system of pipes, as for drainage. **4.** A narrow strip of cloth folded on the bias, used for trimming dresses, etc.
pip·it (pip′it) *n.* One of various larklike singing birds widely distributed in North America. [Prob. imit. of its call]
pip·kin (pip′kin) *n.* A small earthenware jar. [? Dim. of PIPE]
pip·pin (pip′in) *n.* **1.** An apple of many varieties. **2.** A seed; pip. [< OF *pepin* seed of a fruit]
pip·sis·se·wa (pip·sis′ə·wə) *n.* An evergreen of the heath family, with white or pink flowers and thick leaves, used in medicine as an astringent and diuretic. [< Algonquian]
pip-squeak (pip′skwēk′) *n.* **1.** A petty and contemptible person or thing. **2.** A small, insignificant person.
pip·y (pī′pē) *adj.* **pip·i·er, pip·i·est** **1.** Pipelike; tubular; containing pipes. **2.** Piping; thin and shrill.
pi·quant (pē′kənt, -känt, -kwənt, pē·känt′) *adj.* **1.** Having an agreeably pungent or tart taste. **2.** Tart; racy. **3.** Lively and interesting. — **Syn.** See RACY. [< F, orig. ppr. of *piquer* to sting]
pique (pēk) *n.* A feeling of irritation or resentment. — *v.t.* **piqued, pi·quing** **1.** To excite resentment in. **2.** To stimulate or arouse; provoke. **3.** To pride (oneself): with *on* or *upon.* [< MF < *piquer* to sting, prick]
— **Syn.** (noun) displeasure, offense, umbrage, huff.
pi·qué (pē·kā′) *n.* A fabric of cotton, rayon, or silk, with raised cord or welts running lengthwise in the fabric. [< F, lit., quilted, orig. pp. of *piquer* to prick, backstitch]
pi·ra·cy (pī′rə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** Robbery on the high seas. **2.** The unauthorized publication, reproduction, or use of another's invention, idea, or literary creation.
pi·ra·nha (pi·rä′nyə) *n.* A small fish of tropical South America with massive jaws and sharp teeth, known to attack man and larger animals. [< Pg. (Brazilian) < Tupi, toothed fish]
pi·rate (pī′rit) *n.* **1.** A rover and robber on the high seas. **2.** A vessel engaged in piracy. **3.** A person who appropriates without right the work of another. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** **1.** To practice or commit piracy (upon). **2.** To plagiarize. [< L < Gk. *peiran* to attempt] — **pi·rat·ic** (pī·rat′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **pi·rat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
pir·ou·ette (pir′o͞o·et′) *n.* A rapid whirling upon the toes in dancing. — *v.i.* **·et·ted, ·et·ting** To make a pirouette. [< F spinning top, origin uncertain]
pis·ca·to·ri·al (pis′kə·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to fishes or fishing. **2.** Engaged in fishing. Also **pis′ca·to′ry.** [< L < *piscator* fisherman] — **pis′ca·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*
Pis·ces (pis′ēz, pī′sēz) *n.pl.* A constellation, the Fish or Fishes; also, the twelfth sign of the zodiac. See ZODIAC. [< L, pl. of *piscis* a fish]
Pis·cis Aus·tri·nus (pis′is ô·strī′nəs) A constellation containing the star Fomalhaut. [< L]
pisci- *combining form* Fish; of or related to fish. Also, before vowels, **pisc-.** [< L *piscis* fish]
pis·ci·cul·ture (pis′i·kul′chər) *n.* The hatching and rearing of fish. — **pis′ci·cul′tur·al** *adj.* — **pis′ci·cul′tur·ist** *n.*
pis·cine (pis′īn, -ēn, -in) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or resembling a fish or fishes [< L *piscis* a fish + -INE[1]]
pis·civ·o·rous (pi·siv′ər·əs) *adj.* Feeding on fish.
pis·mire (pis′mīr) *n. Archaic & Dial.* An ant. Also **piss·ant** (pis′ant). [ME < *pisse* urine + *mire* an ant]
pis·ta·chi·o (pis·tä′shē·ō, -tash′ē·ō) *n. pl.* **·chi·os** **1.** A small tree of western Asia and the Levant. **2.** Its edible nut. **3.** The flavor produced by the pistachio nut. **4.** A delicate shade of green, the color of the pistachio nut. Also **pis·tache′** (-täsh′). [< Ital. < L < Gk. < *pistakē* a pistachio tree, prob. < OPersian *pistah* a pistachio nut]
pis·til (pis′til) *n. Bot.* The seed-bearing organ of flowering plants, composed of the ovary, with its contained ovules, and the stigma, usu. with a style. For illus. see FLOWER. [< F < L *pistillum* pestle]
pis·til·late (pis′tə·lit, -lāt) *adj. Bot.* **1.** Having a pistil. **2.** Having pistils and no stamens. Also **pis′til·lar′y** (-ler′ē).
pis·tol (pis′təl) *n.* A small firearm having a stock to fit the hand, and a short barrel, and fired from one hand. — *v.t.* **pis·toled** or **·tolled, pis·tol·ing** or **·tol·ling** To shoot with a pistol. [< MF < MHG < Czechoslovakian *pist'al*]
pis·tole (pis·tōl′) *n.* A former European gold coin of varying value. [< F, short for MF *pistolet* pistol]
pis·ton (pis′tən) *n.* **1.** *Mech.* A rigid disk fitted to slide in a cylinder, and connected with a rod for receiving the pressure of or exerting pressure upon a fluid in the cylinder. **2.** A valve in a wind instrument for altering the pitch of tones. [< F < Ital. < LL *pistare,* freq. of L *pinsere* to pound]
piston ring *Mech.* An adjustable metal ring fitted into a groove around the piston and designed to prevent leakage between the piston and the cylinder wall.
pit[1] (pit) *n.* **1.** A natural or artificial cavity in the ground, esp. when relatively wide and deep. **2.** A pitfall for snaring

animals; snare. **3.** An abyss so deep that one cannot return from it, as the grave. **4.** Great distress or trouble. **5.** The main floor of the auditorium of a theater, esp. the rear part; also, the audience occupying this area. **6.** An enclosed space in which fighting cocks, etc., are pitted against each other. **7.** Any natural cavity or depression in the body: the *pit* of the stomach. **8.** Any slight depression or excavation, as a pockmark. **9.** That part of the floor of an exchange where a special line of trading is done: the wheat *pit*. **10.** A mining excavation, or the shaft of a mine. — *v.* **pit·ted, pit·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To mark with dents, pits, or hollows. **2.** To put, bury, or store in a pit. **3.** To match as antagonists; set in opposition. — *v.i.* **4.** To become marked with pits. [OE < L *puteus* a well]

pit[2] (pit) *n.* The kernel of certain fruits, as the plum. — *v.t.* **pit·ted, pit·ting** To remove pits from, as fruits. [< Du. < MDu. *pitte* kernel, pith]

pit-a-pat (pit′ə·pat′) *v.i.* **·pat·ted, ·pat·ting** To move or sound with light, quick steps or pulsations. — *n.* A tapping or succession of taps, steps, or similar sounds. — *adv.* With a pitapat; flutteringly. Also *pitty-pat*. [Imit.]

pitch[1] (pich) *n.* **1.** A thick, viscous, dark substance obtained by boiling down tar from the residues of distilled turpentine, etc., used in coating seams. **2.** Any of a class of residues obtained from the refining of fats, oils, and greases. **3.** The resinous sap of pines. **4.** Bitumen or asphalt, esp. when unrefined. — *v.t.* To smear, cover, or treat with or as with pitch. [OE < L *pix, picis* pitch]

pitch[2] (pich) *v.t.* **1.** To throw or hurl; fling. **2.** To erect or set up (a tent, camp, etc.). **3.** To set the level, angle, degree, etc., of. **4.** To put in a definite place or position. **5.** To set in order; arrange: now chiefly in the phrase **pitched battle.** **6.** In baseball, to deliver (the ball) to the batter. **7.** To set or be set in a pitch or key. — *v.i.* **8.** To fall or plunge forward or headlong. **9.** To lurch; stagger. **10.** To rise and fall alternately at the bow and stern, as a ship. **11.** To incline downward; slope. **12.** To encamp; settle. **13.** In baseball, to deliver the ball to the batter; act as pitcher. — **to pitch in** *Informal* **1.** To work together; cooperate. **2.** To start vigorously. — **to pitch into** To attack; assail. — *n.* **1.** Point or degree of elevation or depression. **2.** The extreme top or bottom point. **3.** The degree of descent of a declivity; also, a descent, slope, or inclination to the horizon. **4.** In building, the inclination of a roof. **5.** *Aeron.* The movement of an aircraft about its lateral axis. **6.** *Mech.* **a** The amount of advance of a screw thread in a single turn. **b** The distance between two corresponding points on the teeth of a gearwheel. **7.** *Physics* The dominant frequency of a sound wave perceived by the ear, ranging from a low tone of about 20 cycles per second to a maximum high approaching 30,000 cycles. **8.** *Music* **a** The sensory impression of the acuteness or gravity of a tone or sound. **b** The exact vibration frequency of a tone expressed in cycles per second. **9.** The act of pitching; a throw. **10.** In baseball: **a** The delivery of the ball by the pitcher. **b** The place of pitching. **c** The distance pitched. **11.** The act of dipping or plunging downward, as a ship. **12.** *U.S. Slang* A practiced talk or appeal intended to influence or persuade. [ME *picchen*]

pitch-black (pich′blak′) *adj.* Intensely black, as pitch.

pitch-blende (pich′blend′) *n.* A black or brown variety of a mineral occurring in the massive form and resembling pitch in luster, the chief source of uranium and radium. [< G < *pech* pitch[1] + *blende* blende]

pitch-dark (pich′därk′) *adj.* Very dark; as black as pitch.

pitch-er[1] (pich′ər) *n.* One who pitches; esp., in baseball, the player who delivers the ball to the batter. [< PITCH[2]]

pitch-er[2] (pich′ər) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly U.S.* A container with a spout and a handle, used for holding liquids to be poured out. **2.** A form of leaf suggestive of a pitcher. [< OF < LL < Gk. *bikos* wine jar]

pitcher plant Any of several carnivorous plants having tubular leaves arranged in the form of pitchers that function as insect traps.

PITCHER PLANT (About 2 feet tall)

pitch-fork (pich′fôrk′) *n.* A large fork with which to handle hay, straw, etc. — *v.t.* To lift and throw with or as with a pitchfork.

pitch-man (pich′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) *Slang* One who sells small articles from a temporary stand, as at a fair, etc.; a sidewalk vender.

pitch pine Any of several American pines that yield pitch or turpentine.

pitch pipe *Music* A small pipe that sounds a particular tone when blown, used to adjust the pitch of a voice or instrument; also, a group of such pipes combined in a unit.

pitch-y (pich′ē) *adj.* **pitch·i·er, pitch·i·est** **1.** Resembling pitch; intensely dark; pitchlike. **2.** Full of or daubed with pitch. — **pitch′i·ly** *adv.* — **pitch′i·ness** *n.*

pit-e-ous (pit′ē·əs) *adj.* Exciting pity, sorrow, or sympathy. [See PITY] — **pit′e·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pit′e·ous·ness** *n.*

pit-fall (pit′fôl′) *n.* **1.** A hidden danger or unexpected difficulty. **2.** A pit for entrapping wild beasts or men. [ME < PIT[1] + *falle, fal* < OE *fealle* a trap]

pith (pith) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* The cylinder of soft, spongy tissue in the center of the stems and branches of certain plants. **2.** *Ornithol.* The spongy substance of the interior of the shaft of a feather. **3.** The marrow of bones or of the spinal cord. **4.** Concentrated force; vigor. **5.** The essential part; gist. — *v.t.* **1.** To destroy the central nervous system or spinal cord of (a frog, etc.) by passing a wire through the vertebral column. **2.** To remove the pith from. **3.** To kill (cattle) by severing the spinal cord. [OE *pitha*]

Pith-e-can-thro-pus (pith′ə·kan′thrə·pəs, -kan·thrō′pəs) *n.* *pl.* **·pi** (-pī) *n. Paleontol.* An extinct manlike primate represented by skeletal remains discovered in central Java: also called *Java man*. [< NL < Gk. *pithēkos* ape + *anthropos* man] — **pith′e·can′thro·pine** (-pēn, -pin) *adj.*

pith helmet A topi.

pith-less (pith′lis) *adj.* Having no pith; lacking force.

pith-y (pith′ē) *adj.* **pith·i·er, pith·i·est** **1.** Consisting of pith; like pith. **2.** Forceful; effective: a *pithy* remark. — **Syn.** See TERSE. — **pith′i·ly** *adv.* — **pith′i·ness** *n.*

pit-i-a-ble (pit′ē·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Arousing or meriting pity or compassion. **2.** Insignificant; contemptible. — **pit′i·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **pit′i·a·bly** *adv.*

pit-i-ful (pit′i·fəl) *adj.* **1.** Calling forth pity or compassion; wretched. **2.** Evoking a feeling of contempt. — **pit′i·ful·ly** *adv.* — **pit′i·ful·ness** *n.*

pit-i-less (pit′i·lis) *adj.* Having no pity; ruthless. — **pit′i·less·ly** *adv.* — **pit′i·less·ness** *n.*

pit-man (pit′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) *for def 1,* **·mans** (-mənz) *for def. 2* **1.** One who works in a pit, as in a mine. **2.** *Mech.* A connecting rod.

pit-tance (pit′əns) *n.* A small allowance of money. [< OF *pitance*, monk's food allotment, pity]

pit-ter-pat-ter (pit′ər·pat′ər) *n.* A rapid series of light sounds or taps. [Varied reduplication of PATTER[1]]

pit-ty-pat (pit′ē·pat′) See PITAPAT.

pi-tu-i-tar-y (pi·tōō′ə·ter′ē, -tyōō′-) *adj. Physiol.* **1.** Secreting mucus. **2.** *Anat.* Of the pituitary gland. — *n.* *pl.* **·tar·ies** **1.** *Anat.* The pituitary gland. **2.** *Med.* Any of various preparations made from extracts of the pituitary gland. [< L < *pituita* mucus]

pituitary gland *Anat.* A small, rounded body at the base of the brain that secretes hormones affecting growth, metabolism, and other functions of the body. Also **pituitary body.**

pit viper Any of various venomous snakes, as the rattlesnake, bushmaster, copperhead, etc., characterized by a small depression between the nostril and the eye.

pit-y (pit′ē) *n.* *pl.* **pit·ies** **1.** Grief or pain awakened by the misfortunes of others; compassion. **2.** That which arouses compassion; misfortune. — *v.t. & v.i.* **pit·ied, pit·y·ing** To feel pity (for). [< OF < L *pietas, -tatis* dutiful conduct] — **pit′i·er** *n.* — **pit′y·ing·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** Both *pity* and *compassion* are keen regret or sorrow, but *compassion* more strongly suggests the inclination to give aid or support, or to show mercy. *Sympathy* is a sharing of the feelings of another; it becomes akin to *pity* when those feelings are sorrow, chagrin, disappointment, etc.

più (pyōō) *adv.* *Music* More: a direction. [< Ital. < L *plus*]

piv-ot (piv′ət) *n.* **1.** *Mech.* Something upon which a related part turns, oscillates, or rotates, as a pin or short cylindrical bearing fixed on only one end, for carrying or rotating a swinging part. **2.** A person or thing upon which an important matter hinges or turns. — *v.t.* **1.** To place on, attach by, or provide with a pivot or pivots. — *v.i.* **2.** To turn on a pivot; swing. [< F, origin unknown] — **piv′ot·al** *adj.* — **piv′ot·al·ly** *adv.*

pix-i-la-ted (pik′sə·lā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Affected by the pixies; mentally unbalanced; fey. **2.** *Slang* Drunk. [Prob. alter. of dial. E (Cornish) *pixy-led* bewitched]

pix-y (pik′sē) *n.* *pl.* **pix·ies** A fairy or elf. Also **pix′ie.** [< dial. E *pixey, pisky*; origin uncertain]

piz-za (pēt′sə, *Ital.* pēt′sä) *n.* An Italian food comprising a doughy crust overlaid with a mixture of cheese, tomatoes, spices, etc., and baked. [< Ital.]

piz-ze-ri-a (pēt′sə·rē′ə) *n.* A place where pizzas are prepared, sold, and eaten. [< Ital. < *pizza* pizza]

piz-zi-ca-to (pit′sə·kä′tō, *Ital.* pēt′tsē·kä′tō) *Music* *adj.* Plucked with the fingers. — *adv.* In a pizzicato manner. — *n.* *pl.* **·ti** (-tē) A tone or passage played in a pizzicato manner. [< Ital., pp. of *pizzicare* to pluck, pinch]

pla·ca·ble (plā′kə·bəl, plak′ə-) *adj.* Appeasable; yielding; forgiving. [< OF < L < *placare* to appease] **— pla′ca·bil′i·ty, pla′ca·ble·ness** *n.* **— pla′ca·bly** *adv.*

plac·ard (plak′ärd; *for v., also* plə·kärd′) *n.* **1.** A paper publicly displayed, as a poster. **2.** A tag or plate bearing the owner's name. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To announce by means of placards. **2.** To post placards on or in. [< F *plaquer* to veneer, plate]

pla·cate (plā′kāt, plak′āt, plak′ət) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To appease the anger of; pacify. [< L < *placare* to appease] **— pla′cat·er** *n.* **— pla·ca′tion** *n.*

pla·ca·to·ry (plā′kə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, plak′ə-) *adj.* Tending or intended to placate. Also **pla′ca·tive.**

place (plās) *n.* **1.** A particular point or portion of space, esp. that part occupied by or belonging to a thing under consideration; a definite locality or location. **2.** An occupied situation or building; space regarded as abode or quarters. **3.** An open space or square in a city; also, a court or street. **4.** Position in a sequence or series. **5.** Station in life; rank. **6.** An office, appointment, or employment; position. **7.** Room for occupation. **8.** Room; way: One thing gives *place* to another. **9.** A particular passage or page in a book, etc. **10.** The second position among the first three finishers in a race, as in a horse race. **11.** *Math.* The position of a figure in relation to the other figures of a given arithmetical series or group. **— in place 1.** In a natural or suitable position. **2.** In its original site. **— in place of** Instead of. **— out of place** Removed from or not situated in the natural or appropriate place, order, or relation. **— to take place** To happen; occur. **—** *v.* **placed, plac·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To put in a particular place or position. **2.** To put or arrange in a particular relation or sequence. **3.** To find a place, situation, home, etc., for. **4.** To appoint to a post or office. **5.** To identify; classify. **6.** To arrange for the satisfaction, handling, or disposition of. **7.** To bestow or entrust. **—** *v.i.* **8.** In racing: **a** To finish second: distinguished from *show, win.* **b** To finish among the first three finishers. [< OF, ult. < L < Gk. < *platys* wide]

pla·ce·bo (plə·sē′bō) *n.* *pl.* **·bos** or **·boes** **1.** *Med.* Any harmless substance given to humor a patient or as a test in controlled experiments. **2.** Anything said in order to flatter. [< L < *placere* to please]

place kick In football, a kick for a goal in which the ball is placed on the ground for kicking.

place mat A mat on which a table setting is placed.

place·ment (plās′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of placing, or the state of being placed. **2.** Relative position; arrangement. **3.** The business of placing persons in jobs. **4.** In football, the setting of the ball for a place kick; also, the kick itself.

pla·cen·ta (plə·sen′tə) *n.* *pl.* **·tas** or **·tae** (-tē) **1.** *Anat.* In higher mammals, the vascular, spongy organ of interlocking fetal and uterine structures by which the fetus is nourished in the uterus. **2.** *Bot.* The part of the ovary that supports the ovules. [< L, cake < Gk. < *plax, plakos* flat object] **— pla·cen′tal, plac·en·tar·y** (plas′ən·ter′ē, plə·sen′tər·ē) *adj.*

pla·cen·tate (plə·sen′tāt) *adj.* Having a placenta.

plac·er[1] (plā′sər) *n.* One who or that which places.

plac·er[2] (plas′ər) *n.* *Mining* **1.** An alluvial or glacial deposit of sand, gravel, etc., containing gold in particles large enough to be obtained by washing. **2.** Any place where deposits are washed for valuable minerals. [Var. of Sp. *placel* sandbank < *plaza* place]

plac·id (plas′id) *adj.* Having a smooth surface or nature; unruffled; calm. [< L < *placere* to please] **— pla·cid·i·ty** (plə·sid′ə·tē), **plac′id·ness** *n.* **— plac′id·ly** *adv.*

plack·et (plak′it) *n.* The opening in the upper part of a dress, blouse, or skirt to make it easy to put on and take off. Also **placket hole.** [Origin unknown]

pla·gia·rism (plā′jə·riz′əm, -jē·ə-) *n.* **1.** The act of plagiarizing. **2.** Something plagiarized. **— pla′gia·rist** *n.* **— pla′gia·ris′tic** *adj.*

pla·gia·rize (plā′jə·rīz, -jē·ə-) *v.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To appropriate and pass off as one's own (the writings, ideas, etc., of another). **2.** To appropriate and use passages, ideas, etc., from. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To commit plagiarism. **— pla′gia·riz′er** *n.*

pla·gia·ry (plā′jər·ē, -jē·ər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** The act or result of plagiarism. **2.** One who plagiarizes; a plagiarist. [< L *plagium* kidnapping < Gk. *plagios* treacherous]

plagio- *combining form* Oblique; slanting. Also, before vowels, **plagi-.** [< Gk. *plagios* oblique]

pla·gi·o·clase (plā′jē·ə·klās′) *n.* Feldspar consisting chiefly of the silicates of sodium, calcium, and aluminum, and crystallizing in the triclinic system. [< PLAGIO- + Gk. *klasis* cleavage] **— pla′gi·o·clas′tic** (-klas′tik) *adj.*

plague (plāg) *n.* **1.** Anything troublesome or harassing; affliction; calamity. **2.** *Pathol.* Any of various forms of a virulent, febrile, highly contagious, and often pandemic disease, esp. the bubonic plague. **3.** The Black Death. **4.** *Informal* Nuisance; bother. **—** *v.t.* **plagued, pla·guing** **1.** To vex; annoy. **2.** To afflict with plague or disaster. [< OF < LL < L *plaga*, prob. < Gk. *plēssein* to strike]

pla·guy (plā′gē) *Informal adj.* Troublesome. **—** *adv.* Vexatiously; intolerably: also **pla′gui·ly.** Also **pla′guey.**

plaice (plās) *n.* **1.** A flounder of European waters. **2.** Any of various American flatfishes. [< OF < LL *platessa* flatfish, ult. < Gk. *platys* broad]

plaid (plad) *adj.* Having a tartan pattern; checkered. **—** *n.* An oblong woolen scarf of tartan or checkered pattern, worn in the Scottish Highlands as a cloak over one shoulder; also, any fabric of this pattern. [< Scottish Gaelic *plaide* blanket] **— plaid′ed** *adj.*

plain (plān) *adj.* **1.** Flat; smooth. **2.** Presenting few difficulties; easy. **3.** Clear; understandable. **4.** Straightforward; guileless. **5.** Lowly in condition or station. **6.** Unadorned; without ornamentation. **7.** Not figured, twilled, or variegated: *plain* cloth. **8.** Homely. **9.** Not rich; simple: *plain* food. **—** *n.* An expanse of level land; a prairie. [< OF < L *planus* flat] **— plain′ly** *adv.* **— plain′ness** *n.*

plain-clothes man (plān′klōz′, -klōthz′) A member of a police force not in uniform; esp., a detective.

plains·man (plānz′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A dweller on the plains.

plain·song (plān′sông, -song) *n.* The old ecclesiastical chant, having simple melody, not governed by strict rules of meter but by accentuation of the words. Also **plain-chant** (plān′chant, -chänt). [Trans. of Med.L *cantus planus*]

plain-spo·ken (plān′spō′kən) *adj.* Candid; frank.

plaint (plānt) *n.* **1.** A lamentation. **2.** A complaint. [< OF < L *planger* to lament]

plain·tiff (plān′tif) *n.* *Law* The party that begins an action at law; the complaining party in an action: opposed to *defendant.* [< OF < L *plangere* to lament]

plain·tive (plān′tiv) *adj.* Expressing a subdued sadness; mournful. [< OF, fem. of *plaintif*] **— plain′tive·ly** *adv.* **— plain′tive·ness** *n.*

plait (plat, plāt) *v.t.* **1.** To braid (hair, etc.). **2.** To pleat. **—** *n.* **1.** A braid, esp. of hair. **2.** A pleat. [< OF < L < *plicare* to fold]

plan (plan) *n.* **1.** A scheme, method, or design for the attainment of some object. **2.** A drawing showing the proportion and relation of parts, as of a building. **3.** Any sketch; draft. **4.** A mode of action. **—** *v.* **planned, plan·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To form a scheme or method for doing, achieving, etc. **2.** To make a plan of, as a building; design. **3.** To have as an intention or purpose. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To make plans. [< MF < OF < L < *planus* flat] **— plan′ner** *n.*

pla·nar·i·an (plə·nâr′ē·ən) *n.* *Zool.* Any of an order of chiefly aquatic flatworms having elongate flattened bodies, and the power of regenerating themselves when cut apart. [< NL < L *planus* flat]

plane[1] (plān) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* A surface such that a straight line joining any two of its points lies wholly within the surface. **2.** Any flat surface. **3.** A grade of development; level: a *plane* of thought. **4.** *Aeron.* A supporting surface of an airplane. **5.** An airplane. **—** *adj.* **1.** Lying in a plane. **2.** Level; flat. **3.** Dealing only with flat surfaces: *plane* geometry. [< L *planus* flat] **— pla·nar** (plā′nər) *adj.*

plane[2] (plān) *n.* A tool used for smoothing boards or other surfaces of wood. **—** *v.* **planed, plan·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make smooth or even with a plane. **2.** To remove with a plane. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To use a plane. **4.** To do the work of a plane. [< F < LL < OF < L *planare* to level] **— plan′er** (plā′nər) *n.*

plane[3] (plān) *v.i.* **planed, plan·ing** **1.** To rise partly out of the water, as a power boat when driven at high speed. **2.** To glide; soar. [< F < OF < L < *planus* flat]

plan·et (plan′it) *n.* **1.** *Astron.* One of the celestial bodies revolving around the sun and shining only by reflected light. Those within the Earth's orbit, Mercury and Venus, are called **inferior planets.** Those beyond it, the **superior planets,** are Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Between Mars and Jupiter are the asteroids or **minor planets.** **2.** In ancient astronomy, one of the seven heavenly bodies (the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn) having a motion relative to the fixed stars. **3.** In astrology, a planet considered as an influence on human beings. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *planaesthai* to wander]

plan·e·tar·i·um (plan′ə·târ′ē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·i·ums** or **·i·a** (-ē·ə) **1.** An apparatus for exhibiting the features of the heavens as they exist at any time and for any place on earth, consisting of an array of suitably mounted stereopticons installed in a room having a circular dome. **2.** A room or building having such an apparatus. **3.** An apparatus or model representing the planetary system.

plan·e·tar·y (plan′ə·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a planet or the planets. **2.** Mundane; terrestrial. **3.** Wandering; erratic. **4.** *Mech.* Pertaining to or denoting a type of gearing in which one or more small wheels mesh with the toothed circumference of a larger wheel, around which they revolve, at the same time rotating axially.

plan·e·tes·i·mal (plan′ə·tes′ə·məl) *Astron. adj.* Of or pertaining to very small, solid, planetary bodies. **—** *n.* Any of such bodies.

TABLE OF PLANETS

Name	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Pluto
Symbol	☿	♀	⊕	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇
Distance from sun (AU)	0.39	0.72	1.00	1.52	5.20	9.54	19.18	30.6	29.44
Mean diameter, miles	3030	7520	7920	4200	88,670	75,000	32,500	30,700	1420
Period of revolution about the sun	88 days	225 days	365.25 days	687 days	12 years	29.5 years	84 years	165 years	248 years
Period of rotation (about axis)	58.7 days	243 days*	23 hr., 56 min.	24 hr., 37 min.	9 hr., 50 min†	10 hr., 14 min.‡	(17 hr., 15 min.)	(15 hr., 48 min.)	(6.4 days)
No. of satellites	0	0	1	2	16	20+	15	8	1
Mass, Earth=1	0.0543	0.82	1.0000	0.1069	317.8	95.1	14.58	17.26	(0.004)
Escape velocity, miles per hour	9,619	23,042	25,055	11,185	133,104	79,639	47,470	52,794	2,640
Mean density, water=1	5.4	5.3	5.52	3.95	1.33	0.69	(1.2)	1.7	(1.99)
Surface gravity, Earth=1	0.38	0.87	1.00	0.39	2.34	0.93	0.79	1.09	0.0637
Mean orbital velocity, miles per hour	107,132	78,364	66,641	53,980	29,216	21,565	15,234	12,147	10,604

Notes: A distance of 1 AU is equivalent to 150 million km (93 million mi). The rotation of Venus (*) is retrograde; for Jupiter (†) and Saturn (‡), rotation period vary with latitude, but the rotation of the interior can be measured by observation of radio emission. Data in parentheses indicate estimates.

planetesimal hypothesis *Astron.* The hypothesis that the solar system developed from large masses of planetesimals that coalesced to form planets and satellites.

plan·et·fall (plan′it-fôl′) *n.* The descent of a rocket or artificial satellite to the surface of a planet.

plan·e·toid (plan′ə-toid) *n. Astron.* An asteroid. — **plan′·e·toi′dal** *adj.*

plane tree Any of various large deciduous trees characterized by broad, lobed leaves and spreading growth. [< OF < L < Gk. *platys* broad]

plan·et-struck (plan′it-struk′) *adj.* Affected by the influence of planets. Also **plan′et-strick′en** (-strik′ən).

planet wheel One of the smaller wheels in an epicyclic train.

plan·gent (plan′jənt) *adj.* Dashing noisily; resounding, as the sound of bells. [< L *plangens, -entis*, ppr. of *plangere* to lament, strike] — **plan′gen·cy** *n.* — **plan′gent·ly** *adv.*

plan·gor·ous (plang′gər-əs) *adj.* Wailing; lamenting. [< L *plangor* lamentation < *plangere*. See PLANGENT.]

pla·ni·form (plā′nə-fôrm, plan′ə-) *adj.* Having the surfaces nearly flat.

pla·nim·e·ter (plə-nim′ə-tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring the area of any plane surface, however irregular, by moving a pointer around its boundary and reading the indications of a scale. [< F *planimètre*] — **pla·ni·met·ric** (plā′nə-met′rik, plan′ə-) or **·ri·cal** *adj.* — **pla·nim′e·try** *n.*

plan·i·sphere (plan′ə-sfir) *n.* A plane projection of the sphere; especially, a polar projection of the heavens on a chart, showing the stars visible at a given time. [< OF < Med.L *planisphaerium* < L *planus* flat + *sphaera* sphere] — **plan′i·spher′ic** (-sfir′ik, -sfer′-) *adj.*

plan·ish (plan′ish) *v.t.* To condense, smooth, toughen, or polish, as metal, by hammering, rolling, etc. [< MF < L *planus* flat]

plank (plangk) *n.* **1.** A broad piece of sawed timber, thicker than a board. **2.** A support. **3.** One of the principles of a political platform. — **to walk the plank** To walk off a plank projecting from the side of a ship, a method once used by pirates for executing prisoners. — *v.t.* **1.** To cover, furnish, or lay with planks. **2.** To broil or bake and serve on a plank, as fish. **3.** *Informal* To put down forcibly. **4.** *Informal* To pay: with *out, down*, etc. [< OF < LL *planca*]

plank·ing (plangk′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of laying planks. **2.** Anything made of planks. **3.** Planks collectively.

plank·ton (plangk′tən) *n. Biol.* The marine animal and plant organisms that drift or float with currents, waves, etc., unable to influence their own course and ranging in size from microorganisms to jellyfish. [< G < Gk. *plazesthai* to wander] — **plank·ton′ic** *adj.*

plano-[1] *combining form* Roaming; wandering. Also, before vowels, **plan-**. [< Gk. *planos* wandering]

plano-[2] *combining form* Flat; level; plane: *plano-concave, planometer*. Also, before vowels, **plan-**. Also **plani-**. [< L *planus* flat]

pla·no-con·cave (plā′nō-kon′kāv) *adj.* Plane on one side and concave on the other.

pla·no-con·vex (plā′nō-kon′veks) *adj.* Plane on one side and convex on the other.

pla·nom·e·ter (plə-nom′ə-tər) *n.* A device for gauging a plane surface, especially as used in metalworking. [< PLANO-[2] + -METER] — **pla·nom′e·try** *n.*

plant (plant, plänt) *n.* **1.** A living organism belonging to the vegetable kingdom, as distinguished from the animal kingdom, having typically rigid cell walls and characterized by growth chiefly from the synthesis of simple, usually inorganic food materials from soil, water, and air. **2.** One of the smaller forms of vegetable life, as distinct from shrubs and trees. **3.** A set of machines, tools, apparatus, etc., necessary to conduct a manufacturing enterprise or other business: a chemical *plant*. **4.** The buildings, grounds, and permanent appliances needed for any institution, as a post office, college, etc. **5.** A slip or cutting from a tree or bush; sapling. **6.** A person placed in a theater audience to encourage applause, speak lines, or contribute to the action of a play. **7.** An apparently trivial passage early in a story or play that later becomes important in shaping the outcome of the action. **8.** *Slang* A trick; dodge; swindle. — *v.t.* **1.** To set in the ground for growing. **2.** To furnish with plants or seed: to *plant* a field. **3.** To set or place firmly; put in position. **4.** To found; establish. **5.** To introduce into the mind; implant, as an idea or principle. **6.** To introduce into a country, as a breed of animal. **7.** To deposit (fish or spawn) in a body of water. **8.** To stock, as a river. **9.** To bed (oysters). **10.** *Slang* To deliver, as a blow. **11.** *Slang* To place or station for purposes of deception, observation, etc.: to *plant* evidence. **12.** *Slang* To hide; bury: Where did you *plant* the loot? [OE *plante* < L *planta* a sprout, cutting; ult. origin uncertain]

Plan·tag·e·net (plan·taj′i-net) A patronymic of the Angevin dynasty of English sovereigns from Henry II (1154) to the accession of the House of Tudor (1485). [< Med.L *planta genista* sprig of broom; with ref. to the habit of Geoffrey of Anjou, founder of the line, of wearing one]

plan·tain[1] (plan′tin) *n.* An annual or perennial herb (genus *Plantago*) widely distributed in temperate regions; especially, the **common** or **greater plantain** (*P. major*) with large, ovate, ribbed leaves. [< OF < L *plantago, -ginis* < *planta* sole of the foot; with ref. to the shape of the leaves]

plan·tain[2] (plan′tin) *n.* **1.** A tropical, perennial herb (*Musa paradisiaca*), sometimes growing to 30 feet. **2.** The long, bananalike fruit of this plant, edible when cooked. [< Sp. *plátano*; infl. in form by PLANTAIN[1]]

plan·tar (plan′tər) *adj.* Pertaining to the sole of the foot. [< L *planta* sole of the foot]

plan·ta·tion (plan·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** Any place that is planted. **2.** A farm or estate of many acres, planted in cotton, tobacco, etc., worked by resident laborers. **3.** A colony. **4.** A grove cultivated for its wood. [< L < *plantare* to plant]

plant·er (plan′tər) *n.* **1.** One who plants. **2.** An early settler or colonizer. **3.** An owner of a plantation. **4.** An agricultural implement for dropping seed in soil. **5.** A decorative container in which shrubs and flowers are planted, especially outdoors. **6.** *Canadian* In Newfoundland, a trader who hires and provisions fishermen in return for a share of the catch.

plan·ti·grade (plan′tə·grād) *Zool. adj.* Walking on the whole sole of the foot: distinguished from *digitigrade*. [< F < L *planta* sole of the foot + *gradi* to walk]

plant louse **1.** An aphid. **2.** Any of a family of leaping insects that infest plants and suck their juices.

plaque (plak) *n.* **1.** A plate, disk, or slab of metal, porcelain, ivory, etc., artistically ornamented, as for wall decoration. **2.** A small disk or brooch worn as a badge of membership, etc. [< F < MDu. *placke* flat disk, tablet]

plash[1] (plash) *n.* A slight splash. — *v.t. & v.i.* To splash lightly, as water. [Prob. imit.] — **plash′y** *adj.*

plash[2] (plash) *n.* A small pool. [OE *plæsc* pool]

-plasia *combining form* Growth; development; formative action. Also **-plasis.** [< Gk. *plassein* to mold, form]

-plasm *combining form Biol.* The viscous material of an animal or vegetable cell: *protoplasm.* [< LL < Gk. *plassein* to mold, form]

plas·ma (plaz′mə) *n.* **1.** The liquid portion of nutritive animal fluids, as blood, lymph, or intercellular fluid. **2.** The clear, fluid portion of blood, freed from blood cells and used for transfusions. **3.** The viscous material of a cell; protoplasm. **4.** *Physics* **a** The region in a gas-discharge tube in which there are approximately equal numbers of positive ions and electrons. **b** Any gas composed of such particles. Also **plasm** (plaz′əm). [< LL < Gk. *plassein* to mold, form] — **plas·mat·ic** (plaz·mat′ik), **plas′mic** *adj.*

plasma engine A reaction engine producing a small but sustained thrust by emission of a plasma jet.

plasma jet *Physics* A beam of plasma ejected from a specially constructed generator that forms a brilliantly luminous jet of extremely high energy and temperature.

plasmo- *combining form* Plasma; of or pertaining to plasma. Also, before vowels, **plasm-.** [See -PLASM]

plas·mo·di·um (plaz·mō′dē·əm) *n. pl.* **·di·a** (-dē·ə) **1.** A mass of protoplasm resulting from the fusion of ameboid organisms, typical of the slime molds. **2.** Any of a genus of parasitic protozoans that include the causative agents of malaria. [< NL < PLASM(O)- + Gk. *eidos* form]

-plast *combining form* An organized living particle or cell. [< Gk. < *plassein* to form]

plas·ter (plas′tər, pläs′-) *n.* **1.** A composition of lime, sand, and water, sometimes mixed with hair, for coating walls and partitions. **2.** Plaster of Paris. **3.** A viscid substance spread on linen, silk, etc., and applied to some part of the body, used for healing. — *v.t.* **1.** To cover or overlay with or as with plaster. **2.** To apply a plaster to, as a part of the body. **3.** To apply like plaster or a plaster: to *plaster* posters on a fence. **4.** To cause to adhere or lay flat like plaster. [OE reinforced by OF *plastre* < LL < L < Gk. *emplessain* < *en* upon, into + *plassein* to mold] — **plas′ter·er** *n.* — **plas′ter·ing** *n.* — **plas′ter·y** *adj.*

plas·ter·board (plas′tər·bôrd′, pläs′-, -bōrd′) *n.* A wallboard made of gypsum or plaster and fibrous paper.

plaster cast **1.** A cast or model of a person or object made by molding plaster of Paris. **2.** *Surg.* A cast.

plaster of Paris Calcined gypsum, setting readily when mixed with water, useful in making molds, casts, bandages, etc. [With ref. to use of gypsum from Paris]

plas·tic (plas′tik) *adj.* **1.** Giving form or fashion to matter. **2.** Capable of being molded; pliable. **3.** Pertaining to modeling or molding. **4.** *Surg.* Efficacious in recreating or remodeling injured or destroyed parts: *plastic* surgery. — *n.* **1.** Any substance or material that may be molded. **2.** *Chem.* One of a large class of synthetic organic compounds capable of being molded, extruded, cast, or otherwise fabricated into various shapes, or of being drawn into filaments for textiles. [< L < Gk. *plastikos* moldable] — **plas′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

-plastic *combining form* Growing; developing; forming. [< Gk. *plastikos* plastic, moldable]

plas·tic·i·ty (plas·tis′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The quality or state of being plastic. **2.** Capacity for being shaped or molded.

plas·ti·ciz·er (plas′tə·sī′zər) *n.* That which functions to make a substance plastic, preserve softness, etc.

plastic surgery Surgery that deals with the restoration or healing of lost, wounded, or deformed parts of the body.

plas·tid (plas′tid) *n. Biol.* **1.** A small, specialized mass in the cytoplasm of a cell. For illus. see CELL. **2.** An elementary organism, as a cell. [< G < Gk. < *plassein* to mold]

plas·tron (plas′trən) *n.* **1.** A leather shield worn on the breast by fencers. **2.** *Zool.* The ventral part of the shell of a turtle or tortoise: also **plas′trum.** [< F, < Ital. < *piastra* sheet of metal] — **plas′tral** (-trəl) *adj.*

-plasty *combining form Surg.* An operation involving: **a** A (specified) part of the body: *osteoplasty.* **b** Tissue from a (specified) source: *zooplasty.* **c** A (specified) process or formation: *neoplasty.* [< Gk. *-plastia* formation]

-plasy See -PLASIA.

plat (plat) *v.t.* **plat·ted, plat·ting** To plait or braid. — *n.* A plait; braid. [Var. of PLAIT]

plat- Var. of PLATY-.

plate (plāt) *n.* **1.** A flat, extended, rigid body of metal or any material of slight but even thickness. **2.** A shallow vessel made of crockery, wood, glass, etc., in which food is served or from which it is eaten at table. **3.** Household articles, as trays, carving sets, etc., that are plated with a precious metal. **4.** A portion of food served at table; plateful. **5.** A piece of flat metal bearing a design or inscription or intended for reproduction, as in a bookplate. **6.** Metal in sheets. **7.** An impression from an engraving, woodcut, etc., as reproduced in a book. **8.** An electrotype or stereotype. **9.** A horizontal timber laid on a wall to receive a framework. **10.** *Dent.* A piece of metal, vulcanite, or plastic fitted to the mouth and holding one or more artificial teeth. **11.** A thin part of the brisket of beef. **12.** *Photog.* A sensitized sheet of glass, metal, or the like, for taking photographs. **13.** In baseball, the home base. **14.** *Biol.* A platelike part or structure; a lamina. **15.** A dish used in taking up collections, as in churches; also, a collection. **16.** *Electronics* The principal anode in an electron tube. — *v.t.* **plat·ed, plat·ing** **1.** To coat with a thin layer of gold, silver, etc. **2.** To cover or sheathe with metal plates for protection. **3.** In papermaking, to give a high gloss to (paper) by pressure between metal plates. **4.** *Printing* To make an electrotype or stereotype from. [< OF < LL *platta* flat] — **plat′er** *n.*

pla·teau (pla·tō′, *esp. Brit.* plat′ō) *n. pl.* **·teaus** or **·teaux** (-tōz′) **1.** An extensive stretch of elevated and comparatively level land; mesa. **2.** A stage or period of leveling off in the development of something or in the process of learning. [< F < OF *plat* flat]

plat·ed (plā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Coated with a layer of gold, silver, etc.: often used in combination: *gold-plated.* **2.** Provided with plates, as of metal.

plate·ful (plāt′fo͝ol′) *n. pl.* **·fuls** The quantity that fills a plate.

plate glass Glass in clear, thick sheets, suitable for mirrors, display windows, etc.

plate·let (plāt′lit) *n.* **1.** A small, platelike object. **2.** *Physiol.* A blood platelet. [Dim. of PLATE]

plat·en (plat′n) *n. Mech.* **1.** The part of a printing press, typewriter, or the like, on which the paper is supported to receive the impression. **2.** In a machine tool, the adjustable table that carries the work. [See PLATE]

plat·form (plat′fôrm) *n.* **1.** Any floor or flat surface raised above the adjacent level, as a stage for public speaking or a raised walk upon which railroad passengers alight. **2.** A projecting stage at the end of a car or similar vehicle. **3.** A formal scheme of principles put forth by a religious, political, or other body; also, the document stating the principles of a political party. [< MF < *plate* flat + *forme* form]

plat·ing (plā′ting) *n.* **1.** A layer or coating of metal. **2.** A sheathing of metal plates, as armor. **3.** The act or process of sheathing or coating something with plates or metal.

pla·tin·ic (plə·tin′ik) *adj. Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or containing platinum, esp. in its higher valence.

plat·i·nize (plat′ə·nīz) *v.t.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** To coat or combine with platinum, esp. by electroplating.

platino- *combining form* Platinum; of or containing platinum. Also, before vowels, **platin-.** [< PLATINUM]

plat·i·nous (plat′ə·nəs) *adj. Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or containing platinum, esp. in its lower valence.

plat·i·num (plat′ə·nəm) *n.* **1.** A heavy, steel-gray, malleable and ductile metallic element (symbol Pt) that is very infusible, resistant to most acids, and that has a high electrical resistance. It is widely used as a catalyst, in industry and the arts, and in jewelry. See ELEMENT. **2.** A color resembling that of platinum. [< NL < Sp. *plata* silver]

platinum blond **1.** A very light, almost white blond. **2.** One having platinum blond hair.

plat·i·tude (plat′ə·to͞od, -tyo͞od) *n.* **1.** A flat, dull, or commonplace statement; an obvious truism. **2.** Dullness; triteness. [< F *plat* flat] — **plat/i·tu′di·nous** *adj.*

plat·i·tu·di·nize (plat′ə·to͞o′də·nīz, -tyo͞o′-) *v.i.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** To utter platitudes.

pla·ton·ic (plə·ton′ik) *adj. Often cap.* Purely spiritual, or devoid of sensual feeling. — **pla·ton′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Pla·ton·ic (plə·ton′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Plato or of Platonism; academic; theoretical. Also **Pla·ton′i·cal.** — **Pla·ton′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Pla·to·nism (plā′tə·niz′əm) *n.* The philosophy of Plato;

esp., the doctrine that objects are merely copies or images of eternal ideas and that these ideas are the ultimate realities. **— Pla'to·nist** *n.*

pla·toon (plə·tōōn′) *n.* **1.** A subdivision of a company, troop, or other military unit, commanded by a lieutenant. **2.** A company of people; esp., in football, a defensive or offensive unit. **—** *v.t.* In football, to use as or in a platoon. [< F *peloton* ball, group of men]

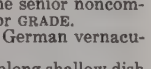
platoon sergeant In the U.S. Army, the senior noncommissioned officer in a platoon. See table for GRADE.

Platt·deutsch (plät′doich′) *n.* The low German vernacular of the north of Germany. [< G]

plat·ter (plat′ər) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly U.S.* An oblong shallow dish on which meat or fish is served. **2.** *Informal* A phonograph record. [< AF *plat* dish]

platy- *combining form* Flat. Also, before vowels, *plat-*. [< Gk. *platys* flat]

plat·y·pus (plat′ə·pəs) *n.* A burrowing, egg-laying, aquatic monotreme of Australia, having a ducklike bill: also called *duckbill*. [< NL < Gk. < *platys* flat + *pous* foot]



PLATYPUS
(To 2 feet long; tail about 5½ inches)

plau·dit (plô′dit) *n.* An expression of applause; praise bestowed. [< L *plaudite*, pl. imperative of *plaudere* to applaud]

plau·si·ble (plô′zə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Seeming to be likely or probable, but open to doubt. **2.** Apparently trustworthy or believable. [< L *plausibilis* deserving applause] **— plau′si·bil′i·ty, plau′si·ble·ness** *n.* **— plau′si·bly** *adv.*

play (plā) *v.i.* **1.** To engage in sport or diversion; amuse oneself. **2.** To take part in a game of skill or chance. **3.** To act in a way that is not to be taken seriously. **4.** To act or behave in a specified manner: to *play* false. **5.** To behave lightly or insincerely: with *with*. **6.** To make love sportively. **7.** To move quickly or irregularly as if frolicking: lights *playing* along a wall. **8.** To discharge or be discharged freely or continuously: a fountain *playing* in the square. **9.** To perform on a musical instrument. **10.** To give forth musical sounds. **11.** To be performed or exhibited. **12.** To act on or as on a stage; perform. **13.** To move freely or loosely, esp. within limits, as part of a mechanism. **—** *v.t.* **14.** To engage in (a game etc.). **15.** To imitate in play: to *play* cowboys and Indians. **16.** To perform sportively or wantonly: to *play* a trick. **17.** To oppose in a game or contest. **18.** To move or employ (a piece, card, etc.) in a game. **19.** To employ (someone) in a game as a player. **20.** To cause: to *play* havoc. **21.** To perform upon (a musical instrument). **22.** To perform or produce, as a piece of music, a play, etc. **23.** To act the part of on or as on the stage: to *play* the fool. **24.** To perform or act in: to *play* Chicago. **25.** To cause to move quickly or irregularly. **26.** To put into or maintain in action. **27.** In angling, to let (a hooked fish) tire itself by maintaining pressure on the line. **28.** To bet or bet on. **— to play at 1.** To take part in. **2.** To pretend to be doing; do half-heartedly. **— to play down** To minimize. **— to play into the hands of** To act to the advantage of (a rival or opponent). **— to play off 1.** To oppose against one another. **2.** To decide (a tie) by playing one more game. **— to play on 1.** To take unscrupulous advantage of (another's hopes, emotions, etc.) for one's own advantage. **2.** To continue. **— to play out 1.** To come to an end; be exhausted. **2.** To continue to the end. **— to play the game** To behave in a fair manner. **— to play up** *Informal* To emphasize. **— to play up to** *Informal* To try to win the favor of by flattery, etc. **—** *n.* **1.** A dramatic composition; drama. **2.** The performance of such a composition. **3.** Exercise or action for recreation or diversion. **4.** A maneuver or turn in a game. **5.** Manner of playing: rough *play*. **6.** In sports, a state of being actively and legitimately in use or motion: in *play*. **7.** The act of playing a game, esp. gambling. **8.** Fun; joking: to say something in *play*. **9.** The active operation of something: the *play* of one's mind. **10.** Action or operation that is light, free, and unencumbered. **11.** Light, quick, fitful movement. **12.** Manner of acting toward or dealing with others: fair *play*. **— to make a play for** *Informal* **1.** To attempt to gain something, as a favor, votes, etc. **2.** To attempt to seduce. [OE *plegan*] **— play′a·ble** *adj.*

play-back (plā′bak′) *n.* **1.** The act of reproducing a sound recording, as from a record or tape. **2.** A method or machine for reproducing sound recordings.

play·bill (plā′bil′) *n.* **1.** A bill or poster advertising a play. **2.** A program of a play.

play·boy (plā′boi′) *n.* *Informal* One who constantly seeks pleasure at nightclubs, social gatherings, etc.

play-by-play (plā′bī·plā′) *adj.* Dealing with each play or event as it happens: a *play-by-play* report.

play·er (plā′ər) *n.* **1.** One who takes part or specializes in a game: a tennis *player*. **2.** An actor. **3.** A performer on a musical instrument. **4.** A gambler. **5.** An automatic device for playing a musical instrument.

player piano A piano having a mechanical device by which it may be played automatically.

play·fel·low (plā′fel′ō) *n.* An associate in play; playmate.

play·ful (plā′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Lightly humorous; joking: a *playful* remark. **2.** Full of high spirits and play; frolicsome: a *playful* puppy. **— play′ful·ly** *adv.* **— play′ful·ness** *n.*

play·go·er (plā′gō′ər) *n.* One who goes often to the theater.

play·ground (plā′ground′) *n.* An area, usu. adjoining a school, used for playing games and for recreation.

play·house (plā′hous′) *n.* **1.** A theater. **2.** A small house for children to play in. **3.** A toy house.

playing card One of a pack of cards used in playing various games, the pack usu. consisting of four suits (spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs) of 13 cards each.

play·let (plā′lit′) *n.* A short play.

play·mate (plā′māt′) *n.* A companion in sports or in play.

play·off (plā′ôf′, -of′) *n.* In sports: **a** A decisive game or contest to break a tie. **b** A series of games to decide a championship, award, etc.

play·pen (plā′pen′) *n.* A small, usu. collapsible enclosure in which a baby or small child is left to amuse himself.

play·thing (plā′thing′) *n.* A thing to play with; a toy.

play upon words Words used with double meaning; a pun.

play·wright (plā′rīt′) *n.* A writer of plays.

pla·za (plä′zə, plaz′ə) *n.* An open square or market place in a town or city. [< Sp. < L *platea* wide street]

plea (plē) *n.* **1.** An appeal or entreaty. **2.** An excuse, pretext, or justification: the tyrant's *plea*. **3.** *Law* **a** An allegation made by either party in a cause: a pleading. **b** A statement made by or for the defendant concerning the charge or indictment against him. [< OF < L *placitum* opinion, orig. pp. of *placere* to please]

plead (plēd) *v.* **plead·ed** or **pled** (pled), **plead·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To make earnest entreaty; beg. **2.** *Law* **a** To advocate a case in court. **b** To file a pleading. **—** *v.t.* **3.** To allege as an excuse or defense. **4.** *Law* To discuss or maintain (a case) by argument. [See PLEA.] **— plead′a·ble** *adj.* **— plead′er** *n.*

plead·ing (plē′ding) *n.* **1.** The act of making a plea. **2.** *Law* **a** The art, science, or system of preparing the formal written statements of the parties to an action. **b** *Usu. pl.* Any one of such statements. **— plead′ing·ly** *adv.*

pleas·ant (plez′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Giving or promoting pleasure; pleasing. **2.** Agreeable in manner, act, appearance, etc. **3.** Merry; gay. [< OF < L *placere* to please] **— pleas′ant·ly** *adv.* **— pleas′ant·ness** *n.*

pleas·an·try (plez′ən·trē) *n.* *pl.* **·tries 1.** A playful, amusing, or good-natured remark, jest, or trick. **2.** The quality or spirit of pleasant conversation or companionship.

please (plēz) *v.* **pleased, pleas·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give pleasure to; be agreeable to. **2.** To be the wish or will of. **3.** To be so kind as to; be willing to: usu. in the imperative: *Please* pass the bread. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To give satisfaction or pleasure. **5.** To have the will or preference; wish: Go when you *please*. [< OF < L *placere* to please]

— Syn. 1. cheer, gladden, delight, rejoice, exhilarate.

pleas·ing (plē′zing) *adj.* Affording pleasure or satisfaction; gratifying. **— pleas′ing·ly** *adv.* **— pleas′ing·ness** *n.*

pleas·ur·a·ble (plezh′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* Gratifying; pleasant; satisfying. **— pleas′ur·a·ble·ness** *n.* **— pleas′ur·a·bly** *adv.*

pleas·ure (plezh′ər) *n.* **1.** An agreeable sensation or emotion; enjoyment. **2.** Something that gives a feeling of enjoyment, delight, or satisfaction. **3.** Amusement or diversion: a search for *pleasure*. **4.** Sensual gratification. **5.** One's preference; choice. [See PLEASE.]

pleat (plēt) *n.* A fold of cloth doubled on itself and pressed or sewn in place. **—** *v.t.* To make a pleat or pleats in. Also *plait*. [Var. of PLAIT] **— pleat′er** *n.*

plebe (plēb) *n.* *U.S.* A member of the freshman class in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. [Short for PLEBEIAN]

ple·be·ian (pli·bē′ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the common people, esp. those of ancient Rome. **2.** Common or vulgar. **—** *n.* **1.** One of the common people, esp. of ancient Rome. **2.** Anyone who is coarse or vulgar. [< L < *plebs* the common people] **— ple·be′ian·ism** *n.*

pleb·i·scite (pleb′ə·sīt, -sit) *n.* An expression of the popular will by means of a vote by the whole people, as to change a constitution. [< F < L < *plebs* common people + *scitum* decree] **— ple·bis·ci·tar·y** (plə·bis′ə·ter′ē) *adj.*

plec·trum (plek′trəm) *n.* *pl.* **·trums** or **·tra** (-trə) A small implement with which the player on a lyre, guitar, etc., picks or strikes the strings: also called *pick*. Also **plec′tron** (-tron). [< L < Gk. < *plessein* to strike]

pled (pled) Alternate past tense and past participle of PLEAD.

pledge (plej) *v.t.* **pledged, pledg·ing 1.** To give or deposit as security for a loan, etc. **2.** To bind by or as by a pledge.

3. To promise solemnly, as assistance. **4.** To offer (one's word, life, etc.) as a guaranty or forfeit. **5.** To drink a toast to. **6.** To promise to join (a fraternity). **7.** To accept (someone) as a pledge (def. 6). — *n.* **1.** A promise or agreement to perform or fulfill some act, contract, or duty. **2.** A formal promise to do or not to do something. **3.** The drinking of a toast to one's health, etc. **4.** Something given as security for a debt or obligation. **5.** The state of being given or held as security: to put property in *pledge*. **6.** One who has promised to join a fraternity but who has not yet been formally inducted. [< OF < Med.L *plebium*, prob. < Gmc.] — **pledg'er** *n.*

pledg·ee (plej·ē′) *n.* **1.** One to whom something is pledged. **2.** One with whom a pledge is deposited.

pledg·or (plej′ər) *n. Law* A pledger. Also **pledge′or.**

-plegia *combining form Pathol.* A (specified) kind of paralysis, or paralytic condition: *hemiplegia*. Also **-plegy.** [< Gk. < *plēgē* stroke]

Plei·a·des (plē′ə·dēz, plī′-) *n.pl.* **1.** In Greek mythology, the seven daughters of Atlas, who were set by Zeus among the stars. **2.** *Astron.* A loose cluster of many hundred stars in the constellation Taurus, six of which are visible to ordinary sight.

Plei·o·cene (plī′ə·sēn) See PLIOCENE.

Pleis·to·cene (plīs′tə·sēn) *Geol. adj.* Of or pertaining to the earlier of the two epochs of the Quaternary, characterized by the glacial epoch of northern Asia, Europe, and North America. — *n.* The rock series of this epoch. See chart for GEOLOGY. [< Gk. *pleistos* most + *kainos* recent]

ple·na·ry (plē′nə·rē, plen′ə-) *adj.* **1.** Full in all respects or requisites; complete. **2.** Fully or completely attended, as an assembly. [< LL < L *plenus* full] — **ple′na·ri·ly** *adv.* — **ple′na·ri·ness** *n.*

plenary indulgence In the Roman Catholic Church, the remission of all temporal penalties incurred by sin.

plen·i·po·ten·ti·ar·y (plen′i·pə·ten′shē·er′ē, -shə·rē) *adj.* Possessing or conferring full powers. — *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** A person fully empowered to represent a government, as an ambassador, minister, or envoy. [< Med.L < LL < L *plenus* full + *potens* powerful < *potere* to be able]

plen·i·tude (plen′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* The state of being full, complete, or abounding.

plen·te·ous (plen′tē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by plenty; amply sufficient. **2.** Yielding an abundance. — **plen′te·ous·ly** *adv.* — **plen′te·ous·ness** *n.*

plen·ti·ful (plen′ti·fəl) *adj.* **1.** Existing in great quantity; abundant. **2.** Yielding or containing plenty; affording ample supply. — **plen′ti·ful·ly** *adv.* — **plen′ti·ful·ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Plentiful* suggests comparison with a need or demand, and can be applied to almost anything concrete: wheat is *plentiful* this year, aspirants for movie jobs are always *plentiful*. *Abundant* suggests, in the concrete, the works of nature rather than of man: *abundant* foliage. *Ample* means both just enough and more than enough, and so tends to imply an amount between enough and *plentiful*. — **Ant.** scanty, scarce.

plen·ty (plen′tē) *n.* **1.** The state of being sufficient and in abundance. **2.** As much as can be required; an abundance or sufficiency: I have *plenty*. — *adj.* Existing in abundance; plentiful. — *adv. Informal* In a sufficient degree: The house is *plenty* large enough. [< OF < L *plenus* full]

ple·o·nasm (plē′ə·naz′əm) *n.* **1.** The use of needless words; redundancy; also, an instance of it. **2.** A redundant word or phrase. **3.** Superabundance. [< L < Gk. < *pleōn* more] — **ple′o·nas′tic** (-nas′tik) *adj.* — **ple′o·nas′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

pleth·o·ra (pleth′ər·ə) *n.* **1.** A state of excessive fullness; superfluity. **2.** *Med.* Superabundance of blood in the whole system or in an organ or part. [< LL < Gk. < *plēthein* to be full] — **ple·thor′ic** *adj.* — **ple·thor′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pleu·ra (plōōr′ə) *n. pl.* **pleu·rae** (plōōr′ē) *Anat.* The serous membrane that envelops the lungs and is folded back upon the walls of the thorax and upon the diaphragm. [< Gk. *pleura* side] — **pleu′ral** *adj.*

pleu·ri·sy (plōōr′ə·sē) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the pleura, commonly attended with fever, pain in the chest, difficult breathing, exudation, etc. [< OF < LL < L < Gk. *pleura* side] — **pleu·rit′ic** (plōō·rit′ik) *adj.*

pleuro- *combining form* **1.** Of or pertaining to the side. **2.** *Med.* Of, related to, or affecting the pleura. Also, before vowels, **pleur-.** [< Gk. *pleura* side]

Plex·i·glas (plek′si·glas′, -glās′) *n.* A lightweight thermoplastic acrylic resin, very weather-resistant and highly transparent: a trade name. Also **plex′i·glas, plex′i·glass.**

plex·us (plek′səs) *n. pl.* **plex·us·es** or **plex·us** **1.** A network or complicated interlacing of parts. **2.** *Anat.* A network of cordlike structures, as blood vessels or nerves. [< L, pp. of *plectere* to intertwine]

pli·a·ble (pli′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Easily bent or twisted; flexible. **2.** Easily persuaded or controlled; tractable. — **pli′a·bil′i·ty, pli′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **pli′a·bly** *adv.*

pli·an·cy (pli′ən·sē) *n.* The state or quality of being pliant.

pli·ant (pli′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being bent or twisted with ease. **2.** Easily yielding to influence; compliant. [< OF, ppr. of *plier* < L *plicare* to fold] — **pli′ant·ly** *adv.*

pli·cate (pli′kāt) *adj.* Folded or pleated, as a fan. Also **pli′·cat·ed.** — **pli′cate·ness** *n.* — **pli′cate·ly** *adv.* — **pli·ca′·tion, plic·a·ture** (plik′ə·chōōr) *n.*

pli·er (pli′ər) *n.* **1.** *pl.* Small pincers for bending, holding, or cutting: also **pair of pliers.** **2.** One who or that which plies.

plight[1] (plīt) *n.* A condition, state, or circumstance, usu. of a dangerous or complicated nature. [< AF *plit* fold, condition < OF *pleit*]

plight[2] (plīt) *v.t.* **1.** To pledge (one's word, faith, etc.). **2.** To promise, as in marriage; betroth. — **to plight one's troth** **1.** To pledge one's solemn word. **2.** To promise oneself in marriage. [OE *plihtan* to expose to danger] — **plight′er** *n.*

Plim·soll mark (plim′sol, -səl) A mark painted on the outside of the hull of a British vessel to show how deeply she may be loaded. Also **Plimsoll line.** [after Samuel *Plimsoll*, 1824–98, English statesman]

plinth (plinth) *n. Archit.* **1.** The slab, block, or stone, usu. square, on which a column, pedestal, or statue rests. **2.** A thin course, as of slabs, usu. projecting beneath a wall: also **plinth course.** [< L < Gk. *plinthos* brick]

Pli·o·cene (pli′ə·sēn) *Geol. adj.* Of or pertaining to the latest epoch of the Tertiary, and succeeded by the Pleistocene. — *n.* The Pliocene epoch or rock series. Also spelled *Pleiocene*. See chart for GEOLOGY. [< Gk. *pleiōn* more + *kainos* new] — **Pli′o·cen′ic** (-sen′ik) *adj.*

plod (plod) *v.* **plod·ded, plod·ding** *v.i.* **1.** To walk heavily or laboriously. **2.** To work in a steady, laborious manner. — *v.t.* **3.** To walk along heavily or laboriously. — *n.* **1.** The act or duration of plodding. **2.** The sound of a heavy step, as of a horse. [Imit.] — **plod′der** *n.* — **plod′ding·ly** *adv.*

-ploid *combining form Biol.* In cytology and genetics, having a (specified) number of chromosomes: *polyploid*. Corresponding nouns end in **-ploidy.** [< Gk. *-ploos* fold + -OID]

plop (plop) *v.t. & v.i.* **plopped, plop·ping** To drop with a sound like that of something striking the water without making a splash. — *n.* The act or sound of plopping. — *adv.* Suddenly with a plopping sound. [Imit.]

plo·sion (plō′zhən) *n. Phonet.* The sudden release of breath after closure of the oral passage in the articulation of a stop consonant, as after the *p* in *pat*. [< EXPLOSION]

plo·sive (plō′siv) *Phonet. adj.* Designating a sound produced by plosion. — *n.* A consonant so produced; a stop.

plot (plot) *n.* **1.** A piece or patch of ground, usu. used for some special purpose. **2.** A chart or diagram, as of a building, for showing certain data; also, a surveyor's map. **3.** A secret plan to accomplish some questionable purpose; conspiracy. **4.** The scheme or pattern of the events, incidents, or situations of a story, play, etc. — *v.* **plot·ted, plot·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To make a map, chart, or plan of, as of a ship's course, a building, etc. **2.** To plan for secretly. **3.** To arrange the plot of (a novel, etc.). **4.** *Math.* **a** To represent graphically the position of (a measured value) by a point located with reference to its coordinates on graph paper. **b** To draw (a curve) through a series of such points. — *v.i.* **5.** To form a plot; scheme. [OE] — **plot′ter** *n.*

plov·er (pluv′ər, plō′vər) *n.* **1.** Any of various shore birds, having long, pointed wings and a short tail. **2.** Any of certain related shore birds, as the **upland plover.** [< OF *plovier*, ult. < L *pluvia* rain]

plow (plou) *n.* **1.** An implement for cutting, turning over, stirring, or breaking up the soil, usu. drawn by horses or oxen, or by mechanical power. **2.** Any implement that operates like a plow: often in combination: a *snowplow*. — *v.t.* **1.** To turn up the surface of (land) with a plow. **2.** To make or form (a furrow, one's way, etc.) by or as by means of a plow. **3.** To furrow or score the surface of: Shot *plowed* the field. **4.** To dig out or remove with a plow: with *up* or *out*. **5.** To move or cut through (water). — *v.i.* **6.** To turn up soil with a plow. **7.** To undergo plowing in a specified way, as land. **8.** To move or proceed as a plow does: usu. with *through* or *into*. **9.** To advance laboriously; plod. — **to plow into** *Informal* **1.** To hit hard. **2.** To undertake vigorously to accomplish, finish, or solve (a meal, problem, etc.). Also, *esp. Brit.*, **plough.** [OE *plōh*, prob. < ON *plógr*] — **plow′a·ble** *adj.* — **plow′er** *n.*

plow·boy (plou′boi′) *n.* **1.** A boy who drives or guides a team in plowing. **2.** A country boy. Also **plough′boy′.**

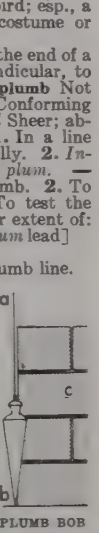
plow·man (plou′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** One who plows. **2.** A farmer; rustic. Also **plough′man.**

plow·share (plou′shâr′) *n.* The blade of a plow. Also **plough′share′.**

ploy (ploi) *n.* A maneuver or stratagem, as in a game or conversation. [< EMPLOY]

pluck (pluk) *v.t.* **1.** To pull out or off; pick. **2.** To pull with force; snatch or drag: with *off*, *away*, etc. **3.** To pull out the feathers, hair, etc., of. **4.** To give a twitch or pull to, as a sleeve. **5.** To cause the strings of (a musical instrument) to sound by quickly pulling or picking them. **6.** *Slang* To rob; swindle. — *v.i.* **7.** To give a sudden pull;

tug: with *at*. — **to pluck up** To rouse or summon (one's courage). — *n.* **1.** Confidence and spirit in the face of difficulty or danger. **2.** A sudden pull; twitch. — **pluck'er** *n.*
pluck·y (pluk'ē) *adj.* **pluck·i·er, pluck·i·est** Brave and spirited; courageous. — **pluck'i·y** *adv.* — **pluck'i·ness** *n.*
plug (plug) *n.* **1.** Anything, as a piece of wood or a cork, used to stop a hole. **2.** *Electr.* A usu. two-pronged device attached to the end of a wire or cable and inserted in a socket or jack to make a connection. **3.** A spark plug. **4.** A fireplug. **5.** A flat cake of pressed or twisted tobacco. **6.** A piece of tobacco for chewing. **7.** *Informal* Anything useless or defective. **8.** *Informal* An old, worn-out horse. **9.** *Slang* A favorable word, recommendation, or piece of publicity for someone or something. **10.** *Geol.* A core of hard, igneous rock that has filled the neck of a volcano. — *v.* **plugged, plug·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To stop or close, as a hole, by inserting a plug; often with *up*. **2.** To insert as a plug. **3.** *Slang* To shoot a bullet into. **4.** *Slang* To hit or punch. **5.** *Slang* To advertise frequently or insistently. — *v.i.* **6.** *Informal* To work doggedly. **7.** *Slang* To hit or shoot. **8.** *Slang* To favor or work for a cause, person, etc.: usu. with *for*. — **to plug in** To insert the plug of (a lamp, etc.) in an electrical outlet. [< MDu. *plugge*] — **plug'ger** *n.*
plug-ug·ly (plug'ug'lē) *n. pl.* **·lies** *U.S. Slang* A gangster, ruffian, or rowdy.
plum[1] (plum) *n.* **1.** The edible fruit of any of various trees of the rose family. **2.** The tree itself. **3.** The plumlike fruit of any of various other trees; also, a tree bearing such fruit. **4.** A raisin, esp. as used in cooking. **5.** Any of various shades of dark, reddish purple. **6.** The best or most choice part of anything. **7.** Something desirable, as a post or appointment. **8.** A sugarplum. [OE *plūme* < LL < L *prunum* < Gk. *prounon*]
plum[2] (plum) See PLUMB (*adj.* def. 2 and *adv.* def. 2).
plum·age (plōō'mij) *n.* **1.** The feathers of a bird; esp., a bird's entire covering of feathers. **2.** Gaudy costume or adornment. [< F < *plume* plume]
plumb (plum) *n.* A lead weight (*plumb bob*) on the end of a line (*plumb line*) used to find the exact perpendicular, to sound the depth of water, etc. — **off** (or **out of**) **plumb** Not exactly vertical; not in alignment. — *adj.* **1.** Conforming to a true vertical or perpendicular. **2.** *Informal* Sheer; absolute; complete: also spelled *plum*. — *adv.* **1.** In a line perpendicular to the plane of the horizon; vertically. **2.** *Informal* Utterly; completely; entirely: also spelled *plum*. — *v.t.* **1.** To test the perpendicularity of with a plumb. **2.** To make vertical; straighten: usu. with *up*. **3.** To test the depth of; sound. **4.** To reach the lowest level or extent of: to *plumb* the depths of despair. [< F < L *plumbum* lead]
plumb- Var. of PLUMBO-.
plumb bob The weight used at the end of a plumb line.
plumb·er (plum'ər) *n.* One whose occupation is the installing or repiaring of plumbing.
plumb·er's friend (plum'ərz) A plunger (def. 3).
plumb·ing (plum'ing) *n.* **1.** The art or trade of putting into buildings the tanks, pipes, etc., for water, gas, sewage, etc. **2.** The pipe system of a building. **3.** The act of sounding for depth, etc., with a plumb line.
plumb line **1.** A cord by which a weight is suspended to test the perpendicularity or depth of something. **2.** Such a cord.
plumbo- *combining form* Lead; of or containing lead. Also, before vowels, *plumb-*. [< L *plumbum* lead]
plume (plōōm) *n.* **1.** A feather, esp. when long and ornamental. **2.** A large feather or tuft of feathers used as an ornament. **3.** *Biol.* A feather-like form or part. **4.** Plumage. **5.** Anything resembling a plume. **6.** A decoration of honor or achievement. — *v.t.* **plumed, plum·ing** **1.** To adorn, dress, or furnish with or as with plumes. **2.** To smooth (itself or its feathers); preen. **3.** To congratulate or pride (oneself): with *on* or *upon*. [< F < L *pluma*]



PLUMB BOB
a Plumb line.
b Plumb bob.
c Wall.

plum·met (plum'it) *n.* **1.** A plumb bob. **2.** Something that oppresses or weighs down. — *v.i.* To drop straight down; plunge. [< OF *plom* < L *plumbum* lead]
plu·mose (plōō'mōs) *adj.* **1.** Bearing feathers or plumes. **2.** Plumelike; feathery. [< L *pluma* feather] — **plu'mose·ly** *adv.* — **plu·mos·i·ty** (plōō·mos'ə·tē) *n.*
plump[1] (plump) *adj.* **1.** Somewhat fat; chubby. **2.** Well filled or rounded out. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become plump: often with *up* or *out*. [< MDu., var. of *plomp* blunt] — **plump'ly** *adv.* — **plump'ness** *n.*
plump[2] (plump) *v.i.* **1.** To fall suddenly or heavily; drop with full impact. **2.** To give one's complete support: with *for*. **3.** To come or go abruptly or in a hurry: with *in* or *out*. — *v.t.* **4.** To drop or throw down heavily or all at once. **5.** To utter bluntly or abruptly: often with *out*. — *n.* **1.** The act of plumbing or falling. **2.** The sound made by this. — *adj.* Containing no reservation or qualification; blunt; downright. — *adv.* **1.** With a sudden impact or sound. **2.** Straightforwardly; bluntly. **3.** Straight down. [< MDu. *plompen*; ult. imit.] — **plump'er** *n.* — **plump'ly** *adv.*
plum·y (plōō'mē) *adj.* **plum·i·er, plum·i·est** **1.** Made of, covered, or adorned with feathers. **2.** Like a plume or feather.
plun·der (plun'dər) *v.t.* **1.** To rob of goods or property by open violence, as in war; pillage. **2.** To despoil by robbery or fraud. **3.** To take as plunder. — *v.i.* **4.** To take plunder. — *n.* **1.** That which is taken by plundering; booty. **2.** The act of plundering or robbing. [< G < MHG *plundern*, orig., to remove household goods] — **plun'der·er** *n.*
plunge (plunj) *v.* **plunged, plung·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To thrust or force suddenly into a fluid, penetrable substance, hole, etc. **2.** To force into some condition or state: to *plunge* a nation into debt. — *v.i.* **3.** To dive, jump, or fall into a fluid, chasm, etc. **4.** To move suddenly or with a rush. **5.** To move violently forward and downward, as a horse or ship. **6.** To descend abruptly or steeply, as a road or cliff. **7.** *Informal* To gamble or speculate heavily. — *n.* **1.** The act of plunging; a leap; dive. **2.** A sudden and violent motion, as of a breaking wave. **3.** A place for diving or swimming. **4.** A swim. **5.** A heavy or extravagant bet, expenditure, or speculation. [< OF *plongier*, ult. < L *plumbum* lead]
plung·er (plun'jər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which plunges. **2.** *Informal* One who gambles recklessly. **3.** A cuplike device made of rubber and attached to a stick, used to clean out clogged drains, etc.: also called *plumber's friend*. **4.** *Mech.* Any appliance having a plunging motion, as a piston.
plunk (plungk) *Informal v.t.* **1.** To pluck, as a banjo or its strings; strum. **2.** To place or throw heavily and suddenly: with *down*. — *v.i.* **3.** To emit a twanging sound. **4.** To fall heavily. — *n.* A heavy blow, or its sound. — *adv.* Directly; exactly: *plunk* in the middle. [Imit.]
plu·per·fect (plōō·pûr'fikt) *n. Gram.* The past perfect. [< L *plus quam perfectus*, lit., more than completed]
plu·ral (plōōr'əl) *adj.* **1.** Containing, consisting of, or designating more than one. **2.** *Gram.* Of or designating a linguistic form that denotes more than one (in languages that have dual number, as Sanskrit and Greek, more than two): distinguished from *dual*, *singular*. — *n. Gram.* The plural number or a word in this number. [< OF < L < *plus*, *pluris* more] — **plu'·ral·ly** *adv.*

◆ English nouns regularly form their plurals by adding *s* to the singular. However, nouns that end in *y* preceded either by a consonant or by *qu* form their plurals by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*, as, body, *bodies*, city, *cities*, colloquy, *colloquies*; if the *y* is preceded by a vowel (other than *u*), the plural is formed by adding *s*, as, day, *days*, monkey, *monkeys*. Nouns ending in *ss*, *sh*, *ch*, *s*, *x*, and *zz* usually form their plurals by adding *es*, as, brass, *brasses*, crash, *crashes*, crutch, *crutches*, gas, *gases*, box, *boxes*, buzz, *buzzes*. Many nouns ending in *f* change the *f* to *v* and add *es*, as, wolf, *wolves*, half, *halves*. Nouns ending in *o* form their plurals by adding either *s* or *es*, and the preferable form will be found at the word entry. Some nouns of Old English origin have an irregular plural in *en*, as, child, *children*; and some form the plural by a vowel change, as mouse, *mice*; goose, *geese*; man, *men*. A few nouns retain the singular form unchanged in the plural, as, *deer*, *hose*, *moose*, *series*. Some such nouns, especially the names of animals, have also an alternative plural regularly formed, as fish, *fish* or *fishes*. *Fish* is the usual collective plural; *fishes* is used to indicate more than one genus, variety, species, etc. Many words of foreign derivation retain the plural forms peculiar to the languages from which they are derived, as, addendum, *addenda*; crisis, *crises*; datum, *data*. Many nouns of this class have also a plural of the regular English form, as, appendix, *appendixes* or *appendices*; beau, *beaus* or *beaux*; cherub, *cherubs* or *cherubim*; focus, *focuses* or *foci*. Compounds commonly form the plural regularly by adding *s* or *es* to the complete word, as, armful, *armfuls*; football, *footballs*. If the last element of the compound forms its plural irregularly, the same form usually appears in the plural of the compound, as, footman, *footmen*. Some nouns that end in *-man*, but are not compounds, form the plural regularly by adding *s*, as, Mussulman, *Mussulmans*. Hyphenated compounds in which the principal word forms the first element change that element to form the plural, as, father-in-law, *fathers-in-law*.

plu·ral·ism (plōōr'əl·iz'əm) *n.* **1.** The condition of being plural. **2.** A social condition in which disparate religious, ethnic, and racial groups are part of a common community. **3.** *Eccl.* The holding at the same time of more than one office. **4.** *Philos.* The doctrine that there are several ulti-

mate substances. Compare DUALISM, MONISM. — **plu'ral·ist** *n.* — **plu'ral·is'tic** *adj.*

plu·ral·i·ty (plo͞o·ral'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** In U.S. politics: **a** The number of votes cast for a candidate over and above the number cast for his nearest opponent. **b** In a contest having more than two candidates, the greatest number of votes cast for any one candidate but not more than half the total number of votes cast. Distinguished from *majority*. **2.** The larger or greater portion of anything. **3.** The state or condition of being plural or numerous.

plu·ral·ize (plo͞or'əl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To make plural. **2.** To express in the plural. — **plu'ral·i·za'tion** *n.*

pluri- *combining form* More; many; several. [< L *plus, pluris* more]

plus (plus) *prep.* **1.** Added to: Three *plus* two equals five. **2.** Increased by: salary *plus* commission. — *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or involving addition. **2.** Extra; supplemental. **3.** Denoting a value higher than ordinary in a specified grade: B *plus*. **4.** Positive: a *plus* quantity. **5.** *Informal* More of something than can be stated or described: He has personality *plus*. **6.** *Electr.* Positive. — *n. pl.* **plus·es** **1.** The plus sign. **2.** An addition or an extra quantity. **3.** A positive quantity. — *adv. Electr.* Positively. [< L, more]

plus fours Knickerbockers cut very full and bagging below the knees. [Orig. tailor's cant; because they were four inches longer than ordinary knickerbockers]

plush (plush) *n.* A pile fabric of silk, rayon, mohair, etc., having a deeper pile than velvet. — *adj.* **1.** Of plush. **2.** *Slang* Luxurious. [< MF < OF < Ital. < L *pilus* hair]

plush·y (plush'ē) *adj.* **plush·i·er, plush·i·est** Of or resembling plush. — **plush'i·ly** *adv.*

plus sign A sign (+) denoting addition or a positive quantity.

Plu·to (plo͞o'tō) In Greek and Roman mythology, the god of the dead. — *n.* A planet of the solar system, ninth in order from the sun. See PLANET. [< L < Gk. *Ploutōn*]

plu·toc·ra·cy (plo͞o·tok'rə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** Government by the wealthy. **2.** A wealthy class that controls the government. [< Gk. *ploutos* wealth + *krateein* to rule]

plu·to·crat (plo͞o'tə·krat) *n.* **1.** A member of a plutocracy. **2.** *Informal* Any wealthy person. — **plu'to·crat'ic, plu'to·crat'i·cal** *adj.* — **plu'to·crat'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

plu·ton·ic (plo͞o·ton'ik) *adj. Geol.* Deeply subterranean in original position: said of igneous rocks. [< L *Pluto, -onis*]

plu·to·ni·um (plo͞o·tō'nē·əm) *n.* A radioactive element (symbol Pu), formed in the bombardment of neptunium by deuterons. See ELEMENT. [< NL < *Pluto* (the planet)]

Plu·tus (plo͞o'təs) In Greek mythology, the god of riches, blinded by Zeus. [< L < Gk. *Ploutos* < *ploutos* wealth]

plu·vi·al (plo͞o'vē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to rain. **2.** Caused by the action of rain. [< L *pluvia* rain]

pluvio- *combining form* Rain; pertaining to rain. Also before vowels, **pluvi-**. [< L *pluvia* rain]

ply[1] (plī) *v.t.* **plied, ply·ing** To bend; mold; shape. — *n. pl.* **plies** **1.** A layer, fold, or thickness, as of cloth, etc. **2.** A strand of rope, yarn, thread, etc.; used in combination to mean (a certain) number of folds, twists, or strands: three-*ply* yarn. **3.** A bent; inclination. [< F < L *plicare* to fold]

ply[2] (plī) *v.* **plied, ply·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To use in working, fighting, etc.; wield; employ. **2.** To work at; be engaged in. **3.** To supply with or offer repeatedly: to *ply* a person with drink. **4.** To address (a person) repeatedly with questions, requests, etc. **5.** To strike or assail persistently: He *plied* the donkey with a whip. **6.** To traverse regularly: ferryboats that *ply* the river. — *v.i.* **7.** To make regular trips; sail: usu. with *between*. **8.** To work steadily. **9.** To proceed; steer. **10.** *Naut.* To beat; tack. [< APPLY]

Plymouth Rock One of a breed of domestic fowls. [after *Plymouth Rock*]

ply·wood (plī'wo͝od') *n.* A structural material consisting of sheets or layers of wood glued together, the grains of adjoining layers usu. being at right angles to each other.

pneu·mat·ic (no͞o·mat'ik, nyo͞o-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to pneumatics. **2.** Operated by compressed air. **3.** Pertaining to or containing air or gas. **4.** Spiritual. **5.** Containing air, as cavities in the bones of certain birds. Also **pneu·mat'i·cal.** — *n.* A tire inflated with compressed air. [< L < Gk. < *pneuma* breath, wind] — **pneu·mat'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pneu·mat·ics (no͞o·mat'iks, nyo͞o-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of physics that treats of the mechanical properties of air and other gases.

pneumato- *combining form* **1.** Air. **2.** Breath; breathing. **3.** Spirit; spirits. Also, before vowels, **pneumat-**. [< Gk. *pneuma, pneumatos* air, spirit, breath < *pneein* to blow]

pneu·ma·tol·o·gy (no͞o'mə·tol'ə·jē, nyo͞o'-) *n. pl.* **·gies** The doctrine or study of the nature and operation of spirit and spiritual beings. — **pneu'ma·to·log'ic** (-tə·loj'ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **pneu'ma·tol'o·gist** *n.*

pneumo- *combining form* Lung; related to the lungs; respiratory. Also **pneum-** (before vowels), **pneumono-**. [< Gk. *pneumōn, pneumonos* a lung]

pneu·mo·coc·cus (no͞o'mə·kok'əs, nyo͞o'-) *n. pl.* **·coc·ci** (-kok'sī) Any of a group of bacteria that inhabit the respiratory tract, some of which cause lobar pneumonia. — **pneu'mo·coc'cal, pneu'mo·coc'cic** (-kok'sik) *adj.*

pneu·mo·nia (no͞o·mōn'yə, nyo͞o-) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the lungs, a disease of bacterial or viral origin occurring in many forms, as **bronchial pneumonia** or **lobar pneumonia.** [< NL < Gk. < *pneumōn* lung]

pneu·mon·ic (no͞o·mon'ik, nyo͞o-) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or affected with pneumonia. **2.** Pulmonary. [< NL *pneumonicus* < Gk. *pneumonikos* < *pneumōn* lung]

poach[1] (pōch) *v.t.* To cook (eggs, fish, etc.) in boiling water, milk, or other liquid. [< OF *poche* pocket, pouch; because the egg white forms a pouch around the yolk]

poach[2] (pōch) *v.i.* **1.** To trespass on another's property, etc., esp. for the purpose of taking game or fish. **2.** To take game or fish unlawfully. — *v.t.* **3.** To trespass on, as for taking game or fish. **4.** To take (game or fish) unlawfully. [< OF *pocher* to thrust, encroach upon] — **poach'er** *n.*

pock (pok) *n.* **1.** A pustule in an eruptive disease, as in smallpox. **2.** A pockmark. [OE *pocc*]

pock·et (pok'it) *n.* **1.** A small pouch inserted in a garment, for carrying money, etc. **2.** A small bag or pouch. **3.** Any opening, receptacle, or container. **4.** Money, means, or financial interests. **5.** *Mining* **a** A cavity containing ore. **b** An accumulation of ore. **6.** One of the pouches in a billiard or pool table. **7.** An air pocket (which see). **8.** A region or area, usu. small and differentiated in some way from the surrounding area. — **in one's pocket** **1.** On terms of close intimacy. **2.** Under one's influence or control. — *adj.* **1.** Diminutive, as if pocketable. **2.** Pertaining to, for, or carried in a pocket: *pocket* lining. — *v.t.* **1.** To put into or confine in a pocket. **2.** To appropriate as one's own, esp. dishonestly. **3.** To enclose as if in a pocket. **4.** To conceal or suppress: *Pocket* your pride. **5.** To retain without signing. **6.** In billiards, etc., to drive (a ball) into a pocket. [< AF *pokete*, dim. of OF *poque, poche* pouch] — **pock'et·a·ble** *adj.*

pocket billiards Pool[2] (def. 5).

pock·et·book (pok'it·bo͝ok') *n.* **1.** A wallet. **2.** A woman's purse or handbag. **3.** A book, usu. paperbound and smaller than standard size: also **pocket book.** **4.** Money or financial resources.

pock·et·ful (pok'it·fo͝ol') *n. pl.* **·fuls** As much as a pocket will hold.

pock·et·knife (pok'it·nīf') *n. pl.* **·knives** (-nīvz') A knife having one or more blades that fold into the handle.

pocket money Money for small expenses.

pocket veto *U.S.* An act whereby the President, on being presented a bill by Congress for his signature of approval, retains ("pockets") it unsigned until the session has adjourned, thus causing it to fail without a direct veto.

pock-mark (pok'märk') *n.* A pit or scar left on the skin by smallpox or a similar disease. — **pock'-marked'** *adj.*

pock·y (pok'ē) *adj.* **pock·i·er, pock·i·est** **1.** Pertaining to, resembling, or affected with smallpox. **2.** Marked by pocks.

po·co (pō'kō) *adv. Music* Slightly; a little. [< Ital.]

pod[1] (pod) *n.* **1.** A seed vessel or capsule, esp. of a leguminous plant. **2.** *Aeron.* A separate enclosure on an aircraft, esp. one beneath the wing for a jet engine. — *v.i.* **pod·ded, pod·ding** To produce pods. [Origin unknown]

pod[2] (pod) *n.* A flock or collection of animals, esp. of seals, whales, or walruses. [Origin unknown]

-pod *combining form* **1.** One who or that which has (a specified number or kind of) feet: *arthropod*. **2.** A (specified kind of) foot. Also **-pode.** [< Gk. *pous, podos* foot]

-poda *combining form Zool.* Plural of **-POD**: used in names of phyla, orders, classes, etc.: *Arthropoda*.

podg·y (poj'ē) *adj.* **podg·i·er, podg·i·est** Pudgy. [< dial. *podge* to walk slowly and heavily] — **podg'i·ness** *n.*

po·di·a·try (pə·dī'ə·trē, pō-) *n.* Chiropody. [< Gk. *pous, podos* foot + **-IATRY**] — **po·di'a·trist** *n.*

po·di·um (pō'dē·əm) *n. pl.* **·di·ums** or **·di·a** (-dē·ə) **1.** A small platform or dais for the conductor of an orchestra, a speaker, etc. **2.** *Zool.* A foot, or any footlike structure. [< L < Gk. *podion*, dim. of *pous, podos* foot]

-podium *combining form* A footlike part. [< NL < Gk. *podion*, dim. of *pous, podos* a foot]

-podous *combining form* -footed: used in adjectives corresponding to nouns in *-pod* and *-poda*: *arthropodous*.

Po·dunk (pō'dungk) *n.* Any small town regarded as dull and nonprogressive. [? after *Podunk*, Massachusetts]

po·em (pō'əm) *n.* **1.** A composition in verse, characterized by the imaginative treatment of experience and a condensed use of language. **2.** Any composition in verse. **3.** Any composition or work of art characterized by intensity and beauty. [< F < L < Gk. *poiein* to make]

po·e·sy (pō'ə·sē, -zē) *n. pl.* **·sies** **1.** *Poetic* Poetry taken collectively. **2.** *Poetic* The art of writing poetry.

po·et (pō'it) *n.* **1.** One who writes poems. **2.** One esp. endowed with imagination and the creative faculty or power of artistic expression. — **po'et·ess** *n.fem.*

po·et·as·ter (pō′it·as′tər) *n.* An inferior poet. [< NL]
po·et·ic (pō·et′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a poet or poetry. **2.** Having the nature or quality of or expressed in poetry: a *poetic* theme. **3.** Having or showing the sensibility, feelings, faculty, etc., of a poet. Also **po·et′i·cal.**
poetic justice The ideal distribution of rewards to the good and punishment to the evil as often represented in literature.
poetic license The departure from fact or rigid rule for the sake of an artistic effect.
po·et·ics (pō·et′iks) *n.pl.* (*usu. construed as sing.*) **1.** The nature, principles, and forms of poetry or, by extension, of any art. **2.** A treatise on poetry.
po·et·ize (pō′it·īz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To write or express in poetry. — **po′et·iz′er** *n.*
poet laureate *pl.* **poets laureate** **1.** In Great Britain, the official poet of the realm, a member of the royal household charged with writing verses for particular occasions. **2.** A poet acclaimed as the most eminent in a locality.
po·et·ry (pō′it·rē) *n.* **1.** The art or craft of writing poems. **2.** Poems collectively. **3.** The quality, effect, or spirit of a poem or of anything poetic. **4.** Something that is poetic.
po·go stick (pō′gō) A stiltlike toy, with a spring at the base and fitted with two projections for the feet, on which a person may stand and propel himself in a series of hops.
po·grom (pō′grəm, pō·grom′) *n.* An organized and often officially instigated local massacre, esp. one directed against the Jews. [< Russian, destruction]
po·gy (pō′gē, pog′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·gies** or **·gy** The menhaden, a fish. [< Algonquian *pauhagen*]
poi (poi, pō′ē) *n.* A native Hawaiian food made from the root of the taro that is first cooked, ground to a paste, then fermented. [< Hawaiian]
-poietic *combining form* Making; producing; creating. [< Gk. *poiētikos* forming < *poiein* to make]
poign·ant (poin′yənt, poi′nənt) *adj.* **1.** Painful and afflicting to the feelings: *poignant* grief. **2.** Piercing, sharp, and cutting: *poignant* sarcasm. **3.** Penetrating and apt: *poignant* observations. [< OF, ppr. of *poindre* to prick] — **poign′an·cy** *n.* — **poign′ant·ly** *adv.*
poi·lu (pwȧ·lü′) *French adj.* Hairy. — *n.* A French soldier, esp. of World War I.
poin·ci·a·na (poin′sē·a′nə, -ān′ə) *n.* **1.** A tropical tree or shrub of the bean family. **2.** A similar tree, the **royal poinciana**, having bright orange and scarlet flowers. [< NL, after M. de *Poinci*, a 17th c. governor of the West Indies]
poin·set·ti·a (poin·set′ē·ə) *n.* Any of various American plants of the spurge family, having large, showy red bracts. [after J. R. *Poinsett*, 1779–1851, U.S. statesman]
point (point) *n.* **1.** The sharp, tapering end of a thing. **2.** Something sharp or tapering, as a needle or dagger. **3.** In printing or writing, a dot, mark, etc. **4.** Any mark of punctuation, esp. a period. **5.** That which is conceived to have position, but not parts, dimension, or extent, as the extremity of a line. **6.** A spot, place, or locality. **7.** A tapering tract of land extending into water. **8.** A fixed place from which position and distance are reckoned. **9.** A particular degree, state, or limit reached or determined: the boiling *point*. **10.** One of the 32 equal divisions that indicate direction on a mariner's compass card, each division equal to an angular distance of 11° 15′, reckoning from north at 0°. For illustration see COMPASS CARD. **11.** A particular moment of time: on the *point* of starting; at the *point* of death. **12.** The important or main purpose or aim: the whole *point* of the inquiry. **13.** Advantage: What's the *point* of telling her? **14.** The main idea; gist: the *point* of the joke. **15.** An important, striking, or effective fact, idea, etc.: She has some good *points* in her argument. **16.** A tip, idea, or suggestion. **17.** Any single item or particular; detail. **18.** A prominent or distinguishing feature, attribute, or peculiarity. **19.** *pl.* The extremities of an animal, as a horse. **20.** A spike or prong on the antler of a deer. **21.** A unit, as in measuring, evaluating, rating, scoring, etc.: A touchdown equals six *points*. **22.** In schools and colleges, a unit of credit equal to a certain number of hours of academic work. **23.** *Printing* A unit of type size, about 1/72 of an inch. **24.** In commerce, one dollar, used in quoting prices of stocks, etc.: Wheat fell four *points*. **25.** The attitude of a pointer or setter when it finds game: The dog came to a *point*. **26.** *Electr.* **a** A contact or conducting part for making or breaking a circuit, as in a distributor, relay, etc. **b** *Brit.* An outlet or socket. **27.** *Brit.* In railroads, a movable rail that tapers to a point, as in a switch. **28.** *Mil.* The individual or group that goes ahead of an advance guard. **29.** The act of pointing. **30.** *Electr.* Any of a set of contacts determining the direction of current flow in a circuit. — **at** (or **on, upon**) **the point of** On the verge of. — **beside the point** Irrelevant. — **in point** Pertinent. — **in point of** In the matter of; as regards. — **to make a point of** To treat as vital or essential. — **to see the point** To understand the purpose of a course of action; get the important meaning of a story, joke, etc. — **to stretch a point** To make an exception. — **to the point** Relevant; apt. — *v.t.* **1.** To direct or aim, as a finger or weapon. **2.** To indicate; direct attention to: often with *out*: to *point* the way; to *point* out errors. **3.** *Chiefly U.S.* To give force or point to, as a meaning or remark: often with *up*. **4.** To shape or sharpen to a point. **5.** To punctuate, as writing. **6.** To mark or separate with points, as decimal fractions: with *off*. **7.** In hunting, to indicate the presence or location of (game) by standing rigid and directing the muzzle toward it: said of dogs **8.** In masonry, to fill and finish the joints of (brickwork) with mortar. — *v.i.* **9.** To call attention or indicate direction by or as by extending the finger: usually with *at* or *to*. **10.** To direct the mind: Everything *points* to your being wrong. **11.** To be directed; have a specified direction; tend; face: with *to* or *toward*. **12.** To point game: said of hunting dogs. **13.** *Med.* To come to a head, as an abscess. **14.** *Naut.* To sail close to the wind. [< OF *point* dot and *pointe* sharp tip]
point-blank (point′blangk′) *adj.* **1.** Aimed directly at the mark; in gunnery, fired horizontally. **2.** Close enough to aim directly at the mark: *pointblank* range. **3.** Direct; plain: a *pointblank* question. — *n.* A shot with direct aim. — *adv.* **1.** In a straight line; from close range. **2.** Directly; without circumlocution. [? < F *de pointe en blanc* from a point into the white (of a target)]
point·ed (poin′tid) *adj.* **1.** Having a point. **2.** Sharply precise and cutting, as an epigram. **3.** Made clearly evident; emphasized. **4.** Directed or aimed, as at a particular person. — **point′ed·ly** *adv.* — **point′ed·ness** *n.*
point·er (poin′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which points. **2.** A hand, index finger, or other indicator, as on a clock or scale. **3.** A long tapering rod used in classrooms to point out things. **4.** One of a breed of smooth-haired dogs trained to scent and point out game. **5.** *Informal* A hint; tip.
pointes (points) *n.pl.* In ballet, dancing on tiptoe. [< F]
poin·til·lism (pwan′tə·liz′əm) *n.* In painting, a method of producing effects of light by placing small spots of varying hues close together on a surface. [< F < *pointiller* to mark with dots] — **point′til·list** *n.*
point lace Needlepoint (def. 2).
point·less (point′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no point; blunt. **2.** Having no relevance or meaning. **3.** Having no force; ineffective. **4.** Having no points scored. — **point′less·ly** *adv.* — **point′less·ness** *n.*
point of honor Something that vitally affects one's honor.
point of no return That stage or position in any enterprise, course, action, etc., beyond which there can be no return to the starting point; a state of total commitment.
point of order A question as to whether or not the correct parliamentary procedure is being observed.
point of view **1.** The place or position from which one views an object, situation etc. **2.** An attitude or viewpoint.
poise (poiz) *v.* **poised, pois·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To bring into or hold in balance; maintain in equilibrium. **2.** To hold; support, as in readiness. — *v.i.* **3.** To be balanced or suspended; hover. — *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being balanced; equilibrium. **2.** Repose and dignity of manner; self-possession. **3.** Physical ease or balance. **4.** Any condition of hovering or suspended motion. **5.** Indecision; suspense. [< OF < L *pendere* to weigh, suspend]
poi·son (poi′zən) *n.* **1.** Any substance that, either taken internally by or coming into contact with an organism, acts chemically upon the tissues in such a way as to harm or destroy. **2.** Anything that tends to harm, destroy, or corrupt. — *v.t.* **1.** To administer poison to; kill or injure with poison. **2.** To put poison into or on. **3.** To corrupt; pervert: to *poison* one's mind. — *adj.* Poisonous. [< OF < L *potio, -onis* drink, esp. a poisonous one] — **poi′son·er** *n.*
poison dogwood Poison sumac. Also **poison elder.**
poison ivy A climbing shrub related to sumac, having glossy, variously notched, trifoliate leaves, greenish flowers, whitish berries, and blistering poison.
poison oak **1.** Any of various shrubs related to poison ivy or poison sumac. **2.** A species of poison ivy common in the western U.S.
poi·son·ous (poi′zən·əs) *adj.* **1.** Containing or being a poison. **2.** Having the effect of a poison; toxic. — **poi′son·ous·ly** *adv.* — **poi′son·ous·ness** *n.*
poison sumac A shrub or small tree growing in swamps in

POISON IVY (*a*) AND POISON SUMAC (*b*)

the U.S. and Canada, having smooth, entire leaflets, panicles of greenish yellow berries, and a strong poison.

poke[1] (pōk) *v.* **poked, pok·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To push or prod, as with the elbow; jab. **2.** To make by or as by thrusting. **3.** To thrust or push in, out, through, from, etc.: to *poke* one's head from a window. **4.** To stir (a fire, etc.) by prodding: often with *up*. — *v.i.* **5.** To make thrusts, as with a stick: often with *at*. **6.** To intrude or meddle. **7.** To go or look curiously; pry. **8.** To appear or show. **9.** To proceed slowly; dawdle; putter: often with *along*. — **to poke one's nose into** To meddle in. — **to poke fun at** To ridicule, esp. slyly. — *n.* **1.** A push; prod. **2.** One who moves sluggishly; a dawdler. **3.** *Informal* A punch. [< MLG *poken*]

poke[2] (pōk) *n.* A pocket or small bag. [< OF < Gmc.]

poke[3] (pōk) *n.* A large bonnet with projecting front or brim. Also **poke bonnet**. [Prob. < POKE[1]]

poke·ber·ry (pōk′ber′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A berry of the pokeweed. **2.** The pokeweed plant.

pok·er[1] (pō′kər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which pokes. **2.** A metal rod for poking a fire.

po·ker[2] (pō′kər) *n.* Any of several games of cards in which the players bet on the value of the cards dealt to them, the winner being he whose hand contains the cards of highest value. [Cf. G *pochspiel*, lit., boast game < *pochen* to boast]

poker face *Informal* A face that reveals nothing: so called from the inscrutable faces of skillful poker players.

poke·weed (pōk′wēd′) *n.* A stout perennial North American herb, having purple berries, edible shoots, and a medicinal root: also called *pokeberry*. Also **poke′root′** (-rōōt′, -rŏŏt′). [< Algonquian (Virginian) *pakon* weed used for staining < *pak* blood]

pok·y (pō′kē) *adj.* **pok·i·er, pok·i·est** *Informal* **1.** Lacking briskness; dull; slow. **2.** Shabby or dowdy, as dress. **3.** Cramped; stuffy. Also **poke′y**.

Poland China An American mixed breed of large pigs.

po·lar (pō′lər) *adj.* **1.** Of the poles of a sphere, magnet, etc. **2.** Of, from, or near the North or South Pole. **3.** Directly opposite in character, etc. **4.** *Chem.* Exhibiting ionization. [< Med.L < L < Gk. *polos* pivot, pole]

polar bear A large, white bear of arctic regions.

Po·lar·is (pō·lar′is, -lâr′-) *n.* One of the 20 brightest stars, 2.12 magnitude; Alpha in the constellation Ursa Minor: also called *Cynosure, polestar, North Star*. [< L]

po·lar·i·scope (pō·lar′ə·skōp) *n.* An optical instrument for exhibiting or measuring the polarization of light, or for examining substances in polarized light.

po·lar·i·ty (pō·lar′ə·tē, -lâr′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The quality or condition of having poles. **2.** *Physics* The possession by a body of two poles, the properties at one pole being of opposite or contrasting nature to the properties at the other pole, as in a magnet. **3.** The quality or condition of being attracted to one pole and repelled from the other. **4.** The possession of two contrary qualities, tendencies, etc.

po·lar·i·za·tion (pō′lər·ə·zā′shən, -ī·zā′-) *n.* **1.** The possession or bestowal of polarity. **2.** *Physics* A condition of electromagnetic waves, most noticeable in light, in which one component of its oscillation is limited to a certain plane, as by transmission through variously oriented crystals or other suitable media. **3.** *Electr.* A change in the potential of a cell due to the accumulation of liberated gases.

po·lar·ize (pō′lə·rīz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To develop polarization in; give polarity to. — *v.i.* **2.** To acquire polarity. — **po′lar·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **po′lar·iz′er** *n.*

Po·lar·oid (pō′lə·roid) *n.* A plastic capable of polarizing the light passing through: a trade name. Also **po′lar·oid.**

Polar Regions The areas within the Arctic and Antarctic circles.

pole[1] (pōl) *n.* **1.** Either of the two extremities of the axis of a sphere or any spheroidal body. **2.** One of the two points where the earth's axis of rotation meets the surface, called the North *Pole* and the South *Pole*. **3.** *Physics* One of the two points at which opposite qualities or forces are concentrated, as in a magnet. **4.** Either of two diametrically opposite forces, tendencies, etc. — **to be poles apart** (or **asunder**) To differ greatly. [< OF < L < Gk. *polos* pivot, pole]

pole[2] (pōl) *n.* **1.** A long, comparatively slender piece of wood or metal. **2.** A unit of linear measure, usu. equal to 16.5 feet. **3.** A unit of square measure equal to a square rod or 30.25 square yards. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **poled, pol·ing** To propel or push (a boat, raft, etc.) with a pole. [OE < L *palus* stake]

Pole (pōl) *n.* A native or inhabitant of Poland.

pole·ax (pōl′aks′) *n.* An ax, or a combined ax and pick, set on a long pole; a battle-ax. — *v.t.* To strike or fell with a poleax. Also **pole′axe′**. [ME *pol* poll + AX]

pole·cat (pōl′kat′) *n.* **1.** A European carnivore allied to the weasel, noted for its offensive odor. **2.** *U.S.* A skunk. [< F *poule* pullet + CAT; from its predacity]

po·lem·ic (pō·lem′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to controversy; disputatious. Also **po·lem′i·cal.** — *n.* **1.** An argument or controversy. **2.** One who engages in argument or controversy. [< Gk. < *polemos* war]

po·lem·ics (pō·lem′iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The art or practice of disputation, esp., theological disputation. — **po·lem′i·cist** (-ə·sist) *n.*

pole·star (pōl′stär′) *n.* Polaris.

pole-vault (pōl′vôlt′) *v.i.* To perform a pole vault. — **pole′-vault′er** *n.*

pole vault An athletic event in which a vault or jump over a high, horizontal bar is made with the help of a long pole.

po·lice (pə·lēs′) *n.* **1.** An official civil force or department organized to maintain order, prevent and detect crime, and enforce law. **2.** (*construed as pl.*) The members of such a force. **3.** In a community, the maintenance of order, law, health, safety, etc. **4.** In the U.S. Army: **a** The cleaning or keeping clean of a camp or garrison. **b** A group of soldiers assigned to some specific duty or duties: kitchen *police*. — *v.t.* **·liced, ·lic·ing** **1.** To protect, regulate, or maintain order in (a city, etc.) with or as with police. **2.** *U.S.* To make clean or orderly, as a military camp. [< MF < LL < Gk. < *politēs* citizen < *polis* city]

police dog A German shepherd dog.

po·lice·man (pə·lēs′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A member of a police force.

police state A country whose citizens are rigidly supervised by a national police, often working secretly.

po·lice·wom·an (pə·lēs′wŏŏm′ən) *n. pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) A woman member of a police force.

pol·i·clin·ic (pol′i·klin′ik) *n.* The department of a hospital in which outpatients are treated. Compare POLYCLINIC. [< G < Gk. *polis* city + *klinik* clinic]

pol·i·cy[1] (pol′ə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** Any plan of action, esp. in governmental or business administration: a nation's foreign *policy*. **2.** Prudence, wisdom, or shrewdness, as in conduct or the management of one's affairs; also, any act or plan based on such principles: It was his *policy* always to be silent. [< OF < LL < Gk. *politeia* polity]

pol·i·cy[2] (pol′ə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** A written contract of insurance. [< MF < Ital. < Med.L < Gk. *apodeiknynai* to show forth] — **pol′i·cy·hol′der** *n.*

po·li·o (pō′lē·ō) *n. Informal* Poliomyelitis.

polio- *combining form Med.* Of or pertaining to the gray matter of the brain or the spinal cord. [< Gk. *polios* gray]

pol·i·o·my·e·li·tis (pol′ē·ō·mī′ə·lī′tis, pō′lē-) *n. Pathol.* An acute, infectious virus disease, occurring esp. in children, and characterized by inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord, followed by paralysis and atrophy of various muscle groups: also called *infantile paralysis*. [< NL < Gk. *polios* gray + *myelos* marrow + -ITIS]

pol·ish (pol′ish) *n.* **1.** Smoothness or glossiness of surface. **2.** A substance used to produce a smooth or glossy surface. **3.** Refinement or elegance. **4.** The process of polishing. — *v.t.* **1.** To make smooth or lustrous, as by rubbing. **2.** To complete; perfect. **3.** To free from crudity, etc. — *v.i.* **4.** To take a gloss. **5.** To become elegant or refined. — **to polish off** **1.** To do or finish completely. **2.** To dispose of. — **to polish up** To improve. [< OF < L *polire* to smooth] — **pol′ished** *adj.* — **pol′ish·er** *n.*

Po·lish (pō′lish) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Poland, its inhabitants, or their language. — *n.* The West Slavic language of the Poles.

Po·lit·bu·ro (pol′it·byŏŏr′ō) *n.* The leading committee of the Communist party in the Soviet Union, replaced in 1952 by the Presidium. [< Russian *polit(icheskoe) buro*]

po·lite (pə·līt′) *adj.* **·lit·er, ·lit·est** **1.** Courteous; mannerly. **2.** Refined; cultured; polished: *polite* society. [< L *polire* to polish] — **po·lite′ly** *adv.* — **po·lite′ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Polite* implies punctilious observance of the forms of speech and action customary among well-bred persons. *Civil* is weaker, implying little more than the avoidance of rudeness. To be *courteous* is to be *polite* while having also a warmer regard for the feelings and dignity of others. — **Ant.** impolite, rude, boorish.

po·li·tesse (pō·lē·tes′) *n. French* Politeness; civility.

pol·i·tic (pol′ə·tik) *adj.* **1.** Skillful, ingenious, or shrewd. **2.** Crafty; sly; cunning. **3.** Wise, prudent, or expedient: a *politic* move. **4.** Political: see BODY POLITIC. [< OF < L < Gk. *politēs* citizen < *polis* city] — **pol′i·tic·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** diplomatic, discreet. **2.** wily. **3.** See EXPEDIENT.

po·lit·i·cal (pə·lit′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or concerned with government. **2.** Of, relating to, or involved in politics. **3.** Characteristic of or similar to politics or politicians. **4.** Having an organized system of government. [< L < Gk. *politēs* citizen] — **po·lit′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

political economist A person skilled in political economy.

political economy Economics.

political science The science of the form, principles, and conduct of civil government.

pol·i·ti·cian (pol′ə·tish′ən) *n.* **1.** One who is engaged in politics, esp. professionally. **2.** One who engages in politics for personal or partisan aims. **3.** One who is skilled in the science of government or politics; a statesman.

po·lit·i·co (pə·lit′i·kō) *n. pl.* **·cos** A politician. [< Sp. < L *politicus*]

pol·i·tics (pol′ə·tiks) *n.pl.* (*Usu. construed as sing.*) **1.** The science or art of government. **2.** The affairs or activities of those engaged in controlling or seeking to control a government; also, the profession or area of activity of such persons. **3.** The principles, aims, or policies of a government. **4.** The acts or practices of those who seek any position of power or advantage. **5.** Political opinions. [< OF < L < Gk. *politēs* citizen]

pol·i·ty (pol′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The form or method of government of a nation, state, church, etc. **2.** Any community living under some definite form of government. [< MF < L < Gk. *politeia* polity]

pol·ka (pō′kə, pō′-) *n.* **1.** A lively round dance consisting of three quick steps and a hop. **2.** Music for this dance, in duple meter. — *v.i.* **·kaed, ·ka·ing** To dance the polka. [< F < Czech *pulka* half step < *Polak* a Pole]

polka dot **1.** One of a series of round dots decorating a textile fabric. **2.** A pattern or fabric made up of such dots.

poll (pōl) *n.* **1.** The voting at an election. **2.** The total number of votes cast or registered. **3.** *pl.* The place where votes are cast and counted. **4.** A survey of public opinion on a given subject, usu. obtained from a sample group. **5.** A list of persons. **6.** The head, esp. the top or back of the head where hair grows. — *v.t.* **1.** To receive (a specified number of votes). **2.** To enroll, as for taxation or voting; register. **3.** To cast (a vote) at the polls. **4.** To canvass in a poll (def. 4). **5.** To cut off or trim, as hair, horns, etc. **6.** To cut off or trim the hair, horns, top, etc., of: to *poll* cattle. — *v.i.* **7.** To vote at the polls; cast one's vote. [< MDu. *polle* top of the head] — **poll′er** *n.*

pol·lack (pol′ək) *n.* A food fish of the North Atlantic: also spelled *pollock*. [< Scot. *podlok*]

pol·len (pol′ən) *n.* The male or fertilizing element in a seed plant, consisting of fine yellowish powder formed within the anther of the stamen. [< L, fine flour]

pollen count A measure of the relative concentration of pollen grains in the atmosphere at a given locality and date, usually expressed as the number of grains per cubic yard.

pol·li·nate (pol′ə·nāt) *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *Bot.* To supply or convey pollen to. Also **pol′len·ate.** — **pol′li·na′tion** *n.*

pol·li·wog (pol′ē·wog) *n.* A tadpole. Also **pol′ly·wog.** [ME *polwygle*]

pol·ster (pōl′stər) *n.* One who takes polls. Also **poll′ist.**

poll tax A tax on a person, as distinguished from that on property, esp. as a prerequisite for voting.

pol·lute (pə·lōōt′) *v.t.* **·lut·ed, ·lut·ing** To make unclean or impure; dirty; corrupt; profane. [< L < *polluere* to defile] — **pol·lut′er** *n.* — **pol·lu′tion** *n.*

Pol·lux (pol′əks) In Greek mythology, the twin brother of Castor. See CASTOR AND POLLUX. — *n.* One of the 20 brightest stars, 1.21 magnitude; Beta in the constellation Gemini.

Pol·ly·an·na (pol′ē·an′ə) *n.* One who persistently finds good in everything. [after stories by Eleanor H. Porter, 1868–1920]

po·lo (pō′lō) *n.* **1.** A hockeylike game played on horseback, usu. with a light wooden ball and long-handled mallets. **2.** A similar game played on ice, roller skates, in the water, etc. [Prob. < Tibetan *pulu* ball] — **po′lo·ist** *n.*

pol·o·naise (pol′ə·nāz′, pō′lə-) *n.* **1.** A stately, marchlike Polish dance. **2.** Music for this dance, in triple meter. [< F (*danse*) *polonaise* Polish (dance)]

po·lo·ni·um (pə·lō′nē·əm) *n.* A radioactive element (symbol Po) produced by the disintegration of various uranium minerals, discovered in 1898 by Pierre and Marie Sklodowska Curie. [< NL < Med.L *Polonia* Poland]

pol·ter·geist (pōl′tər·gīst) *n.* A ghost or spirit reputed to make much noise. [< G, lit., noisy ghost]

pol·troon (pol·trōōn′) *n.* A mean-spirited coward; craven; dastard. — *adj.* Cowardly; contemptible. [< F < Ital. *poltrone* coward < *poltro* colt] — **pol·troon′er·y** *n.*

poly- *combining form* **1.** Many; several; much: *polygamy.* **2.** Excessive; abnormal. [< Gk. *polys* much, many]

pol·y·an·dry (pol′ē·an′drē) *n.* The condition of having more than one husband at the same time. [< Gk. < *poly-* many + *anēr, andros* man, husband] — **pol′y·an′·drous** *adj.*

pol·y·cen·trism (pol′ē·sen′triz·əm) *n.* The existence of several centers of power in the Communist world, as Peking and Belgrade, where Moscow had formerly been the single undisputed center. — **pol′y·cen′trist** *n. & adj.*

pol·y·clin·ic (pol′i·klin′ik) *n.* A hospital or clinic in which all forms of diseases are treated. Compare POLICLINIC.

po·lyg·a·mous (pə·lig′ə·məs) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, practicing, or characterized by polygamy. **2.** *Bot.* Bearing unisexual and bisexual or hermaphrodite flowers on the same plant. — **po·lyg′a·mous·ly** *adv.*

po·lyg·a·my (pə·lig′ə·mē) *n.* **1.** The condition or practice of having more than one wife or husband at the same time. **2.** *Zool.* The state of having more than one mate at the same time. [< F < LL < Gk. < *poly-* many + *gamos* marriage] — **po·lyg′a·mist** *n.*

pol·y·glot (pol′i·glot) *adj.* Expressed in several tongues or speaking several languages; multilingual. — *n.* **1.** A polyglot book or person. **2.** A mixture of several languages. [< Gk. < *poly-* many + *glōtta* tongue] — **pol′y·glot′ism** *n.*

pol·y·gon (pol′i·gon) *n.* *Geom.* A closed, usu. plane, figure bounded by straight lines or arcs, esp. by more than four. [< L < Gk. < *poly-* many + *gōnia* angle] — **po·lyg·o·nal** (pə·lig′ə·nal), **po·lyg′o·nous** *adj.* — **po·lyg′o·nal·ly** *adv.*

pol·y·graph (pol′i·graf, -gräf) *n.* **1.** A device for multiplying or reproducing a drawing or writing. **2.** A versatile or prolific author. **3.** An electrical device for simultaneously recording variations in the heartbeat, blood pressure, muscle reflexes, and respiratory movements, sometimes used as a lie detector. [< Gk. *polygraphos* writing much] — **pol′y·graph′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **po·lyg·ra·phy** (pə·lig′rə·fē) *n.*

po·lyg·y·ny (pə·lij′ə·nē) *n.* The condition of having more than one wife at the same time. [< POLY- + Gk. *gynē* woman] — **po·lyg′y·nous** (pə·lij′ə·nəs) *adj.*

pol·y·he·dron (pol′i·hē′drən) *n.* *pl.* **·dra** (-drə) or **·drons** *Geom.* A solid bounded by plane faces, esp. by more than four. [< NL < Gk. < *poly-* many + *hedra* base, side] — **pol′y·he′dral** *adj.*

Pol·y·hym·ni·a (pol′i·him′nē·ə) The Muse of sacred song. Also **Po·lym·ni·a** (pə·lim′nē·ə).

pol·y·mer (pol′i·mər) *n.* *Chem.* Any of two or more compounds formed by polymerization. [< Gk. *polymerēs* manifold < *poly-* many + *meros* part]

pol·y·mer·ic (pol′i·mer′ik) *adj.* *Chem.* Having the same chemical composition but different molecular weights and different properties, as acetylene and benzene.

po·lym·er·ism (pə·lim′ə·riz′əm, pol′i·mə-) *n.* *Chem.* The condition of being polymeric.

po·lym·er·i·za·tion (pə·lim′ər·ə·zā′shən, pol′i·mər·ə-) *n.* *Chem.* The process of changing the molecular arrangement of a compound so as to form new compounds having the same percentage composition as the original, but of greater molecular weight and different properties.

po·lym·er·ize (pə·lim′ə·rīz, pol′i·mə·rīz′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To subject to or undergo polymerization. Also *Brit.* **po·lym′er·ise.**

pol·y·morph (pol′i·môrf) *n.* A substance or organism that exhibits polymorphism. [< Gk. < *poly-* many + *morphē* form]

pol·y·morph·ism (pol′i·môr′fiz·əm) *n.* The property of having, assuming, or passing through several forms or characters. — **pol′y·mor′phic, pol′y·mor′phous** *adj.*

Pol·y·ne·sian (pol′i·nē′zhən, -shən) *n.* **1.** One of the native brown-skinned people of Polynesia. **2.** A subfamily of the Austronesian family of languages spoken by these people. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Polynesia, its people, or their languages.

pol·y·no·mi·al (pol′i·nō′mē·əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or consisting of many names or terms. — *n.* **1.** *Math.* An expression, as in algebra, containing two or more terms. **2.** *Biol.* A scientific name consisting of more than two terms. [< POLY- + *-nomial*, as in BINOMIAL]

pol·yp (pol′ip) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* **a** A smooth growth of hypertrophied mucous tissue in mucous membrane, as in the nasal passages. **b** A tumor. **2.** *Zool.* **a** A single individual forming part of a colonial marine animal, esp. a hydrozoan. **b** A hydra. [< MF < L < Gk. < *poly-* many + *pou-* foot] — **pol′y·pous** *adj.*

pol·y·pet·al·ous (pol′i·pet′əl·əs) *adj.* *Bot.* Having the petals free and distinct. [< NL *polypetalus* < Gk. *poly-* many + *petalon* leaf]

pol·y·phase (pol′i·fāz) *adj.* *Electr.* Having or producing several phases, as an alternating current.

pol·y·phon·ic (pol′i·fon′ik) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of many sounds or voices. **2.** *Music* Designating or involving the simultaneous combination of two or more independent melodic parts. Also **po·lyph·o·nous** (pə·lif′ə·nəs). [< Gk. < *poly-* many + *phōnē* voice]

po·lyph·o·ny (pə·lif′ə·nē, pol′i·fō′nē) *n.* *pl.* **·nies** **1.** Multiplicity of sounds, as in an echo. **2.** The representation by one written character or sign of more than one sound. **3.** Polyphonic music.

pol·y·ploid (pol′i·ploid′) *adj.* *Genetics* Having more than twice the normal number of chromosomes. — *n.* An organism with more than two chromosomes sets.

pol·y·pod (pol′i·pod) *adj.* **1.** Having many feet. **2.** *Zool.* Pertaining to many-footed organisms. — *n.* A myriapod. [< POLY- + -POD]

pol·y·pus (pol′i·pəs) *n.* *pl.* **·pi** (-pī) *Pathol.* A polyp.

pol·y·syl·lab·ic (pol′i·si·lab′ik) *adj.* **1.** Having or pertaining to several syllables, esp. to more than three. **2.** Charac-

terized by words of more than three syllables. Also **pol'y·syl·lab/i·cal.** [< MF < Med.L < Gk. < *poly-* many + *syllabē* syllable]

pol·y·syl·la·ble (pol/i·sil/ə·bəl) *n.* A polysyllabic word. — **pol'y·syl'la·bism** or **·syl·lab/i·cism** (pol/i·si·lab/ə·siz/əm) *n.*

pol·y·tech·nic (pol/i·tek/nik) *adj.* Embracing many arts: also **pol'y·tech'ni·cal.** — *n.* A school of applied science and the industrial arts. [< F < Gk. < *poly-* many + *technē* craft, art]

pol·y·the·ism (pol/i·thē·iz/əm) *n.* The belief in and worship of more gods than one. [< F < Gk. < *poly-* many + *theos* god] — **pol'y·the/ist** *n.* — **pol/y·the·is/tic** or **·is/ti·cal** *adj.*

pol·y·va·lent (pol/i·vā/lənt) *adj.* **1.** *Bacteriol.* Designating a type of vaccine containing antibodies derived from two or more different strains of microorganisms. **2.** *Chem.* Multivalent. — **pol'y·va/lence** *n.*

pom·ace (pum/is) *n.* **1.** The pulpy substance of apples or similar fruit after grinding. **2.** The pulpy substance of anything ground. [< Med.L *pomacium* cider < L *pomum* apple]

po·ma·ceous (pō·mā/shəs) *adj.* **1.** Relating to or made of apples. **2.** Of or pertaining to a pome.

po·made (pō·mād/, -mäd/) *n.* A perfumed dressing for the hair or scalp. — *v.t.* **·mad·ed, ·mad·ing** To anoint with pomade. [< MF < Ital. < L *pomum* apple]

pome (pōm) *n. Bot.* A fleshy fruit with a core, as an apple, quince, pear, or the like. [< OF, apple < L *pomum*]

pome·gran·ate (pom/gran·it, pum/-, pəm·gran/it) *n.* **1.** The fruit of a tropical Asian and African tree about the size of an orange and having many seeds. **2.** The tree itself. [< OF *pome* apple + *grenate* < L *granatum* seeded]

Pom·e·ra·ni·an (pom/ə·rā/nē·ən) *adj.* Relating to Pomerania or its inhabitants. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Pomerania. **2.** One of a breed of small dog with pointed ears, a bushy tail, and long, straight, silky coat.

pom·mel (pum/əl, pom/-) *n.* **1.** A knob, as on the hilt of a sword, bayonet, etc. **2.** A knob at the front and on the top of a saddle. — *v.t.* **pom·meled** or **·melled, pom·mel·ing** or **·mel·ling** To beat with or as with the fists or a pommel. Also spelled *pummel.* [< OF *pomel* rounded knob]

po·mol·o·gy (pō·mol/ə·jē) *n.* The science that deals with fruits and fruit culture. [< NL < L *pomum* an apple, fruit + -LOGY] — **po·mo·log·i·cal** (pō/mə·loj/i·kəl) *adj.* — **po/·mo·log/i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **po·mol/o·gist** *n.*

pomp (pomp) *n.* **1.** Magnificent or stately display; splendor. **2.** Ostentatious display; vain show. [< OF < L < Gk. *pompē* a sending, procession]

pom·pa·dour (pom/pə·dôr, -dōōr, -dōr) *n.* A style of arranging hair by puffing it over the forehead. [after the Marquise de *Pompadour*, 1721–64]

pom·pa·no (pom/pə·nō) *n. pl.* **·nos** Any of various spiny-finned food fishes of warm seas. [< Sp. *pámpano*]

pom·pon (pom/pon, *Fr.* pôn·pôn/) *n.* **1.** A tuft or ball, as of wool, ribbon, etc., worn on hats, on costumes, etc. **2.** A small, compact variety of chrysanthemum or dahlia. [< F]

pom·pos·i·ty (pom·pos/ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state or quality of being pompous in manner or speech.

pom·pous (pom/pəs) *adj.* **1.** Marked by exaggerated dignity or self-importance. **2.** Bombastic and florid, as speech. **3.** Full of pomp. [See POMP.] — **pom/pous·ness** *n.* — **pom/·pous·ly** *adv.*

pon·cho (pon/chō) *n. pl.* **·chos** **1.** A South American cloak like a blanket with a hole in the middle for the head. **2.** A similar waterproofed garment, used as a raincoat. [< Sp.]

pond (pond) *n.* A body of still water, smaller than a lake. [ME *ponde*, var. of POUND²]

pon·der (pon/dər) *v.t.* **1.** To weigh in the mind; consider carefully. — *v.i.* **1.** To meditate; reflect. [< OF < L *ponderare* to weigh] — **pon/der·er** *n.*

pon·der·a·ble (pon/dər·ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being weighed; having appreciable weight. — **pon/der·a·bil/i·ty** *n.*

pon·der·ous (pon/dər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Having great weight; also, huge; bulky. **2.** Heavy to the extent of dullness; lumbering. [< F < L < *pondus, ponderis* weight] — **pon/der·os/i·ty** (-də·ros/ə·tē), **pon/der·ous·ness** *n.* — **pon/der·ous·ly** *adv.*

pond lily Any of various plants of the water-lily family.

pond scum Any of a group of free-floating, fresh-water green algae that form a scum on ponds.

pond·weed (pond/wēd/) *n.* Any of various perennial aquatic plants that grow in ponds and streams.

pone (pōn) *n. Southern U.S.* Corn pone.

pon·gee (pon·jē/) *n.* A thin, natural, unbleached silk with a rough weave, originally made in China from wild silkworms. [? < Chinese *pen chi* home loom]

pon·iard (pon/yərd) *n.* A dagger. — *v.t.* To stab with a poniard. [< MF < OF *poing* fist < L *pugnus*]

pons (ponz) *n. pl.* **pon·tes** (pon/tēz) **1.** A bridge: used in Latin phrases. **2.** The pons Varolii. [< L]

pons Va·ro·li·i (ponz və·rō/lē·ī) *Anat.* A broad band of nerve fibers that connect the cerebrum, cerebellum, and medulla oblongata. [< NL, bridge of Varoli; after Costanzo *Varoli*, 1543?–75, Italian anatomist]

pon·ti·fex (pon/tə·feks) *n. pl.* **pon·tif·i·ces** (pon·tif/ə·sēz) In ancient Rome, a priest belonging to the Pontifical College. [< L *pons, pontis* bridge + *facere* to make]

pon·tiff (pon/tif) *n.* **1.** In the Roman Catholic Church: **a** The Pope. **b** Any bishop. **2.** In ancient Rome, a pontifex. [< MF *pontife* < L *pontifex* pontifex] — **pon·tif/ic** *adj.*

pon·tif·i·cal (pon·tif/i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or suitable for a pope or bishop. **2.** Haughty; pompous; dogmatic. — **pon·tif/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Pontifical College In ancient Rome, the highest priestly group that had supreme jurisdiction in religious matters.

pon·tif·i·cate (*n.* pon·tif/ə·kit, -kāt/; *v.* -kāt/) *v.i.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** **1.** To act or speak pompously or dogmatically. **2.** To perform the office of a pontiff. — *n.* The office or term of a pontiff.

pon·ton (pon/tən) *n. U.S. Mil.* A pontoon.

pon·toon (pon·tōōn/) *n.* **1.** *Mil.* A flat-bottomed boat, air-tight metal cylinder, or the like, used in the construction of temporary floating bridges over rivers. **2.** A pontoon bridge. **3.** Either of the floats on the landing gear of a seaplane. [< MF < L *pons, pontis* bridge]

pontoon bridge A bridge supported on pontoons. Also **ponton bridge.**

po·ny (pō/nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** A breed of very small horse, esp. one not over 14 hands high. **2.** Any small horse. **3.** *U.S. Slang* A translation used to prepare foreign language lessons: also called *trot.* **4.** Anything that is small for its kind. **5.** *Informal* A very small glass for liquor or its contents. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·nied, ·ny·ing** *U.S. Slang* **1.** To translate lessons with the aid of a pony. **2.** To pay (money) that is due: with *up.* [< dial. E (Scottish) *powney*]

pony express A former postal system by which mail was relayed by riders mounted on swift ponies.

pooch (pōōch) *n. Slang* A dog; esp., a small mongrel. [? < dial. E and obs. *pooch*, var. of POUCH]

poo·dle (pōōd/l) *n.* One of a breed of dogs of high intelligence, with long, curly, usu. white or black hair. [< G *pudel* < *pudeln* to splash in water]

pooh (pōō) *interj.* An exclamation of contempt, disdain, etc.

Pooh-Bah (pōō/bä/) *n. Informal* A pretentious, pompous official. [after a character in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*]

pooh-pooh (pōō/pōō/) *v.t.* To reject or speak of disdainfully. [Reduplication of POOH]

pool[1] (pōōl) *n.* **1.** A small body of fresh water, as a spring. **2.** A deep place in a stream. **3.** Any small, isolated body of liquid: a *pool* of blood. **4.** A swimming pool. [OE *pōl*]

pool[2] (pōōl) *n.* **1.** In certain gambling games, a collective stake. **2.** In business, a combination whereby companies agree to fix prices in order to overcome competition. **3.** In finance, any combination formed for a speculative operation, as in stocks. **4.** Any combining of efforts or resources: a typists' *pool.* **5.** Any of various games played on a six-pocket billiard table: also *pocket billiards.* See BILLIARDS. — *v.t.* **1.** To combine in a mutual fund or pool. — *v.i.* **2.** To form a pool. [< F < L *pulla* stake]

pool·room (pōōl/rōōm/, -rŏŏm/) *n.* A commercial establishment or room equipped for the playing of pool, billiards, etc.

pool table A six-pocket billiard table for playing pool.

poop[1] (pōōp) *Naut. n.* **1.** The after part or stern of a ship. **2.** A short deck built over the main deck at the stern of a ship: also **poop deck.** — *v.t.* **1.** To break over the stern or poop of: said of a wave. **2.** To take (a wave) over the stern. [< OF < OProvençal < L *puppis*]

poop[2] (pōōp) *U.S. Slang v.t.* To tire: usu. in the passive: He was *pooped* by the long climb. [Origin unknown]

poor (pŏŏr) *adj.* **1.** Lacking means of comfortable subsistence; needy. **2.** Characterized by poverty: a *poor* neighborhood. **3.** Lacking in abundance; scanty; meager: a *poor* crop. **4.** Lacking in fertility; sterile: *poor* soil. **5.** Inferior in workmanship or quality. **6.** Feeble; frail: *poor* health. **7.** Thin from bad feeding; lean, as cattle. **8.** Contemptible; mean. **9.** Lacking proper ability; unsatisfactory. **10.** Deserving of pity. — *n.* Indigent or needy people collectively: preceded by *the.* [< OF < L *pauper* poor] — **poor'ly** *adv. & adj.* — **poor'ness** *n.*

poor-house (pŏŏr/hous/) *n.* A public establishment maintained as a dwelling for paupers.

poor-spir·it·ed (pŏŏr/spir/it·ed) *adj.* Having little spirit or courage. — **Syn.** See COWARDLY. — **poor'-spir/it·ed·ness** *n.*

poor white In the southern U.S., a member of a class of poverty-stricken white farmers or laborers: an offensive term. Also **poor white trash.**

pop[1] (pop) **v. popped, pop·ping** *v.i.* **1.** To make a sharp, explosive sound. **2.** To burst open or explode with such a sound. **3.** To move or go suddenly or quickly: with *in, out,* etc. **4.** To bulge: His eyes *popped.* — *v.t.* **5.** To cause to burst or explode, as kernels of corn. **6.** To thrust or put suddenly: with *in, out,* etc. **7.** To fire (a gun, etc.). **8.** To shoot. — **to pop the question** *Informal* To make a proposal of marriage. — *n.* **1.** A sharp, explosive noise. **2.** A shot

with a firearm. **3.** Soda (def. 2). — *adv.* **1.** Like, or with the sound of a pop. **2.** Suddenly. [Imit.]

pop[2] (pop) *n. Slang* **1.** Papa. **2.** A familiar term of address for an old man. [Short for *poppa*, var. of PAPA]

pop[3] (pop) *n.* A concert of popular or light classical music. — *adj.* Featuring popular or light classical music: a *pop* concert; a *pop* orchestra. Also **pops.** [Short for POPULAR]

pop art *Sometimes cap.* A style of art of the 1960's influenced by popular commercial art.

pop·corn (pop′kôrn′) *n.* A variety of maize, the kernels of which explode when heated, forming large white balls; also, the corn after popping, eaten as a confection.

pope (pōp) *n. Often cap.* In the Roman Catholic Church, the bishop of Rome and the head of the Church. [OE < LL < LGk. < Gk. *pappas* father] — **pope′dom** *n.*

pop·er·y (pō′pər·ē) *n.* The practices, doctrines, etc., of the Roman Catholic Church: an offensive term.

pop·eyed (pop′īd′) *adj.* **1.** Having bulging or protruding eyes. **2.** Filled with astonishment; amazed.

pop·gun (pop′gun′) *n.* A child's toy gun that expels a pellet with a popping sound by compressed air.

pop·in·jay (pop′in·jā) *n.* A pretentious, conceited person. [< OF *papegai* < Sp. < Arabic *babaghā*]

pop·ish (pō′pish) *adj.* Pertaining to popes or popery: an offensive term. — **pop′ish·ly** *adv.* — **pop′ish·ness** *n.*

pop·lar (pop′lər) *n.* **1.** Any of a genus of dioecious trees and bushes of the willow family. **2.** The wood of any of these trees. [< OF < L *populus*]

pop·lin (pop′lin) *n.* A durable silk, cotton, or rayon fabric with a ribbed surface, used for dresses, etc. [< F < Ital. *papalina* papal; because made in Avignon, a papal residence]

pop·o·ver (pop′ō′vər) *n.* A very light egg muffin.

pop·per (pop′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which pops. **2.** A container or device for popping corn.

pop·pet valve (pop′it) *Mech.* A valve that rises and falls perpendicularly, used in gasoline engines.

pop·py (pop′ē) *n. pl.* **·pies** **1.** Any of various plants having lobed or toothed leaves and showy red, violet, orange, or white flowers, as the **opium poppy.** **2.** A medicinal extract, as opium, from such a plant. **3.** The bright scarlet color of certain poppy blossoms: also **poppy red.** [OE < L *papaver*]

pop·py·cock (pop′ē·kok) *n. Informal* Pretentious talk; humbug; nonsense. [< Dial. Du. *pappekak*, lit., soft dung]

poppy seed The small, black seed of the poppy plant used to flavor and top rolls, bread, etc.

pop·u·lace (pop′yə·lis) *n.* The common people; the masses. [< MF < Ital. < L *populus* people]

pop·u·lar (pop′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Approved of, admired, or liked by most people: *popular* music. **2.** Having many friends. **3.** Of, pertaining to, or engaged in by the people at large: *popular* government. **4.** Suited to the intelligence of ordinary people. **5.** Prevalent among the people in general. **6.** Suited to the means of the people: *popular* prices [< L *popularis* of the people] — **pop′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

popular front A coalition of leftist, labor, and liberal parties formed to combat fascism and promote reform.

pop·u·lar·i·ty (pop′yə·lar′ə·tē) *n.* The condition of being popular. [See POPULAR.]

pop·u·lar·ize (pop′yə·lə·rīz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make popular. Also *Brit.* **pop′u·lar·ise′.** — **pop′u·lar·i·za′tion** *n.* — **pop′u·lar·iz′er** *n.*

pop·u·late (pop′yə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To furnish with inhabitants, as by colonization; people. **2.** To inhabit. [< Med.L < L *populus* people]

pop·u·la·tion (pop′yə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The total number of persons living in a country, city, or other specified area. **2.** The total number of persons of a particular group, class, race, etc., residing in a place. **3.** The act or process of populating or furnishing with inhabitants. **4.** *Stat.* A group of items or individuals. [< LL < L *populus* the people]

Pop·u·list (pop′yə·list) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Populist or People's Party. — *n.* A member of the People's Party. — **Pop′u·lism** *n.* — **Pop′u·lis′tic** *adj.*

Populist Party People's Party.

pop·u·lous (pop′yə·ləs) *adj.* Containing many inhabitants; thickly settled. — **pop′u·lous·ly** *adv.* — **pop′u·lous·ness** *n.*

por·ce·lain (pôrs′lin, pōrs′-, pôr′sə-, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** A white, hard, translucent ceramic ware, usu. glazed; chinaware. **2.** An object made of this material. [< MF < Ital. *porcellana* shell < L *porcella*, dim. fem. of *porcus* pig] — **por·ce·la·ne·ous** (pôr′sə·lā′nē·əs, pōr′-) or **por′cel·la′ne·ous** *adj.*

porch (pôrch, pōrch) *n.* **1.** A covered structure or recessed space at the entrance to a building; a stoop. **2.** *U.S.* A veranda. **3.** A covered walk or portico. [< OF < L *porticus* colonnade < *porta* gate]

por·cine (pôr′sīn, -sin) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of swine. **2.** Swinish; hoggish; piggish. [< F, fem. of *porcin* < L < *porcus* pig]

por·cu·pine (pôr′kyə·pīn) *n.* Any of various large, clumsy rodents covered with erectile spines or quills used for defense: also, *U.S. hedgehog.* [< OF < OProvençal < It. < L *porcus* pig + *spina* thorn]

pore[1] (pôr, pōr) *v.i.* **pored, por·ing** **1.** To gaze steadily or intently. **2.** To study or read with care and application: with *over*: to *pore* over one's accounts. **3.** To meditate; ponder: with *on*, *over*, or *upon*. [ME *pouren*]

pore[2] (pôr, pōr) *n.* **1.** A minute orifice or opening, as in the skin or a leaf, serving as an outlet for perspiration or as a means of absorption. **2.** Any similar opening, as in rock. [< OF < L < Gk. *poros* pore, passage]

por·gy (pôr′gē) *n. pl.* **·gies** or **·gy** **1.** Any of various salt-water food fishes, esp. the **red porgy** of Mediterranean and European waters. **2.** Any of various related fishes, as the scup. [Origin uncertain]

pork (pôrk, pōrk) *n.* **1.** The flesh of swine used as food. **2.** *U.S. Slang* Government money, favors, etc., obtained through political patronage. [< OF < L *porcus* pig]

pork barrel *U.S. Slang* A Federal appropriation for some local enterprise that will favorably impress a representative's constituents.

pork·er (pôr′kər, pōr′-) *n.* A pig or hog, esp. one fattened for slaughter.

pork·pie (pôrk′pī, pōrk′-) *n.* **1.** A pie filled with chopped pork and having a thick crust. **2.** A man's hat with a low, flat crown. Also **pork pie.**

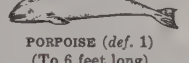
pork·y (pôr′kē, pōr′-) *adj.* **pork·i·er, pork·i·est** **1.** Of or like pork. **2.** Obese; fat, as from overeating.

por·nog·ra·phy (pôr·nog′rə·fē) *n. pl.* **·phies** Obscene literature or art. [< Gk. < *pornē* prostitute + *graphein* to write] — **por·no·graph·ic** (pôr′nə·graf′ik) *adj.*

po·ros·i·ty (pō·ros′ə·tē, pō-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The property of being porous; porousness. **2.** A porous part or structure.

po·rous (pôr′əs, pō′rəs) *adj.* **1.** Having pores. **2.** Permeable by fluids or light. — **po′rous·ly** *adv.* — **po′rous·ness** *n.*

por·phy·ry (pôr′fə·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** An igneous rock that has a groundmass enclosing crystals of feldspar or quartz. [< OF < Med.L < Gk. *porphyros* purple]



PORPOISE (*def.* 1)
(To 6 feet long)

por·poise (pôr′pəs) *n. pl.* **·pois·es** or **·poise** **1.** A dolphinlike animal with a blunt, rounded snout; esp., the **harbor porpoise** of the North Atlantic and Pacific, blackish above and white below. **2.** Loosely, any small cetacean, as the common dolphin. [< OF < L *porcus pisces*, lit., hog fish]

por·ridge (pôr′ij, por-) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* A soft food made by boiling oatmeal or other meal in water or milk until thickened. **2.** Originally, pottage. [Alter. of POTTAGE]

por·rin·ger (pôr′in·jər, por′-) *n.* A small, relatively shallow bowl for porridge or soup; esp., such a bowl used by small children. [Earlier *pottanger* < MF *potager* soup bowl]

port[1] (pôrt, pōrt) *n.* **1.** A city or place of customary entry and exit of ships, esp. for commerce. **2.** A harbor or haven. **3.** *Law* A port of entry. [OE < L *portus* harbor]

port[2] (pôrt, pōrt) *Naut. n.* The left side of a vessel as one faces the front or bow: formerly called *larboard*: opposed to *starboard.* — *v.t. & v.i.* To put or turn to the port or larboard side. — *adj.* Left: *port* side. [Prob. < PORT[1]]

port[3] (pôrt, pōrt) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* **a** A porthole. **b** A covering for a porthole. **2.** *Mech.* An orifice for the passage of air, gas, etc.: a steam *port.* [Prob. < OF < L *porta* gate, door]

port[4] (pôrt, pōrt) *n.* A variety of sweet wine, usu. dark red. [Short for *Oporto* wine, after *Oporto*, Portugal]

port[5] (pôrt, pōrt) *v.t. Mil.* To carry (a rifle, saber, etc.) diagonally across the body and sloping to the left shoulder. — *n.* **1.** *Mil.* The position of a rifle or other weapon when ported. **2.** The way in which one bears or carries himself. [< MF < L *portare* to carry]

port·a·ble (pôr′tə·bəl, pōr′-) *adj.* That can be readily carried or moved. — *n.* Something portable, as a typewriter or radio. [< MF < LL < L *portare* to carry] — **port′a·bil′i·ty, port′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **port′a·bly** *adv.*

port·age (pôr′tij, pōr′-) *n. U.S. & Canadian* **1.** The act of transporting (canoes, boats, and goods) from one navigable water to another; also, that which is transported. **2.** The route over which and the place where such transportation is made. **3.** The charge for transportation.

por·tal (pôr′təl, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** *Often pl.* An entrance, door, or gate, esp. one that is grand and imposing. **2.** The portal vein. — *adj.* Pertaining to the portal vein. [< MF < Med.L, ult. < L *porta* gate]

por·ta·tive (pôr′tə·tiv, pōr′-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to carrying; capable of carrying. **2.** Portable. [< OF < L *portatus*, pp. of *portare* to carry]

port authority Any official body having charge of the coordination of all rail and water traffic of a port.

port·cul·lis (pôrt·kul′is, pōrt-) *n.* A grating made of strong bars of wood or iron that can be let down suddenly to close the gateway of a fortified place. [< OF < *porte* gate + fem. of *coleis*, pp. of *couler* to slide]

Porte (pôrt, pōrt) *n.* The former Ottoman Turkish government: with *the*. [< F (*la Sublime*) *Porte* (the High) Gate, trans. of Turkish *Babi Ali*]

porte-co·chère (pôrt′kō·shâr′, pōrt′-; *Fr.* pôrt·kô·shâr′) *n.* **1.** A large covered gateway for vehicles, leading into a courtyard. **2.** A porch over a driveway at the entrance of a building for sheltering persons entering or leaving vehicles. [< F < *porte* gate + *cochère*, fem. adj. < *coche* coach]

por·tend (pôr·tend′, pōr-) *v.t.* To warn of as an omen; forebode. [< L < *pro-* forth + *tendere* to stretch]

por·tent (pôr′tent, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** An indication or sign of what is to happen, esp. of something momentous or calamitous. **2.** Ominous significance. **3.** A prodigy; marvel.

por·ten·tous (pôr·ten′təs, pōr-) *adj.* **1.** Having the nature of a portent; foreboding. **2.** Causing astonishment or awe; extraordinary. — **por·ten′tous·ly** *adv.* — **por·ten′tous·ness** *n.*

por·ter[1] (pôr′tər, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** One who carries travelers' luggage, etc., for hire, as at a railroad station. **2.** *U.S.* An attendant in a Pullman car. [< OF < LL *portator* to carry]

por·ter[2] (pôr′tər, pōr′-) *n.* A keeper of a door or gate; janitor. [< OF < LL < L *porta* gate, door]

por·ter[3] (pôr′tər, pōr′-) *n.* A dark brown, heavy, English liquor resembling ale, formerly drunk chiefly by porters.

por·ter·house (pôr′tər·hous′, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** A place where porter, ale, etc., are retailed. **2.** A restaurant; chophouse. **3.** A choice cut of beefsteak including a part of the tenderloin, usu. next to the sirloin: also **porterhouse steak.**

port·fo·li·o (pôrt·fō′lē·ō, pōrt-) *n.* *pl.* **·li·os** **1.** A portable case for holding drawings, papers, etc. **2.** Such a case for carrying documents of a department of state. **3.** The office of a minister of state or a cabinet member. **4.** An itemized list of investments, securities, etc., of a bank or investor. [< Ital. < L *portare* to carry + *folium* leaf, sheet of paper]

port·hole (pôrt′hōl′, pōrt′-) *n.* **1.** A small opening in a ship's side for admitting light and air, for shooting a weapon through, or for loading cargo. **2.** A loophole in the wall of a fort for shooting through; embrasure. **3.** An opening into a furnace, engine, or the like, shaped like a porthole.

por·ti·co (pôr′ti·kō, pōr′-) *n.* *pl.* **·coes** or **·cos** An open space or ambulatory with roof upheld by columns; a porch. [< Ital. < L *porticus* < *porta* door] — **por′ti·coed** *adj.*

por·tière (pôr·tyâr′, pōr-; *Fr.* pôr·tyâr′) *n.* A curtain for a doorway, used instead of a door. Also **por·tiere′.** [< F]

por·tion (pôr′shən, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** A part of a whole, whether separated from it or not. **2.** An allotment or share. **3.** The quantity of food usu. served to one person. **4.** The part of an estate coming to an heir or next of kin. **5.** A dowry (def. 1). — *v.t.* **1.** To divide into shares for distribution; parcel: usu. with *out*. **2.** To give a dowry or inheritance to. **3.** To assign; allot. [< OF < L *portio, -onis*] — **por′·tion·a·ble** *adj.* — **por′tion·less** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** *Portion, fraction,* and *section* denote a part of a whole. A *portion* was originally an alloted share, and so suggests a measured quantity: to devote a *portion* of one's time to study. A *fraction,* originally a very small part, now denotes a part taken away: the first *fraction* in the distillation of petroleum. Unlike the other synonyms, *fraction* has little or no suggestion of measurement. A *section* is the part lying between two cuts; hence, any clearly demarcated part: a *section* of a book.

por·tion·er (pôr′shən·ər, pōr′-) *n.* One who divides in shares or holds a share or shares.

port·ly (pôrt′lē, pōrt′-) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** **1.** Somewhat corpulent; stout. **2.** Having a stately appearance and carriage; impressive. [< PORT[5] + -LY] — **port′li·ness** *n.*

port·man·teau (pôrt·man′tō, pōrt-) *n.* *pl.* **·teaus** or **·teaux** (-tōz) *Chiefly Brit.* A large, leather suitcase hinged at the back to form two distinct compartments. [< MF < *porter* to carry + *manteau* coat < L *mantellum*]

port of call A port where vessels put in for supplies, repairs, discharge or taking on of cargo, etc.

port of entry *Law* A place, whether on the coast or inland, designated as a point at which persons or merchandise may enter or pass out of a country: also called *port.*

por·trait (pôr′trit, pōr′-, -trāt) *n.* **1.** A likeness of a person, esp. of the face, produced, usu. from life, by an artist or photographer. **2.** A vivid word description, esp. of a person. [See PORTRAY] — **por′trait·ist** *n.*

por·trai·ture (pôr′tri·chər, pōr′-) *n.* **1.** The art or practice of making portraits. **2.** A portrait. **3.** Portraits collectively.

por·tray (pôr·trā′, pōr-) *v.t.* **1.** To represent by drawing, painting, etc. **2.** To describe or depict in words. **3.** To represent, as in a play; act. [< OF < Med.L < L < *pro-* forward + *trahere* to draw] — **por·tray′a·ble** *adj.* — **por·tray′al** *n.* — **por·tray′er** *n.*

por·tress (pôr′tris, pōr′-) *n.* A woman porter or doorkeeper. Also **por·ter·ess** (pôr′tris, -tər·is, pōr′-).

Por·tu·guese (pôr′chə·gēz′, -gēs′, pōr′-) *adj.* Pertaining to Portugal, its inhabitants, or their language. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Portugal. **2.** The people of Portugal. **3.** The Romance language of Portugal and Brazil.

Portuguese man-of-war Any of several large marine organisms, having long, stinging tentacles hanging down from a bladderlike float.

pose[1] (pōz) *n.* **1.** The position of the whole or part of the body, esp. such a position assumed for or represented by an artist or photographer. **2.** A mental attitude adopted for effect. — *v.* **posed, pos·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To assume or hold an attitude or position, as for a portrait. **2.** To affect mental attitudes. **3.** To represent oneself: to *pose* as an expert. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to assume an attitude or position, as an artist's model. **5.** To state or propound; put forward as a question, etc. [< OF, fusion of LL *pausare* to place < L, to pause and *pos-*, stem of L *ponere* to put]

pose[2] (pōz) *v.t.* **posed, pos·ing** To puzzle or confuse by asking a difficult question. [< obs. *appose*, var. of OPPOSE]

Po·sei·don (pō·sī′dən) In Greek mythology, brother of Zeus, god of the sea and of horses: identified with the Roman *Neptune.* — **Po/sei·do′ni·an** (-dō′nē·ən) *adj.*

pos·er[1] (pō′zər) *n.* One who poses. [< POSE[1], v.]

pos·er[2] (pō′zər) *n.* A question that baffles. [< POSE[2]]

po·seur (pō·zœr′) *n.* One who affects a particular attitude to make an impression on others. [< F < *poser* to pose]

pos·it (poz′it) *v.t.* **1.** To put in position; place. **2.** To lay down or assume as a fact or basis of argument; postulate. [< L *positus*, pp. of *ponere* to place]

po·si·tion (pə·zish′ən) *n.* **1.** The manner in which a thing is placed. **2.** Disposition of the body or parts of the body. **3.** The locality or place occupied by a person or thing. **4.** *Med.* The placement or arrangement of the body of a patient in order to facilitate therapeutic, surgical, or obstetrical procedures. **5.** The proper or appropriate place: in *position.* **6.** State or situation in relation to other conditions: to be in a false *position.* **7.** An attitude or point of view; stand. **8.** Relative social standing; status; also, high social standing. **9.** Employment; job. **10.** In sports, the assignment of an area covered by a particular player. — **to be in a position** To have the means or opportunity to. — *v.t.* To place in a particular or appropriate position. [< OF < L < *ponere* to place] — **po·si′tion·al** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** See PLACE. **9.** office, post, situation.

pos·i·tive (poz′ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** That is or may be directly affirmed; actual. **2.** Expressing, containing, or characterized by affirmation: a *positive* attitude. **3.** Inherent in a thing by and of itself, regardless of its relations to other things. **4.** Openly and plainly expressed: a *positive* denial. **5.** Imperative. **6.** Not admitting of doubt or denial. **7.** Noting one of two opposite directions, qualities, properties, etc., which is taken as primary, or as indicating increase or progression. **8.** *Math.* Greater than zero; plus: said of quantities and usu. denoted by the sign (+). **9.** *Med.* Denoting the presence of a specific condition or organism: a *positive* Wasserman reaction. **10.** *Photog.* Having the lights and darks in their original relation, as in a print made from a negative. **11.** *Biol.* Noting the response of an organism toward a stimulus: a *positive* tropism. **12.** *Electr.* Having the kind of electricity exhibited by a glass object when rubbed with silk; characterized by a deficiency of electrons on a charged body. **13.** *Chem.* Basic. **14.** *Gram.* Denoting the simple, uncompared degree of the adjective or adverb. **15.** *Stat.* Designating a correlation in which the values of two variables tend to increase or decrease together: also *direct.* — *n.* **1.** That which is positive or capable of being directly or certainly affirmed. **2.** *Math.* A positive symbol or quantity. **3.** *Electr.* A positive pole, terminal, etc. **4.** *Photog.* A positive picture or print. **5.** *Gram.* The positive degree of an adjective or adverb; also, a word in this degree. [< OF, fem. of *positif* < L < *ponere* to place] — **pos′i·tive·ly** *adv.* — **pos′i·tive·ness** *n.*

pos·i·tiv·ism (poz′ə·tiv·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** A way of thinking that regards nothing as ascertained or ascertainable beyond the facts of physical science or of sense. **2.** *Philos.* A system of philosophy elaborated by Auguste Comte, holding that man can have no knowledge of anything but actual phenomena and facts and their interrelations. **3.** Certitude, or the claim of certitude, in knowledge. — **pos′i·tiv·ist** *n.* — **pos′·i·tiv·is′tic** *adj.*

pos·i·tron (poz′ə·tron) *n.* *Physics* The positive counterpart of an electron.

pos·se (pos′ē) *n.* **1.** A posse comitatus. **2.** A force of men; squad. [< Med.L, armed force < L, to be able]

pos·se com·i·ta·tus (pos′ē kom′ə·tā′təs) The body of men that a sheriff or other peace officer calls or may call to his assistance in the discharge of his official duty, as to quell a riot. [< Med.L < *posse* power + *comitatus* county]

pos·sess (pə·zes′) *v.t.* **1.** To have as property; own. **2.** To have as a quality, attribute, etc. **3.** To enter and exert control over; dominate: often used passively: The idea *possessed* him. **4.** To maintain control over (oneself, one's

mind, etc.). **5.** To put in possession, as of property, news, etc.: with *of*. **6.** To have knowledge of; gain mastery of, as a language. **7.** To imbue or impress, as with wonder or an idea: with *with*. **8.** To have sexual intercourse with. [< F < L < *potis* master + *sedere* to sit (as)]

pos·sessed (pə·zest′) *adj.* **1.** Having; owning: *possessed* of a ready tongue. **2.** Calm; cool: to be *possessed* in time of danger. **3.** Controlled by or as if by evil spirits; beyond self-control; frenzied.

pos·ses·sion (pə·zesh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act or fact of possessing. **2.** The state of being possessed. **3.** That which is possessed or owned. **4.** *pl.* Property; wealth. **5.** The state of being possessed by, or as by, evil spirits. **6.** Self-possession.

pos·ses·sive (pə·zes′iv) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to possession or ownership. **2.** Having a strong desire for complete emotional domination of another person. **3.** *Gram.* Designating a case of the noun or pronoun that denotes possession, origin, or the like. In English, this is formed in nouns by adding *'s* to the singular and to irregular plurals: *John's* book; *men's* souls; and a simple apostrophe to the regular plural and sometimes to singulars and proper names ending in a sibilant: *boys'* shoes; *James'* (or *James's*) brother. Pronouns in the possessive case have special forms, as *my, mine, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs, whose.* — *n. Gram.* **1.** The possessive case. **2.** A possessive form or construction. — **pos·ses′sive·ness** *n.*

pos·set (pos′it) *n.* A drink of hot milk curdled with wine or ale, sweetened and spiced. [< ME *poshote, possot*]

pos·si·bil·i·ty (pos′ə·bil′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The fact or state of being possible. **2.** That which is possible.

pos·si·ble (pos′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of happening or proving true: not contrary to fact, natural laws, or experience. **2.** Capable of being done or of coming about; feasible. **3.** That may or may not happen. [< OF < L < *posse* to be able + *esse* to be] — **pos′si·bly** *adv.*

pos·sum (pos′əm) *n. Informal* An oppossum. — **to play possum** To feign death, illness, etc. [< OPOSSUM.]

post[1] (pōst) *n.* An upright piece of timber or other material; as: **a** A support for a sign. **b** A bearing or framing member in a building. **c** An indicator of the starting or finishing point of a racecourse, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To put up (a poster, etc.) in some public place. **2.** To fasten posters upon. **3.** To announce by or as by a poster: to *post a reward*. **4.** To publish the name of on a list. [OE < L *postis* door post]

post[2] (pōst) *n.* **1.** A position or employment, esp. a public office. **2.** *Mil.* **a** A place occupied by a detachment of troops. **b** The buildings and grounds of such a place. **3.** An assigned beat, position, or station, as of a sentry, policeman, etc. **4.** A trading post or settlement. **5.** *U.S.* A local unit of a veterans' organization. — *v.t.* To assign to a particular post; station, as a sentry. [< MF < Ital. < LL *postum*, contr. of L *positum*, pp. neut. of *ponere* to place]

post[3] (pōst) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* A single delivery of mail to a home, office, etc.; also, the mail itself. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* An established, usu. government, system, for transporting the mails; also, a local post office. **3.** *Brit.* A mailbox. **4.** A rider or courier who carries mail over a fixed route. **5.** Any of the stations furnishing relays of men and horses on such a route. — *v.t.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* To place in a mailbox or post office; mail. **2.** To inform. **3.** In bookkeeping: **a** To transfer (items or accounts) to the ledger. **b** To make the proper entries in (a ledger). — *v.i.* **4.** To travel with post horses. **5.** To travel with speed; hasten. — *adv.* **1.** By post horses. **2.** Speedily; rapidly. [< MF < Ital. *posta*, orig., a station < LL, contr. of L *positа*, pp. fem. of *ponere* to place]

post- *prefix* **1.** After in time or order; following: *postdate, postwar*. **2.** Chiefly in scientific terms, after in position; behind. [< L *post* behind, after]

post·age (pōs′tij) *n.* **1.** The charge levied on mail matter. **2.** The act of going by post.

postage stamp A small, printed label issued and sold by a government to be affixed to letters, parcels, etc., in payment of postage.

pos·tal (pōs′təl) *adj.* Pertaining to the mails or to mail service. — *n.* A postal card.

postal card A card, issued officially, for carrying a written or printed message through the mails.

post-bel·lum (pōst′bel′əm) *adj.* Occurring after a war, esp. after the Civil War. [< L < *post* after + *bellum* war]

post·box (pōst′boks′) *n.* A mailbox (def. 1).

post card **1.** A postal card. **2.** An unofficial card of any regulation size, usu. having a picture on one side, transmissible through the mails on prepayment of postage.

post chaise A closed carriage used for traveling and drawn by post horses.

post·date (pōst′dāt′) *v.t.* **·dat·ed, ·dat·ing** **1.** To assign or fix a date later than the actual date to (a check, document, etc.). **2.** To follow in time.

post·er (pōs′tər) *n.* **1.** A placard or bill used for advertising, public information, etc., to be posted on a wall or other surface. **2.** A billposter. [< POST[1]]

pos·te·ri·or (pos·tir′ē·ər) *adj.* **1.** Situated behind or toward the hinder part. **2.** Coming after another in a series. **3.** Subsequent in time; later. **4.** *Anat.* **a** In animals, pertaining to the tail end of the body. **b** In man, pertaining to the back side of the body. — *n. Sometimes pl.* The buttocks. [< L, compar. of *posterus* coming after < *post* after, behind] — **pos·te′ri·or′i·ty** (-ôr′ə·tē, -or′ə-) *n.* — **pos·te′ri·or·ly** *adv.*

pos·ter·i·ty (pos·ter′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** Future generations taken collectively. **2.** All of one's descendants. [< OF < L < *posterus* coming after]

pos·tern (pōs′tərn, pos′-) *n.* A small back gate or door, esp. in a fortification or castle. — *adj.* Situated at the back or side. [< OF < LL < *postera* back door, gate]

post exchange *Mil.* An establishment for the sale of merchandise and services to military personnel. Abbr. *PX*

post·grad·u·ate (post′graj′o͞o·it, -āt) *adj.* Of or pertaining to studies pursued after the taking of an advanced degree. — *n.* One who pursues such studies.

post·haste (pōst′hāst′) *Archaic n.* Great haste or speed, like that of the post. — *adv.* With utmost speed.

post horse A horse kept at a post house.

post house A house where post horses were kept for relay; also, formerly, a post office.

post·hu·mous (pos′chō͞o·məs) *adj.* **1.** Denoting a child born after the father's death. **2.** Published after the author's death, as a book. **3.** Arising or continuing after one's death. [< LL < L *postumus* latest, last] — **post′hu·mous·ly** *adj.*

pos·til·ion (pōs·til′yən, pos-) *n.* One who guides a team drawing a carriage or other heavy vehicle by riding the near horse when one pair is used or the near horse of the leaders when two or more pairs are used. Also **pos·til′lion.** [< MF < Ital. < *posta* post, station]

post·im·pres·sion·ism (pōst′im·presh′ən·iz′əm) *n.* The theories and practice of a group of expressionist painters of the late 19th century, who rejected the objective naturalism of the Impressionists and emphasized the subjective point of view of the artist. — **post′im·pres′sion·ist** *n. & adj.* — **post′im·pres′sion·is′tic** *adj.*

post·lude (pōst′lo͞od) *n. Music* **1.** An organ voluntary concluding a church service. **2.** Loosely, a coda.

post·man (pōst′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A mailman.

post·mark (pōst′märk′) *n.* Any official mark stamped on mail to cancel stamps and to give the date and place of sending or receiving. — *v.t.* To stamp with a postmark.

post·mas·ter (pōst′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* **1.** An official having charge of a post office. **2.** One who provides horses for posting. — **post′mis′tress** (-mis′tris) *n.fem.*

postmaster general *pl.* **postmasters general** The executive head of the postal service of a government.

post·me·rid·i·an (pōst′mə·rid′ē·ən) *adj.* Pertaining to or occurring in the afternoon. Also **post′me·rid′i·o·nal.** [< L < *post* after + *meridies* noon]

post me·rid·i·em (pōst mə·rid′ē·əm) After midday. Abbr. *p.m., P.M.* [< L]

post-mortem (pōst·môr′təm) *adj.* **1.** Happening or performed after death. **2.** Of or pertaining to a post-mortem examination. — *n.* **1.** A post-mortem examination. **2.** *Informal* An analysis or discussion of an accomplished fact. [< L *post mortem* after death]

post-mortem examination *Med.* A thorough examination of a human body after death: also called *autopsy*.

post·na·tal (pōst·nāt′l) *adj.* Occurring after birth.

post office **1.** The branch of the civil service of a government charged with carrying and delivering the mails. **2.** Any local office that receives, sorts, and delivers mail, sells stamps, etc. **3.** Any town or place having a post office.

post·op·er·a·tive (pōst·op′ər·ə·tiv, -ə·rā′-) *adj. Surg.* Occurring or done after a surgical operation: *postoperative* care.

post·paid (pōst′pād′) *adj.* Having postage prepaid.

post·par·tum (pōst′pär′təm) *adj. Med.* After childbirth. [< POST- + L *partus* childbirth < *parere* to bear]

post·pone (pōst·pōn′) *v.t.* **·poned, ·pon·ing** **1.** To put off to a future time; defer; delay. **2.** To subordinate. [< L < *post-* after + *ponere* to put] — **post·pon′a·ble** *adj.* — **post·pone′ment** *n.* — **post·pon′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** Delay, defer, procrastinate, adjourn, stay.

post·pran·di·al (pōst·pran′dē·əl) *adj.* After-dinner. [< POST- + L *prandium* lunch + -AL[1]]

post road A road built for the transportation of mail, formerly having post houses at specified distances.

post·script (pōst′skript′) *n.* **1.** A sentence or paragraph added to a letter after the writer's signature. **2.** A supplemental addition to a written or printed document. Abbr. *p.s., P.S.* [< L *postscriptum*, pp. of *postscribere* to write after]

pos·tu·lant (pos′chə·lənt) *n.* **1.** One who presents a request. **2.** *Eccl.* An applicant for admission into a religious order. [< L < *postulare*, freq. of *poscere* to ask] — **pos′·tu·lant·ship** *n.*

pos·tu·late (*v.* pos′chə·lāt; *n.* pos′chə·lit) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To claim, demand, or require. **2.** To set forth as self-evident. **3.** To assume the truth or reality of. — *n.* **1.** A self-evident truth. **2.** A prerequisite. **3.** A fundamental principle. — **pos′tu·la′tion** *n.* — **pos′tu·la′tor** *n.*

pos·ture (pos′chər) *n.* **1.** The position or carriage of the body or parts of the body. **2.** Such a position assumed during posing for an artist, etc. **3.** The visible disposition of the various parts of a material thing. **4.** A mental attitude; frame of mind. **5.** A situation or condition, esp. if a consequence of policy: national defense posture. — *v.t.* **1.** To place (a person) in a specific position or pose. — *v.i.* **2.** To assume or adopt a bodily pose or a character not natural to one. [< F < L *positura* position] — **pos′tur·al** *adj.* — **pos′tur·er, pos′tur·ist** *n.*

pos·tur·ize (pos′chə·rīz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To posture; pose.

post-war (pōst′wôr′) *adj.* After a war.

po·sy (pō′zē) *n. pl.* **·sies** A single flower or a bouquet. [Contr. of POESY]

pot (pot) *n.* **1.** A round, fairly deep vessel of metal, earthenware, or glass, generally having a handle, used for cooking and other domestic purposes. **2.** Such a vessel and its contents. **3.** The amount a pot will hold. **4.** A large drinking cup, as a tankard; also, drink or liquor. **5.** In cardplaying, the amount of stakes wagered or played for, esp. in poker. **6.** *Informal* A large sum of money. **7.** In fishing, a basketlike trap for catching lobsters, eels, etc. — **to go to pot** To deteriorate. — *v.* **pot·ted, pot·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To put into a pot or pots: to *pot* plants. **2.** To preserve (meat, etc.) in pots or jars. **3.** To cook in a pot. **4.** To shoot (game) for food rather than for sport. **5.** To shoot or kill with a pot shot. **6.** *Informal* To secure, capture, or win; bag. — *v.i.* **7.** To take a pot shot; shoot. [OE *pott*]

po·ta·ble (pō′tə·bəl) *adj.* Suitable for drinking: said of water. — *n. Often pl.* Something drinkable; a drink. [< MF < LL < *potare* to drink]

po·tage (pō·täzh′) *n.* French Any thick soup.

pot·ash (pot′ash′) *n.* **1.** Potassium hydroxide. **2.** Crude potassium carbonate. **3.** The oxide of potassium, K_2O. [< Du. *potasch*]

po·tas·si·um (pə·tas′ē·əm) *n.* A bluish white, highly reactive, metallic element (symbol K), never found free in nature, but yielding many compounds of great practical value in industry, medicine, etc.: also called *kalium*. See ELEMENT. [< NL < *potass* potash] — **po·tas′sic** *adj.*

potassium bitartrate *Chem.* A white crystalline compound, $HKC_4H_4O_6$, having an acid taste; an ingredient of baking powder: also called *cream of tartar*.

potassium bromide *Chem.* A crystalline compound, KBr, used in photography, and in medicine as a sedative.

potassium carbonate *Chem.* A white, strongly alkaline compound, K_2CO_3, used in making soap and glass.

potassium cyanide *Chem.* An intensely poisonous compound, KCN, used in photography, and as a reagent.

potassium hydroxide *Chem.* A whitish deliquescent solid, KOH, yielding a strong caustic solution: used in saltmaking, electroplating, as a chemical reagent, etc. Also called *caustic potash, potash*.

potassium nitrate *Chem.* A crystalline white salt, KNO_3, used in gunpowder, fertilizers, and in medicine. Also called *niter, saltpeter*.

potassium permanganate *Chem.* A purple red crystalline salt, $KMnO_4$, used as an oxidizing agent in antiseptics and deodorizing substances.

potassium sulfate *Chem.* A salt, K_2SO_4, used in the manufacture of glass and alum, and in the crude state as a component of fertilizer.

po·ta·tion (pō·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of drinking; also, a drink, esp. of an alcoholic beverage. **2.** A drinking bout. [< OF < L < *potare* to drink]

po·ta·to (pə·tā′tō) *n. pl.* **·toes** **1.** One of the edible tubers of a plant of the nightshade family: also called *Irish potato, white potato*. **2.** The plant. **3.** The sweet potato. [< Sp. *patata* < Arawakan (Taino) *batata*]

potato beetle A beetle having long black stripes on the wing covers, that feeds on the leaves of the potato, tomato, and similar plants. Also **potato bug**.

potato chip *U.S.* A very thin slice of potato fried crisp and salted.

pot-bel·ly (pot′bel′ē) *n. pl.* **·lies** **1.** A protuberant belly. **2.** An upright wood- or coal-burning stove with bulging sides: also **potbellied stove.** — **pot′bel′lied** *adj.*

pot-boil·er (pot′boi′lər) *n. Informal* A literary or artistic work produced simply to obtain the means of subsistence.

po·tent (pōt′nt) *adj.* **1.** Physically powerful. **2.** Having great authority. **3.** Exerting great influence on mind or morals; very convincing: a *potent* argument. **4.** Of a drug, liquor, etc., strong in its physical and chemical effects. **5.** Sexually competent: said of the male. [< L < *potis* able + *esse* to be] — **po′ten·cy, po′tence** *n.* — **po′tent·ly** *adv.* — **po′tent·ness** *n.*

po·ten·tate (pōt′n·tāt) *n.* One having great power or sway; a sovereign. [< LL *potentatus*]

po·ten·tial (pə·ten′chəl) *adj.* **1.** Possible but not actual. **2.** Having capacity for existence, but not yet existing; latent. **3.** *Gram.* Indicating possibility, power, or liberty, as a verb phrase including *may, can, must*, etc. — *n.* **1.** A possible development; potentiality. **2.** *Electr.* The charge on a body as referred to another body or to a given standard, as the earth, considered as having zero potential. [< LL *potentialis*] — **po·ten′tial·ly** *adv.*

po·ten·ti·al·i·ty (pə·ten′chē·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Inherent capacity for development or accomplishment. **2.** That which is potential ro capable of being realized.

poth·er (poth′ər) *n.* Excitement mingled with confusion; bustle; fuss. — *v.t. & v.i.* To worry; bother.

pot·herb (pot′ûrb′, -hûrb′) *n.* Any plant or herb, esp. greens, when cooked or used to flavor boiled foods.

pot·hole (pot′hōl′) *n.* A deep hole, as in a road.

pot·hook (pot′hŏŏk′) *n.* **1.** A curved or hooked piece of iron for lifting or hanging pots. **2.** A curved mark or elementary stroke used in teaching penmanship.

pot·house (pot′hous′) *Brit. n.* An alehouse; saloon.

po·tion (pō′shən) *n.* A draft, as a large dose of liquid medicine: often used of a magic or poisonous draft. [< OF < L < *potare* to drink]

pot·luck (pot′luk′) *n.* Whatever food may have been prepared for the family: usu. in the phrase **to take potluck.**

pot·pie (pot′pī′) *n.* **1.** A meat pie baked in a deep dish. **2.** Meat stewed with dumplings.

pot-pour·ri (pot·pŏŏr′ē, *Fr.* pō·pōō·rē′) *n.* **1.** A mixture of dried flower petals kept in a jar and used to perfume a room. **2.** A musical medley or literary miscellany. **3.** Any incongruous mixture. [< F, lit., rotten pot]

pot roast Meat braised and cooked in a covered pot.

pot·sherd (pot′shûrd) *n.* A bit of broken earthenware.

pot shot **1.** A shot fired to kill, without regard to the rules of sports. **2.** A shot fired, as from ambush, at a person or animal within easy range. **3.** A random shot.

pot·stone (pot′stōn′) *n.* A variety of steatite or soapstone.

pot·tage (pot′ij) *n.* A thick broth or stew of vegetables with or without meat. [< OF *pot* pot]

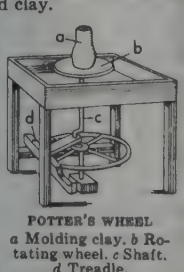
pot·ted (pot′id) *adj.* **1.** Placed or kept in a pot. **2.** Cooked or preserved in a pot. **3.** *Slang* Drunk.

pot·ter[1] (pot′ər) *v.t. & v.i. Chiefly Brit.* To putter. [Freq. of dial, *pote*] — **pot′ter·er** *n.*

pot·ter[2] (pot′ər) *n.* One who makes earthenware or porcelain vessels.

potter's field A piece of ground appropriated as a burial ground for the destitute and the unknown. *Matt.* xxvii 7.

potter's wheel A horizontal rotating disk used by potters for holding and manipulating prepared clay.



POTTER'S WHEEL
a Molding clay. *b* Rotating wheel. *c* Shaft. *d* Treadle.

pot·ter·y (pot′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ter·ies** **1.** Ware molded from clay and hardened by intense heat. **2.** The art of making earthenware or porcelain. **3.** A place where pottery is made. [< OF < Med.L *pot* pot]

pot·tle (pot′l) *n.* **1.** A drinking vessel, pot, or tankard holding about half a gallon. **2.** An old liquid measure of half a gallon. **3.** Liquor. [< OF *pot* pot)

pot·ty[1] (pot′ē) *adj. Brit. Informal* **1.** Insignificant. **2.** Slightly drunk; also, a little silly.

pot·ty[2] (pot′ē) *n. pl.* **·ties** A receptacle that fits under a child's toilet seat; also, the toilet seat.

pouch (pouch) *n.* **1.** A small bag, sack, or other container, used for carrying money, pipe tobacco, ammunition, etc. **2.** *Zool.* **a** A saclike part for temporailry containing food, as in gophers and pelicans. **b** A marsupium. **3.** *Bot.* Any baglike cavity, as the pod of the mustard plant. **4.** A mailbag. — *v.t.* **1.** To put in a pouch. **2.** To fashion in pouchlike form. — *v.i.* **3.** To form a pouchlike cavity. [< OF *poche*] — **pouch′y.** *adj.*

poul·tice (pōl′tis) *n.* A moist, mealy mass of flour, mustard, etc., applied hot to a sore part of the body. — *v.t.* **·ticed, ·tic·ing** To cover with a poultice. [< L *puls* porridge]

poul·try (pōl′trē) *n.* Domestic fowls, generally or collectively, as hens, ducks, etc. [< OF *poule* hen]

pounce[1] (pouns) *v.i.* **pounced, pounc·ing** To swoop or spring in or as in seizing prey: with *on, upon*, or *at*. — *n.* **1.** A talon or claw of a bird of prey. **2.** The act of pouncing.

pounce[2] (pouns) *n.* **1.** A powder, as of cuttlebone, formerly used to absorb excess of ink, as on a manuscript.

2. A finely pulverized substance used in transferring designs. — *v.t.* To sprinkle, smooth, or rub with pounce. [< F < L *pumex* pumice]

pound[1] (pound) *n.* **1.** A unit of weight varying in different countries and at different periods. **2.** In Great Britain and the U.S., either of two legally fixed units, the avoirdupois pound and the troy pound. See table front of book. **3.** The standard monetary unit of the United Kingdom, equivalent to 20 shillings: in 1960 worth about $2.81: also **pound sterling.** Symbol £. **4.** A similar monetary unit of Ireland and several members of the Commonwealth of Nations. **5.** A standard monetary unit of various other countries; esp. Egypt, Israel, and Turkey. [OE < L *pondus* weight]

pound[2] (pound) *n.* **1.** A place, enclosed by authority, in which stray animals or distrained possessions are left until claimed or redeemed. **2.** A place of confinement for lawbreakers. **3.** A trap for wild animals. **4.** An area or place in which to catch or stow fish. — *v.t.* To confine in a pound; impound. [OE *pund-*]

pound[3] (pound) *v.t.* **1.** To strike heavily and repeatedly; beat. **2.** To reduce to a pulp or powder by beating. — *v.i.* **3.** To strike heavy, repeated blows: with *on, at,* etc. **4.** To move or proceed heavily. **5.** To throb heavily or resoundingly. — *n.* **1.** A heavy blow. **2.** The act of pounding. [OE *pūnian* to bruise] — **pound'er** *n.*

pound·age (poun'dij) *n.* A rate on the pound sterling.

pound·al (poun'dəl) *n. Physics* A unit of force that, acting on a mass of one pound, imparts to it a velocity of one foot per second.

pound·cake (pound'kāk') *n.* A rich cake having ingredients equal in weight, as a pound each of flour, butter, and sugar, with eggs added.

pound·er (poun'dər) *n.* **1.** Anything weighing a pound. **2.** One who or that which weighs, has, etc., a given number of pounds: used in combination: an eight-*pounder.*

pound-fool·ish (pound'fōō'lish) *adj.* Extravagant with large sums, but watching small sums closely.

pour (pôr, pōr) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to flow in a continuous stream, as water, sand, etc. **2.** To send forth, emit, or utter profusely or continuously — *v.i.* **3.** To flow in a continuous stream; gush. **4.** To rain heavily. **5.** To move in great numbers; swarm. — *n.* A pouring, flow, or downfall. [ME *pouren*] — **pour'er** *n.* — **pour'ing·ly** *adv.*

pour·boire (pōōr·bwär') *n. French* A gratuitous gift of money, as a tip. [< F, lit., in order to drink]

pout[1] (pout) *v.i.* **1.** To thrust out the lips, esp. in ill humor. **2.** To be sullen; sulk. **3.** To swell out; protrude. — *v.t.* **4.** To thrust out (the lips, etc.). **5.** To utter with a pout. — *n.* **1.** A pushing out of the lips as in pouting. **2.** A fit of ill humor. [ME *pouten*]

pout[2] (pout) *n.* Any of various fresh-water catfishes. [OE *(æle)pūte* eelpout]

pout·er (pou'tər) *n.* **1.** One who pouts. **2.** A breed of pigeon having the habit of puffing out the crop.

pov·er·ty (pov'ər·tē) *n.* **1.** The condition or quality of being poor. **2.** Scantiness of supply: a *poverty* of imagination. **3.** Absence or scarcity of necessary qualities, elements, etc.: *poverty* of soil. [< OF < L < *pauper* poor]

— **Syn. 1.** Privation, indigence, penury.

pov·er·ty-strick·en (pov'ər·tē·strik'ən) *adj.* Suffering from poverty; destitute.

pow·der (pou'dər) *n.* **1.** A finely ground or pulverized mass of loose particles formed from a solid substance in the dry state. **2.** Any of various substances prepared in this form, as a cosmetic, medicine, or explosive. — *v.t.* **1.** To reduce to powder; pulverize. **2.** To sprinkle or cover with or as with powder. — *v.i.* **3.** To be reduced to powder. **4.** To use powder as a cosmetic. [<OF < L *pulvis* dust] — **pow'der·er** *n.*

powder blue A soft medium blue.

powder horn The hollow horn of an ox or cow, formerly fitted with a cover and used for holding gunpowder.

powder puff A soft pad used to apply powder to the skin.

pow·der·y (pou'dər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of or like fine powder or dust. **2.** Covered with or as with powder; mealy; dusty. **3.** Capable of being easily powdered; friable.

pow·er (pou'ər) *n.* **1.** Ability to act; capability. **2.** Potential capacity. **3.** Strength or force actually put forth. **4.** The right, ability, or capacity to exercise control; legal authority. **5.** Any agent that exercises power, as in control or dominion; an important and influential sovereign nation. **6.** Great or telling force or effect. **7.** *Often pl.* A mental or physical faculty. **8.** Any form of energy available for doing work; esp., electrical energy. **9.** *Physics* The time rate at which energy is transferred, or converted into work. **10.** *Math.* **a** The product of a number multiplied by itself a given number of times: The third *power* of 2 is 8. **b** An exponent. **11.** *Optics* Magnifying capacity, as of a lens. — *v.t.* To provide with means of propulsion. [< OF < LL < L *posse* to be able]

power boat A motorboat.

pow·er·ful (pou'ər·fəl) *adj.* **1.** Possessing great force or energy; strong. **2.** Exercising great authority, or manifesting high qualities. **3.** Having great effect on the mind. — *adv. Dial. & Informal* Very. — **pow'er·ful·ly** *adv.*

pow·er·house (pou'ər·hous') *n. Electr.* A station where electricity is generated.

pow·er·less (pou'ər·lis) *adj.* **1.** Destitute of power; unable to accomplish an effect; impotent. **2.** Without authority. — **pow'er·less·ly** *adv.* — **pow'er·less·ness** *n.*

power of attorney *Law* **1.** The authority or power to act conferred upon an agent. **2.** The instrument or document by which that power or authority is conferred.

power politics The use or threatened use of superior force to exact international concessions.

pow·wow (pou'wou') *U.S. n.* **1.** *Informal* Any meeting or conference. **2.** A North American Indian ceremony to cure the sick or effect success in war, etc. **3.** A conference with or of American Indians. — *v.i.* To hold a powwow. [< Algonquian (Massachusetts) *pauwaw,* lit., he dreams]

pox (poks) *n.* **1.** Any disease characterized by purulent eruptions: *chickenpox.* **2.** Syphilis. [Var. of *pocks,* pl. of POCK]

prac·ti·ca·ble (prak'ti·kə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** That can be put into practice; feasible. **2.** That can be used; usable. [< F < Med.L < LL < Gk. *prassein* to do] — **prac'ti·ca·bil'i·ty, prac'ti·ca·ble·ness** *n.* — **prac'ti·ca·bly** *adv.*

prac·ti·cal (prak'ti·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or governed by actual use and experience or action, as contrasted with speculation. **2.** Trained by or derived from practice or experience. **3.** Applicable to use. **4.** Manifested in practice. **5.** Being such to all intents and purposes; virtual. — **Syn.** See PRACTICABLE. [< MF < LL < Gk. *prassein* to do] — **prac'ti·cal'i·ty** (-kal'ə·tē), **prac'ti·cal·ness** *n.*

practical joke A trick having a victim or victims.

prac·ti·cal·ly (prak'tik·lē) *adv.* **1.** In a practical manner. **2.** To all intents and purposes; in fact or effect; virtually.

practical nurse. One who has some training and practice in nursing but who is not a registered nurse.

prac·tice (prak'tis) *v.* **·ticed, ·tic·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make use of habitually or often: to *practice* economy. **2.** To apply in action; make a practice of. **3.** To work at a profession. **4.** To do or perform repeatedly in order to acquire skill or training; rehearse. **5.** To instruct, as pupils, by repeated exercise or lessons. — *v.i.* **6.** To repeat or rehearse something in order to acquire skill or proficiency. **7.** To work at a profession. — *n.* **1.** Any customary action or proceeding; habit. **2.** An established custom or usage. **3.** The act of doing or performing: distinguished from *theory.* **4.** The regular prosecution of a profession. **5.** Frequent and repeated exercise in any matter. **6.** *pl.* Stratagems or schemes for bad purposes; tricks. **7.** The rules by which legal proceedings are governed. Also **prac'tise.** [< MF < Med.L < LL < Gk. *praktikos* < *prassein* to do] — **prac'tic·er** *n.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **5.** *Practice* is the putting into action of what one has learned in theory, to gain skill and facility. *Exercise* is primarily physical action to acquire and maintain strength. *Drill* is systematic and rigorous *practice* under an instructor.

prac·ticed (prak'tist) *adj.* **1.** Expert by practice; experienced. **2.** Acquired by practice. Also **prac'tised.**

prac·ti·tion·er (prak·tish'ən·ər) *n.* One who practices an art or profession.

prae- See PRE-.

prae·fect (prē'fekt) See PREFECT.

prae·no·men (prē·nō'mən) *n. pl.* **·nom·i·na** (-nom'ə·nə) The first name of an ancient Roman; also, any given name: also spelled *prenomen.* [< L]

praeter- See PRETER-.

prae·tor (prē'tər) *n.* A city magistrate of ancient Rome; also spelled *pretor.* [< L < *praeire* to go before] — **prae·to·ri·al** (pri·tôr'ē·əl, -tō'rē-) *adj.* — **prae'tor·ship** *n.*

prae·to·ri·an (pri·tôr'ē·ən, -tō'rē-) *adj.* Of a praetor; praetorial. — *n.* A praetor or ex-praetor. Also spelled *pretorian.*

Prae·to·ri·an (pri·tôr'ē·ən, -tō'rē-) *adj.* Denoting the Praetorian Guard. — *n.* A soldier of the Praetorian Guard. Also spelled *Pretorian.*

Praetorian Guard **1.** The bodyguard of the Roman emperors. **2.** A member of this bodyguard.

prag·mat·ic (prag·mat'ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the study of events with emphasis on cause and effect. **2.** *Philos.* Pertaining to pragmatism. **3.** Pragmatical. [< L < Gk. < *pragma, pragmatos* thing done < *prassein* to do]

prag·mat·i·cal (prag·mat'i·kəl) *adj.* Relating to everyday business; practical; commonplace.

prag·mat·i·cal·ly (prag·mat′i·kəl·ē) *adv.* In a pragmatic or pragmatical manner. — **prag·mat′i·cal·ness** *n.*

prag·ma·tism (prag′mə·tiz′əm) *n.* 1. *Philos.* The doctrine that ideas have value only in terms of their practical consequences, and that results are the sole test of the validity or truth of one's beliefs. 2. The quality or condition of being pragmatic. — **prag′ma·tist** *n.*

prai·rie (prâr′ē) *n. U.S. & Canadian* A tract of grassland; esp., the broad, grassy plain of central North America. [< F < L *pratum* meadow]

prairie chicken Either of two gallinaceous game birds inhabiting the plains of western North America. Also **prairie hen.**

prairie dog A burrowing rodent of the plains of North America. Also **prairie squirrel.**

prairie schooner *U.S.* A covered wagon used for travel by pioneers.

Prairie State Nickname of ILLINOIS.

prairie wolf A coyote.

praise (prāz) *n.* 1. An expression of approval or commendation. 2. The glorifying and honoring of a god, ruler, hero, etc. — *v.t.* **praised, prais·ing** 1. To express approval and commendation of; applaud. 2. To express adoration of; glorify, esp. in song. [< OF < LL *pretiare* to prize] — **prais′er** *n.*

— **Syn.** (verb) 1. *Praise* is a weak word, and may refer to the mere speaking of compliments. To *laud* is to *praise* highly. *Extol* stresses the intention to elevate or magnify a person or thing by praise. *Applaud* and *acclaim* point to a public show of approval, as by clapping the hands or shouting. — **Ant.** blame, decry.

praise·wor·thy (prāz′wûr′thē) *adj.* Worthy of praise. — **praise′wor′thi·ly** *adv,* — **praise′wor′thi·ness** *n.*

Pra·krit (prä′krit) *n.* Any of several vernacular languages of ancient India. [< Skt. *prakrtā* natural]

pra·line (prä′lēn, prā′-) *n.* A confection made of pecans or other nuts browned in boiling sugar. [< F, after Marshal Duplessis-*Praslin*, 1598–1675, whose cook invented it]

pram (pram) *n. Chiefly Brit. Informal* A baby carriage. [Short for PERAMBULATOR]

prance (prans, präns) *v.* **pranced, pranc·ing** *v.i.* 1. To move proudly with high steps, as a spirited horse; spring from the hind legs; also, to ride a horse moving thus. 2. To move in an arrogant or elated manner; swagger. 3. To gambol; caper. — *v.t.* 4. To cause to prance. — *n.* The act of prancing; a high step; caper. [ME *prauncen*] — **pranc′er** *n.*

pran·di·al (pran′dē·əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a meal, esp. dinner. [< L *prandium* breakfast or lunch]

prank[1] (prangk) *v.t.* 1. To decorate gaudily. — *v.i.* 2. To make an ostentatious show. [Prob. < MLG *prank* pomp]

prank[2] (prangk) *n.* A mischievous or frolicsome act; a trick. — *v.i.* To play pranks or tricks. [Origin uncertain; ? < PRANK[1]] — **prank′ish** *adj.*

pra·se·o·dym·i·um (prā′zē·ō·dim′ē·əm, prā′sē-) *n.* A yellowish white metallic element (symbol Pr) of the lanthanide series, having olive-green salts. See ELEMENT. [< NL < Gk. *prasios* light green + (DI)DYMIUM]

prate (prāt) *v.* **prat·ed, prat·ing** *v.i.* 1. To talk idly and at length; chatter. — *v.t.* 2. To utter idly or emptily. — *n.* Idle talk; prattle. [< MDu.-MLG *praten*] — **prat′er** *n.* — **prat′ing·ly** *adv.*

prat·fall (prat′fôl′) *n. U.S. Slang* A fall on the buttocks.

prat·tle (prat′l) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.i.* 1. To talk foolishly or like a child. — *v.t.* 2. To utter in a foolish or childish way. — *n.* 1. Childish speech. 2. Idle or foolish talk. [See PRATE.] — **prat′tler** *n.*

prawn (prôn) *n.* Any of various shrimplike crustaceans of tropical and temperate waters, used as food. — *v.i.* To fish for prawns. [ME *prane, prayne*]

pray (prā) *v.i.* 1. To address prayers to a deity, idol, etc. 2. To make earnest request or entreaty; beg. — *v.t.* 3. To say prayers to. 4. To ask (someone) earnestly; entreat. 5. To ask for by prayers or entreaty. [< OF < LL < L < *prex, precis* request, prayer] — **pray′er** *n.*

prayer (prâr) *n.* 1. A devout request or petition to a deity. 2. The act of praying, esp. to God. 3. A set form of words used for a devout request, petition, etc. 4. Spiritual and wordless communion with God. 5. *Often pl.* A religious service. 6. Something prayed for. 7. Any earnest request.

prayer book 1. A book of prayers for divine service. 2. *Usu. cap.* The Book of Common Prayer.

prayer·ful (prâr′fəl) *adj.* Inclined or given to prayer; devotional. — **prayer′ful·ly** *adv.* — **prayer′ful·ness** *n.*

prayer wheel A wheel, cylinder, or vertical drum containing written prayers, used by the Buddhists of Tibet.

praying mantis The mantis (which see).

pre- *prefix* 1. Before in time or order; prior to; preceding; as in: *prearrange, pre-Roman.* 2. Before in position; anterior: chiefly in scientific terms; as in: *preabdomen, preanal.* 3. Preliminary to; preparing for; as in: *precollege.* Also *prae-.* [< L *prae* before]

preach (prēch) *v.t.* 1. To advocate or recommend urgently. 2. To proclaim or expound upon: to *preach* the gospel. 3. To deliver (a sermon, etc.). — *v.i.* 4. To deliver a sermon. 5. To give advice, esp. in an officious or moralizing manner. [< OF < L *praedicare* to proclaim]

preach·er (prē′chər) *n.* 1. *Informal* A clergyman, esp. a Protestant minister. 2. One who preaches.

preach·i·fy (prē′chə·fī) *v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *Informal* To preach or discourse tediously. — **preach′i·fi·ca′tion** *n.*

preach·ment (prēch′mənt) *n.* A sermon or moral lecture, esp. a tedious one.

preach·y (prē′chē) *adj.* **preach·i·er, preach·i·est** Given to preaching; sanctimonious.

pre·am·ble (prē′am·bəl) *n.* 1. An introductory statement or preface, esp. to a formal document. 2. An introductory act, event, fact, etc. [< OF < Med.L < L *prae-* before + *ambulare* to walk] — **pre·am′bu·lar′y** (-byə·ler′ē) *adj.*

pre·am·pli·fi·er (prē·am′plə·fī′ər) *n.* In a sound reproduction system, an auxiliary amplifier used to reinforce very weak signals before sending them into the main amplifier. Also **pre·amp** (prē′amp).

preb·end (preb′ənd) *n.* 1. A stipend allotted from the revenues of a cathedral or conventual church to a clergyman. 2. The land or tithe yielding the stipend. 3. A prebendary. [< MF < Med.L < L *praebere* to supply] — **preb′en·dal** *adj.*

preb·en·dar·y (preb′ən·der′ē) *n. pl.* **·dar·ies** A canon or clergyman who holds a prebend. Also called *prebend.*

Pre-Cam·bri·an (prē·kam′brē·ən) *adj. Geol.* Of or pertaining to all geological time and rock formations preceding the Cambrian. See table for GEOLOGY. — *n.* Pre-Cambrian era or rocks.

pre·can·cel (prē·kan′səl) *v.t.* **·celed** or **·celled, ·cel·ing** or **·cel·ling** To cancel (stamps) before use on mail. — *n.* A precanceled stamp.

pre·car·i·ous (pri·kâr′ē·əs) *adj.* 1. Subject to continued risk; uncertain. 2. Subject or exposed to danger; hazardous. — **Syn.** See RISKY. 3. Without foundation or basis. [< L *precarius* obtained by prayer]

pre·cau·tion (pri·kô′shən) *n.* 1. A step or preparation taken to avoid a possible danger, evil, etc. 2. Caution observed in preparation for a possible emergency. [< F < LL < L < *prae-* before + *cavere* to take care] — **pre·cau′tion·ar′y** *adj.*

pre·cau·tious (pri·kô′shəs) *adj.* Exercising precaution. — **pre·cau′tious·ly** *adv.* — **pre·cau′tious·ness** *n.*

pre·cede (pri·sēd′) *v.* **·ced·ed, ·ced·ing** *v.t.* 1. To go or be before in order, place, rank, time, etc. 2. To preface; introduce. — *v.i.* 3. To go or be before; take precedence. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *cedere* to go]

pre·ce·dence (pri·sēd′əns, pres′ə·dəns) *n* 1. The act, right, or state of preceding in place, time, or rank. 2. The ceremonial order observed by persons of different ranks on formal occasions. Also **pre·ce·den·cy** (pri·sēd′ən·sē, pres′ə·dən·sē).

prec·e·dent (*n.* pres′ə·dənt; *adj.* pri·sēd′nt) *n.* An act or instance capable of being used as a guide or standard in evaluating future actions. — *adj.* Former; preceding. — **prec′e·den′tial** *adj.*

pre·ced·ing (pri·sē′ding) *adj.* Going before, as in time, place, or rank; earlier; foregoing. — **the preceding** That which precedes or has been mentioned before.

pre·cen·tor (pri·sen′tər) *n.* One who leads the singing of a church choir or congregation. [< LL < L < *prae-* before + *canere* to sing] — **pre·cen·to·ri·al** (prē′sen·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj* — **pre·cen′tor·ship** *n.*

pre·cept (prē′sept) *n.* 1. A rule prescribing a particular kind of conduct or action. 2. A proverbial standard or guide to morals; a maxim. [< L *praecipere* to prescribe]

pre·cep·tive (pri·sep′tiv) *adj.* 1. Consisting of or expressing a precept or precepts. 2. Pertaining to or of the nature of a precept.

pre·cep·tor (pri·sep′tər) *n.* A teacher; instructor. [< L *praeceptor*] — **pre·cep·to·ri·al** (prē′sep·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* — **pre·cep′tress** (-tris) *n.fem.*

pre·ces·sion (pri·sesh′ən) *n.* The act of preceding. — **pre·ces′sion·al** *adj.*

pre·cinct (prē′singkt) *n.* 1. *U.S.* An election district of a town, township, county, etc. 2. *U.S.* a A subdivision of a city or town under the jurisdiction of a police unit. b The police station for such an area. 3. A place marked off by fixed limits; also, the boundary of such a place. 4. *pl.* Neighborhood; environs. 5. A limited area of thought, action, etc. [< Med.L < L *praecingere* < *prae-* before + *cingere* to encircle]

pre·ci·os·i·ty (presh′ē·os′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** Extreme fastidiousness or affected refinement, as in speech, style, etc.

pre·cious (presh′əs) *adj.* 1. Highly priced or prized; valuable. 2. Greatly esteemed: truth is *precious.* 3. Beloved; cherished. 4. Affectedly delicate or sensitive, as a style of writing. 5. *Informal* Flagrant; surpassing: a *pre-*

cious scoundrel. — *n.* Precious one; sweetheart. — *adv.* Extremely; very. [< OF < L < *pretium* price] — **pre′cious·ly** *adv.* — **pre′cious·ness** *n.*

precious stone A valuable, rare gem, as the diamond, ruby, sapphire, or emerald.

prec·i·pice (pres′i·pis) *n.* **1.** A high vertical or overhanging face of rock; the brink of a cliff. **2.** A perilous situation. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *caput* head]

pre·cip·i·ta·ble (pri·sip′ə·tə·bəl) *adj. Chem.* Capable of being precipitated: a *precipitable* salt.

pre·cip·i·tant (pri·sip′ə·tənt) *adj.* **1.** Rushing or falling quickly or heedlessly. **2.** Rash; overhasty; impulsive. **3.** Very sudden; abrupt. — *n. Chem.* Any substance that, when added to a solution, results in the formation of a precipitate. — **pre·cip′i·tance, pre·cip′i·tan·cy** *n.* — **pre.cip′i·tant·ly** *adv.*

pre·cip·i·tate (pri·sip′ə·tāt; *for adj. & n., also* pri·sip′ə·tit) *v.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To hasten the occurrence of. **2.** To hurl from or as from a height; throw headlong. **3.** *Meteorol.* To cause (vapor, etc.) to condense and fall as dew, rain, etc. **4.** *Chem.* To separate (a substance) in solid form, as from a solution. — *v.i.* **5.** *Meteorol.* To fall as condensed vapor, etc. **6.** *Chem.* To separate and settle, as a substance held in solution. **7.** To fall headlong. — *adj.* **1.** Moving speedily or hurriedly; rushing headlong. **2.** Lacking due deliberation; hasty; rash. **3.** Sudden and brief, as a disease. — *n. Chem.* A deposit of solid matter formed by precipitation. [< L < *praeceps.* See PRECIPICE.] — **pre·cip′i·tate·ly** *adv.* — **pre·cip′i·tate·ness** *n.* — **pre·cip′i·ta′tive** *adj.* — **pre·cip′i·ta′tor** *n.*

pre·cip·i·ta·tion (pri·sip′ə·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** *Meteorol.* **a** The depositing of moisture from the atmosphere upon the surface of the earth. **b** The amount of rain, snow, etc., deposited. **2.** *Chem.* The process of separating any of the constituents of a solution. **3.** The act of precipitating, or the state of being precipitated. **4.** Rash haste or hurry.

pre·cip·i·tous (pri·sip′ə·təs) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of or like a precipice; very steep. **2.** Having many precipices. **3.** Hasty. — **pre·cip′i·tous·ly** *adv.* — **pre·cip′i·tous·ness** *n.*

pré·cis (prā′sē, prā·sē′) *n. pl.* **pré·cis** (prā′sēz, prā·sēz′) A concise summary of a book, article, or document; abstract. — **Syn.** See ABRIDGMENT. [< F]

pre·cise (pri·sīs′) *adj.* **1.** Sharply and clearly determined or defined. **2.** No more and no less than; exact in amount. **3.** Noting or confined to a certain thing; particular. **4.** Exact or distinct in sound, statement, etc. **5.** Scrupulously observant of rule. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *caedere* to cut] — **pre·cise′ly** *adv.* — **pre·cise′ness** *n.*

pre·ci·sion (pri·sizh′ən) *n* The state or quality of being precise; accuracy; definition. — *adj.* **1.** Designed for extremely accurate measurement: *precision* instruments. **2.** Characterized by precision. — **pre·ci′sion·ist** *n.*

pre·clude (pri·klōōd′) *v.t.* **·clud·ed, ·clud·ing** **1.** To make impossible or ineffectual by prior action. **2.** To shut out; exclude. — **Syn.** See PREVENT. [< L < *prae-* before + *claudere* to shut] — **pre·clu′sion** (-klōō′zhən) *n.* — **pre·clu′sive** (-klōō′siv) *adj.* — **pre·clu′sive·ly** *adv.*

pre·co·cious (pri·kō′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Unusually developed or advanced for one's age. **2.** Pertaining to or showing premature development. [< L < *prae-* beforehand, early + *coquere* to cook] — **pre·co′cious·ly** *adv.* — **pre·co′cious·ness, pre·coc′i·ty** (-kos′ə·tē) *n.*

pre·con·ceive (prē′kən·sēv′) *v.t.* **·ceived, ·ceiv·ing** To conceive in advance; form an idea or opinion of beforehand.

pre·con·cep·tion (prē′kən·sep′shən) *n.* **1.** An idea or opinion formed or conceived in advance. **2.** A prejudice or misconception; bias. — **pre′con·cep′tion·al** *adj.*

pre·con·di·tion (prē′kən·dish′ən) *n.* A condition that must be met before a certain result is attained; prerequisite.

pre·cur·sor (pri·kûr′sər) *n.* One who or that which precedes and suggests the course of future events. [< L < *prae-* before + *currere* to run]

pre·cur·so·ry (pri·kûr′sər·ē) *adj.* Going before as a precursor or harbinger; preliminary. Also **pre·cur′sive** (-kûr′siv).

pre·da·cious (pri·dā′shəs) *adj.* Living by preying upon others, as a beast or bird; raptorial: also *predatory.* Also **pre·da′ceous.** [< L *praeda* prey] — **pre·da′cious·ness, pre·dac′i·ty** (-das′ə·tē) *n.*

pre·date (prē′dāt′) *v.t.* **·dat·ed, ·dat·ing** **1.** To date before the actual time. **2.** To precede in time.

pred·a·tor (pred′i·tər) *n.* A predatory person or animal.

pred·a·to·ry (pred′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or characterized by plundering. **2.** Accustomed to or living by pillaging. **3.** Predacious. [< L *praeda* prey] — **pred′a·to′ri·ly** *adv.* — **pred′a·to′ri·ness** *n.*

pre·de·cease (prē′di·sēs′) *v.t.* **·ceased, ·ceas·ing** To die before: She *predeceased* her husband by five years.

pred·e·ces·sor (pred′ə·ses′ər) *n.* **1.** One who goes or has gone before another in point of time. **2.** A thing succeeded by something else. **3.** An ancestor. [< OF < LL < *prae-* before + *decessor* withdrawer]

pre·des·ti·nate (prē·des′tə·nāt) *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** **1.** *Theol.* To foreordain by divine decree or purpose. **2.** To predestine. [< L < *prae-* before + *destinare* to determine]

pre·des·ti·na·tion (prē·des′tə·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of predestining, or the state of being predestined; destiny; fate. **2.** *Theol.* The foreordination of all things by God, including the salvation or damnation of men.

pre·des·tine (prē·des′tin) *v.t.* **·tined, ·tin·ing** To destine or decree beforehand; foreordain; predestinate.

pre·de·ter·mine (prē′di·tûr′min) *v.t.* **·mined, ·min·ing** **1.** To determine beforehand; foreordain. **2.** To urge to accept (a point of view, etc.) beforehand; influence. — **pre′de·ter′mi·nate** (-mə·nit, -nāt) *adj.* — **pre′de·ter′mi·na′tion** *n.*

pred·i·ca·ble (pred′i·kə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being predicated or affirmed. — *n.* **1.** Anything predicable. — **pred′·i·ca·bil′i·ty, pred′i·ca·ble·ness** *n.*

pre·dic·a·ment (pri·dik′ə·mənt) *n.* **1.** A trying or embarrassing situation; plight. **2.** A specific state, position, or situation. [< LL < *praedicare* to proclaim. See PREACH.]

pred·i·cate (*v.* pred′i·kāt; *n. & adj.* pred′i·kit) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** *U.S.* To found or base (an argument, proposition, etc.): with *on* or *upon.* **2.** To affirm as a quality or attribute of something. **3.** To imply or connote. **4.** To declare; proclaim. **5.** *Logic* To state or affirm concerning the subject of a proposition. — *v.i.* **6.** To make a statement or affirmation. — *n.* **1.** *Gram.* The verb in a sentence or clause together with its complements and modifiers. **2.** *Logic* In a proposition, that which is stated about a subject. — *adj.* **1.** That predicates. **2.** *Gram.* Belonging to, relating to, or of the nature of a predicate. [< L < *praedicare* to proclaim] — **pred′i·ca′tive** *adj.* — **pred′i·ca′tive·ly** *adv.*

predicate adjective *Gram.* An adjective that describes the subject of a linking verb, as *sad* in *He is sad.*

predicate noun *Gram.* A noun that designates or identifies the subject of a linking verb, as *king* in *He was king.*

pred·i·ca·tion (pred′i·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of predicating. **2.** Something predicated. — **pred′i·ca′tion·al** *adj.*

pre·dict (pri·dikt′) *v.t.* **1.** To make known beforehand; prophesy. **2.** To assert on the basis of data, theory, or experience but in advance of proof. — *v.i.* **3.** To make a prediction. [< L < *prae-* before + *dicere* to say] — **pre·dict′a·ble** *adj.* — **pre·dict′a·bly** *adv.* — **pre·dic′tor** *n.*

pre·dic·tion (pri·dik′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of predicting. **2.** Something predicted. — **pre·dic′tive** *adj.* — **pre·dic′·tive·ly** *adv.*

pre·di·gest (prē′di·jest′, -dī-) *v.t.* To treat (food) by a process of partial digestion before introduction into the stomach.

pre·di·lec·tion (prē′də·lek′shən, pred′ə-) *n.* A preference or bias in favor of something; a partiality: with *for.* [< F < Med.L < L *prae-* before + *diligere* to love, choose]

pre·dis·pose (prē′dis·pōz′) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos′ing** **1.** To give a tendency or inclination to; make susceptible: Exhaustion *predisposes* one to sickness. **2.** To dispose of beforehand.

pre·dom·i·nant (pri·dom′ə·nənt) *adj.* Superior in power, influence, effectiveness, number, or degree; prevailing over others. — **pre·dom′i·nance, pre·dom′i·nan·cy** *n.* — **pre·dom′i·nant·ly** *adv.*

pre·dom·i·nate (pri·dom′ə·nāt) *v.i.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** **1.** To have governing influence or control; be in control: often with *over.* **2.** To be superior to all others. **3.** To prevail. — **pre·dom′i·nat′ing·ly** *adv.* — **pre·dom′i·na′tion** *n.*

pre·em·i·nent (prē·em′ə·nənt) *adj.* Supremely eminent; distinguished above all others; outstanding; conspicuous. [< L < *prae-* before + *eminere* to stand out] — **pre·em′i·nent·ly** *adv.* — **pre·em′i·nence** *n.*

pre·empt (prē·empt′) *v.t.* **1.** To acquire or appropriate beforehand. **2.** To occupy (public land) so as to acquire by preemption. — *v.i.* **3.** In bridge, to make a preemptive bid. — **pre·emp′tor** *n.* — **pre·emp′to·ry** (-tər·ē) *adj.*

pre·emp·tion (prē·emp′shən) *n.* **1.** The right to purchase something before others; also, the act of so purchasing. **2.** Public land obtained by exercising this right. [< Med.L < L *prae-* before + *emptus,* pp. of *emere* to buy]

pre·emp·tive (prē·emp′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or capable of preemption. **2.** In bridge, designating a bid that is unnecessarily high, intended to discourage subsequent bidding.

preen (prēn) *v.t.* **1.** To trim and dress (feathers, etc.) with the beak, as a bird. **2.** To dress or adorn (oneself) carefully. **3.** To pride or congratulate (oneself): with *on.* — *v.i.* **4.** To primp; prink. [ME *proyne, preyn, prene*]

pre·ex·ist (prē′ig·zist′) *v.t. & v.i.* To exist before. — **pre′·ex·is′tence** *n.* — **pre′ex·is′tent** *adj.*

pre·fab (prē′fab′) *n.* A prefabricated structure or part.

pre·fab·ri·cate (prē·fab′rə·kāt) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** **1.** To build beforehand. **2.** To manufacture in standard sections that can be rapidly assembled. — **pre·fab′ri·ca′tion** *n.*

pref·ace (pref′is) *n.* **1.** A statement or brief essay, included in the front matter of a book, etc., and dealing primarily with the purpose and scope of the work. **2.** Any introductory speech, writing, etc. — *v.t.* **·aced, ·ac·ing 1.** To introduce or furnish with a preface. **2.** To serve as a preface for. [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *fari* to speak]

pref·a·to·ry (pref′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Of the nature of a preface; introductory. Also **pref′a·to′ri·al.** — **pref′a·to′ri·ly** *adv.*

pre·fect (prē′fekt) *n.* **1.** In ancient Rome, any of various civil and military officials. **2.** Any magistrate, chief official, etc.; esp., in France: **a** The chief administrator of a department. **b** The head of the Paris police. **3.** The dean of certain private or religious schools. Also spelled *praefect.* [< OF < L *praeficere* to set over]

pre·fec·ture (prē′fek·chər) *n.* The office, jurisdiction, or province of a prefect. — **pre·fec′tur·al** *adj.*

pre·fer (pri·fûr′) *v.t.* **·ferred, ·fer·ring 1.** To hold in higher regard or esteem; value more. **2.** To choose (something or someone) over another or others; like better. **3.** To give priority to, as certain securities over others. — **Syn.** See CHOOSE. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *ferre* to carry] — **pre·fer′rer** *n.*

pref·er·a·ble (pref′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* That is preferred; more desirable; worthy of choice. — **pref′er·a·ble·ness, pref′er·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **pref′er·a·bly** *adv.*

pref·er·ence (pref′ər·əns) *n.* **1.** The choosing of one person or thing over another or others; also, the privilege of so choosing. **2.** One who or that which is preferred. **3.** The granting of special advantage to one over others, as to one country or group of countries. **4.** The act of preferring, or the state of being preferred.

pref·er·en·tial (pref′ə·ren′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Showing or arising from preference or partiality. **2.** Giving preference, as in tariffs. — **pref′er·en′tial·ism** *n.* — **pref′er·en′tial·ly** *adv.*

preferential shop A shop that gives preferential treatment to union members when hiring, laying off, promoting, etc.

pre·fer·ment (pri·fûr′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of promoting to higher office; advancement. **2.** A position, rank, or office of social prestige or profit. **3.** The act of preferring.

preferred stock Stock on which dividends must be paid before dividends can be paid on common stocks, usu. also receiving preference in the distribution of assets on liquidation. Also *Brit.* **preference shares.**

pre·fig·ur·a·tion (prē·fig′yə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of prefiguring. **2.** That which prefigures; a prototype. — **pre·fig·ur·a·tive** (prē·fig′yər·ə·tiv) *adj.* — **pre·fig′ur·a·tive·ly** *adv.* — **pre·fig′ur·a·tive·ness** *n.*

pre·fig·ure (prē·fig′yər) *v.t.* **·ured, ·ur·ing 1.** To serve as an indication or suggestion of; foreshadow. **2.** To imagine or picture to oneself beforehand. [< LL < L *prae-* before + *figurare* to form]

pre·fix (*n.* prē′fiks; *v.* prē·fiks′) *n.* **1.** *Gram.* A bound form affixed to the beginning of a base, stem, or root, altering or modifying its meaning, as *re-* in *renew.* Compare COMBINING FORM, SUFFIX. **2.** Something placed before, as a title before a name. — *v.t.* To put or attach before or at the beginning; add as a prefix. [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *figere* to fasten, fix] — **pre′fix·al** *adj.* — **pre′fix·al·ly** *adv.* — **pre·fix·ion** (prē·fik′shən) *n.*

preg·na·ble (preg′nə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being captured, as a fort. **2.** Open to attack; vulnerable; assailable. [< OF < L *prehendere* to seize] — **preg′na·bil′i·ty** *n.*

preg·nan·cy (preg′nən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** The state or quality of being pregnant.

preg·nant (preg′nənt) *adj.* **1.** Carrying a growing fetus in the uterus. **2.** Having considerable weight or significance; full of meaning. **3.** Teeming with ideas. **4.** Bearing issue or results; fruitful; prolific. [< L < *prae-* before + *gnasci* to be born] — **preg′nant·ly** *adv.*

pre·hen·si·ble (pri·hen′sə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being grasped.

pre·hen·sile (pri·hen′sil) *adj.* Adapted for grasping or holding, as the tail of a monkey. [See PREHENSION.] — **pre·hen·sil·i·ty** (prē′hen·sil′ə·tē) *n.*

pre·hen·sion (pri·hen′shən) *n.* The act of grasping, physically or mentally. [< L < *prehendere* to seize]

pre·his·tor·ic (prē′his·tôr′ik, -tor′-) *adj.* Of or belonging to the period before written history. Also **pre′his·tor′i·cal.** — **pre′his·tor′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pre·his·to·ry (prē·his′tə·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** The history of mankind in the period preceding written records.

pre·judge (prē·juj′) *v.t.* **·judged, ·judg·ing** To judge beforehand or without proper inquiry. [< F < Med.L < *prae-* before + *judicare* to judge] — **pre·judg′er** *n.* — **pre·judg′ment** or **pre·judge′ment** *n.*

prej·u·dice (prej′ŏŏ·dis) *n.* **1.** A judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known; esp., an unfavorable, irrational opinion. **2.** The act or state of holding preconceived, irrational opinions. **3.** Hatred of or dislike for a particular group, race, religion, etc. **4.** Injury or damage to a person arising from a hasty and unfair judgment by others. — **in (or to) the prejudice of** To the injury or detriment of. — *v.t.* **·diced, ·dic·ing 1.** To cause to have a prejudice; bias; influence. **2.** To damage or impair by some act, judgment, etc. [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *judicium* judgment]

— **Syn.** (noun) *Prejudice, bias,* and *partiality* are compared as they denote an attitude of mind that interferes with fair judgment. Only *prejudice* is necessarily a term of opprobrium; literally, it signifies prejudgment without adequate hearing or consideration, but it is chiefly used to refer to a strong emotional *bias.* A *bias* is an imbalance of mind, an inclination in some direction that prevents a fair weighing of issues. *Partiality* is an inclination to favor one person or view unfairly. A *bias* may be for or against someone or something, but *partiality* always implies favor.

prej·u·di·cial (prej′ŏŏ·dish′əl) *adj.* Tending to prejudice or injure; detrimental. — **prej′u·di′cial·ly** *adv.*

prel·a·cy (prel′ə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies 1.** The system of church government by prelates: sometimes used disparagingly. **2.** The dignity or function of a prelate; also, prelates collectively: also **prel·a·ture** (prel′ə·chər).

prel·ate (prel′it) *n.* An ecclesiastic of high rank, as a bishop, archbishop, etc. [< OF *prelat* < L *praelatus* set over] — **prel′ate·ship** *n.* — **pre·lat·ic** (pri·lat′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

pre·lim·i·nar·y (pri·lim′ə·ner′ē) *adj.* Before or introductory to the main event, proceeding, or business; prefatory; preparatory. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies 1.** A preparatory step or act. **2.** A preliminary examination. **3.** In sports, a minor, introductory event, as a boxing match. [< F *pré-* pre- + *liminaire* prefactory] — **pre·lim′i·nar′i·ly** *adv.*

pre·lit·er·ate (prē·lit′ər·it) *adj.* Of a culture, lacking or predating the existence of written language or records.

prel·ude (prel′yōōd, prē′lōōd) *n.* **1.** *Music* **a** An instrumental composition of moderate length, in a free style. **b** An opening section or movement of a musical composition. **2.** Any introductory or opening performance or event. — *v.* **·ud·ed, ·ud·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To introduce with a prelude. **2.** To serve as a prelude to. — *v.i.* **3.** To serve as a prelude. **4.** To provide or play a prelude. [< Med.L < L < *prae-* before + *ludere* to play] — **pre·lud·er** (pri·lōō′dər, prel′yə·dər) *n.* — **pre·lu·di·al** (pri·lōō′dē·əl) *adj.*

pre·ma·ture (prē′mə·chŏŏr′, -tŏŏr′, -tyŏŏr′; *Brit.* prem′ə·tyŏŏr′) *adj.* Existing, happening, or developed before the natural or proper period; untimely. [< L < *prae-* before + *maturus* ripe] — **pre′ma·ture′ly** *adv.* — **pre′ma·ture′ness, pre′ma·tu′ri·ty** *n.*

pre·med·i·cal (prē′med′i·kəl) *adj.* Preparatory to or preparing for the study of medicine. Also *Informal* **pre·med′.**

pre·med·i·tate (prē·med′ə·tāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** To plan or consider beforehand. [< L < *prae-* before + *meditari* to muse, ponder] — **pre·med′i·ta′ted·ly** *adv.* — **pre·med′i·ta′tive** *adj.* — **pre·med′i·ta′tor** *n.*

pre·med·i·ta·tion (prē·med′ə·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of premeditating. **2.** *Law* The deliberation and planning of a crime before its commission, showing intent to commit it.

pre·mi·er (prē′mē·ər, *esp. Brit.* prem′yər; *for n., also* pri·mir′) *adj.* **1.** First in rank or position; principal. **2.** First in order of occurrence; senior. — *n.* **1.** Prime minister. **2.** In Canada, the head of a Provincial cabinet. [< F < L *primus* first] — **pre′mi·er·ship′** *n.*

pre·mière (pri·mir′, *Fr.* prə·myâr′) *n.* The first performance of a play, movie, etc. [< F, fem. of *premier* first]

pre·mil·len·ni·al (prē·mi·len′ē·əl) *adj.* Pertaining to or occurring before the millennium.

prem·ise (prem′is; *for v., also* pri·mīz′) *n.* **1.** A proposition that serves as a ground for argument or for a conclusion. **2.** *pl.* A definite portion of real estate; land with its appurtenances; also, a building or part of a building. **3.** In a syllogism, either of the two propositions that combine to form a conclusion. **4.** *pl. Law* That part in a deed that sets forth the date, names of parties, the land or thing conveyed or granted, etc. Also **prem′iss.** — *v.* **·mised, ·mis·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To state beforehand, as by way of introduction or explanation. **2.** To state or assume as a premise or basis of argument. — *v.i.* **3.** To make a premise. [< MF < Med.L < L < *prae-* before + *mittere* to send]

pre·mi·um (prē′mē·əm) *n.* **1.** An object or service offered free as an inducement to buy, rent, or contract for another object or service. **2.** The amount paid or payable for insurance, usu. in periodical installments. **3.** An extra amount or bonus paid in addition to a fixed price, wage, etc. **4.** A price paid for a loan, usu. in addition to interest. **5.** The rate or price at which stocks, shares, or money are valued in excess of their nominal or par value: bank shares at a *premium* of five percent. **6.** High regard or value. **7.** A reward or prize awarded in a competition. — **at a premium 1.** Valuable and in demand. **2.** Above par. [< L ult. < *prae-* before + *emere* to take]

pre·mo·lar (prē·mō′lər) *Anat. n.* One of the teeth situated in front of the molars and behind the canines: also called *bicuspid.* — *adj.* Situated in front of the molar teeth.

pre·mo·ni·tion (prē′mə·nish′ən, prem′ə-) *n.* **1.** A presenti-

ment of the future not based on information received; an instinctive foreboding. **2.** An actual warning of something yet to occur. [< LL < *prae-* before + *monere* to advise] — **pre·mon·i·to·ry** (pri·mon′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **pre·mon′·i·to′ri·ly** *adv.*

pre·na·tal (prē·nāt′l) *adj.* Prior to birth: *prenatal* care. — **pre·na′tal·ly** *adv.*

pre·no·men (prē·nō′mən) See PRAENOMEN.

pre·oc·cu·pied (prē·ok′yə·pīd) *adj.* **1.** Engrossed in thought or in some action. **2.** Previously occupied.

pre·oc·cu·py (prē·ok′yə·pī) *v.t.* **·pied, ·py·ing** **1.** To engage fully; engross the mind. **2.** To occupy or take possession of first. [< L *praeoccupare* to seize beforehand] — **pre·oc′u·pan·cy** (-pən·sē), **pre·oc′cu·pa′tion** *n.*

pre·or·dain (prē′ôr·dān′) *v.t.* To ordain beforehand; foreordain. — **pre·or·di·na·tion** (prē′ôr·də·nā′shən) *n.*

prep (prep) *adj. Informal* Preparatory: a *prep* school.

pre·pack·age (prē·pak′ij) *v.t.* **·aged, ·ag·ing** To package (meats, etc.) before offering them for sale.

prep·a·ra·tion (prep′ə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of preparing. **2.** An act or proceeding undertaken in advance of some event; provision. **3.** The fact or state of being prepared. **4.** Something made or prepared, as a medicine.

pre·par·a·to·ry (pri·par′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* **1.** Serving as preparation. **2.** Occupied in preparation: a *preparatory* scholar. — *adv.* As a preparation: *Preparatory* to writing, I will consider this: also **pre·par′a·to′ri·ly.**

preparatory school A private school that prepares students for college admission.

pre·pare (pri·pâr′) *v.* **·pared, ·par·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make ready, fit, or qualified; put in readiness. **2.** To provide with what is needed; equip: to *prepare* an expedition. **3.** To bring to a state of completeness: to *prepare* a meal. — *v.i.* **4.** To make preparations; get ready. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *parare* to produce] — **pre·par·ed·ly** (pri·pâr′id·lē) *adv.* — **pre·par′er** *n.*

pre·par·ed·ness (pri·pâr′id·nis, -pârd′-) *n.* Readiness; esp., a condition of military readiness for war.

pre·pay (prē·pā′) *v.t.* **·paid, ·pay·ing** To pay or pay for in advance. — **pre·pay′ment** *n.*

pre·pense (pri·pens′) *adj.* Considered beforehand; premeditated: chiefly in the phrase **malice prepense.** [< OF < L *pro-* ahead + *pensare* to think] — **pre·pense′ly** *adv.*

pre·pon·der·ant (pri·pon′dər·ənt) *adj.* Having superior force, weight, importance, quantity, etc.. — **pre·pon′der·ance, pre·pon′der·an·cy** *n.* — **pre·pon′der·ant·ly** *adv.*

pre·pon·der·ate (pri·pon′də·rāt) *v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To be of greater weight. **2.** To incline downward or descend, as the scale of a balance. **3.** To be of greater power, importance, quantity, etc.; predominate; prevail. [< L < *prae-* before + *ponderare* to weigh] — **pre·pon′der·a′tion** *n.*

prep·o·si·tion (prep′ə·zish′ən) *n. Gram.* **1.** In some languages, a word as *by, for, from,* functioning to indicate the relation of a substantive (the object of the preposition) to another substantive, verb, or adjective and usu. placed before its object. Together they constitute a prepositional phrase that serves as an adjectival or an adverbial modifier as: sitting *beside the fire*; a man *of honor*. **2.** Any word or construction that functions in a similar manner, as *in reference to* in *He telephoned in reference to your letter.*

◆ It was once maintained that a sentence should never end with a preposition, but natural English sentences often do. *What did you laugh at?* is good English. *At what did you laugh?* is awkward and unnatural. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *ponere* to place] — **prep′o·si′tion·al** *adj.* — **prep′o·si′·tion·al·ly** *adv.*

pre·pos·sess (prē′pə·zes′) *v.t.* **1.** To preoccupy to the exclusion of other ideas, beliefs, etc.; prejudice; bias. **2.** To impress or influence beforehand or at once, esp. favorably. — **pre′pos·ses′sion** *n.*

pre·pos·sess·ing (prē′pə·zes′ing) *adj.* Inspiring a favorable opinion; pleasing. — **pre′pos·sess′ing·ly** *adv.*

pre·pos·ter·ous (pri·pos′tər·əs) *adj.* Contrary to nature, reason, or common sense; utterly absurd or impracticable. [< L < *prae* before + *posterus* last] — **pre·pos′ter·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pre·pos′ter·ous·ness** *n.*

pre·puce (prē′pyōōs) *n. Anat.* The fold of skin covering the glans of the penis or clitoris: also called *foreskin.* [< F < L *praeputium*] — **pre·pu·tial** (pri·pyōō′shəl) *adj.*

Pre-Raph·a·el·ite (prē·raf′ē·ə·līt, -rā′fē-) *n.* **1.** A follower of the **Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood,** a society of artists formed in England, 1847–49, stressing characteristics supposedly typical of Italian art before the time of Raphael. **2.** Any modern artist with similar aims. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Pre-Raphaelites. — **Pre-Raph′a·el·it′ism** *n.*

pre·req·ui·site (prē·rek′wə·zit) *adj.* Required as an antecedent condition; necessary to something that follows. — *n.* Something prerequisite.

pre·rog·a·tive (pri·rog′ə·tiv) *n.* **1.** An exclusive and unquestionable right belonging to a person or body of persons; esp., a hereditary or official right. **2.** Any characteristic privilege peculiar to a person or class. **3.** Precedence; pre-eminence. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or possessing a prerogative. [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *rogare* to ask]

pres·age (*n.* pres′ij; *v.* pri·sāj′) *n.* **1.** An indication of something to come; omen. **2.** A presentiment; foreboding. **3.** Prophetic meaning or import. — *v.* **·saged, ·sag·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give a presage or portent of; foreshadow. **2.** To have a presentiment of. **3.** To predict; foretell. — *v.i.* **4.** To make a prediction. [< MF < L < *prae-* before + *sagire* to perceive keenly] — **pre·sag′er** *n.*

pres·by·ter (prez′bə·tər, pres′-) *n. Eccl.* **1.** In the early Christian church, one of the elders of a church. **2.** In various hierarchical churches, a priest. **3.** In the Presbyterian Church: **a** An ordained clergyman: also called *teaching elder.* **b** A layman who is a member of the governing body of a congregation. [< LL < Gk. *presbyteros* elder, compar. of *presbys* old, important]

pres·by·te·ri·al (prez′bə·tir′ē·əl, pres′-) *adj.* Pertaining to a presbytery or a presbyter. Also **pres·byt′er·al.** — **pres′·by·te′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

pres·by·te·ri·an (prez′bə·tir′ē·ən, pres′-) *adj.* Pertaining to or characterized by church government by presbyters. — **pres′by·te′ri·an·ism** *n.*

Pres·by·te·ri·an (prez′bə·tir′ē·ən, pres′-) *adj.* Pertaining to any of various Protestant churches that have church government by presbyters. — *n.* A member of a Presbyterian church. — **Pres′by·te′ri·an·ism** *n.*

pres·by·ter·y (prez′bə·ter′ē, pres′-) *n. pl.* **·ter·ies** **1.** In the Presbyterian Church, a court composed of the ministers and one or two presbyters of each church in a district. **2.** Presbyters collectively. **3.** Government of a church by presbyters. **4.** That part of a church set apart for the clergy. [< OF < LL *presbyterium* assembly of elders]

pre·school (prē′skōōl′) *adj.* Of, intended for, or designating a child past infancy but under school age.

pre·sci·ence (prē′shē·əns, presh′ē-) *n.* Knowledge of events before they take place; foreknowledge. [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *scire* to know]

pre·sci·ent (prē′shē·ənt, presh′ē-) *adj.* Having prescience; farseeing. — **pre′sci·ent·ly** *adv.*

pre·scribe (pri·skrīb′) *v.* **·scribed, ·scrib·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To set down as a direction or rule to be followed; enjoin. **2.** *Med.* To order the use of (a medicine, treatment, etc.). — *v.i.* **3.** To lay down laws or rules; give directions. **4.** *Med.* To order a remedy; give prescriptions. [< L < *prae-* before + *scribere* to write] — **pre·scrib′er** *n.*

pre·script (prē′skript; *for adj., also* pri·skript′) *n.* Something prescribed; a rule or regulation, esp. a rule of conduct. — *adj.* Laid down, prescribed.

pre·scrip·tion (pri·skrip′shən) *n.* **1.** *Med.* **a** A physician's order for a medicine including directions for its use. **b** The remedy so prescribed. **2.** The act of prescribing. **3.** That which is prescribed; a prescript.

pre·scrip·tive (pri·skrip′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Making strict requirements or rules: *prescriptive* grammar. **2.** Sanctioned by custom or long use. — **pre·scrip′tive·ly** *adv.*

pres·ence (prez′əns) *n.* **1.** The state or fact of being present. **2.** The area immediately surrounding a person or thing; close proximity. **3.** The immediate vicinity of a person of superior rank, esp., a sovereign; also, the person or personality of a sovereign, ruler, etc. **4.** Personal appearance; bearing; esp., a pleasing or dignified bearing. **5.** An invisible spirit or influence felt to be near.

presence of mind Full command of one's faculties, esp. in an emergency; coolness, alertness, and readiness.

pres·ent[1] (prez′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Now going on; not past or future. **2.** Of or pertaining to time now occurring; current. **3.** Being in the place or company referred to or considered; being at hand. **4.** Being actually considered, written, discussed, etc.: the *present* issue. **5.** *Gram.* Denoting a tense or verb form that expresses a current or habitual action or state. — *n.* **1.** Present time; the time being; now. **2.** *Gram.* The present tense; also, a verb form denoting it. **3.** *pl. Law* Present writings: a term for the document in which the word occurs: Know all men by these *presents.* — **at present** Now. [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *esse* to be]

pre·sent[2] (*v.* pri·zent′; *n.* prez′ənt) *v.t.* **1.** To bring into the presence or acquaintance of another; introduce, esp. to one of higher rank. **2.** To exhibit to view or notice. **3.** To suggest to the mind: This *presents* a problem. **4.** To put forward for consideration or action; submit, as a petition. **5.** To make a gift or presentation of or to, usu. formally. **6.** To aim or level (a weapon, etc). — **to present arms** *Mil.* To salute by holding a gun vertically in front of one's body with the muzzle up and the trigger facing forward. — *n.* Some-

thing presented or given; a gift. [< OF < L *praeesse* to be before] — **pre·sent'er** *n.*

pre·sent·a·ble (pri·zen'tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Fit to be presented; in suitable condition or attire for company. **2.** Capable of being offered, exhibited, or bestowed. — **pre·sent'a·bil'i·ty, pre·sent'a·ble·ness** *n.* — **pre·sent'a·bly** *adv.*

pres·en·ta·tion (prez'ən·tā'shən, prē'zən-) *n.* **1.** The act of presenting or proffering for acceptance, approval, etc., or the state of being presented. **2.** The formal offering of a complimentary gift. **3.** The act of introducing or bringing to notice, esp. to one of higher rank: *presentation* at court. **4.** An exhibition or representation, as of a play.

pres·ent-day (prez'ənt·dā') *adj.* Modern; current.

pre·sen·ti·ment (pri·zen'tə·mənt) *n.* A prophetic sense of something to come; a foreboding. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *sentire* to perceive]

pres·ent·ly (prez'ənt·lē) *adv.* **1.** After a little time; shortly. **2.** At the present time; now.

pre·sent·ment (pri·zent'mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of presenting. **2.** Something represented or exhibited.

present participle See under PARTICIPLE.

present perfect *Gram.* The verb tense expressing an action completed by the present time, usu. constructed with a form of the verb *to have*, as *has finished* in *By now he has finished the task.*

present tense *Gram.* The verb tense marking present time, as *am* in *I am here*, or *are going* in *You are going home.*

pre·ser·va·tive (pri·zûr'və·tiv) *adj.* Serving or tending to preserve. — *n.* A preservative agent; esp., a chemical substance added to food to retard spoilage.

pre·serve (pri·zûrv') *v.* **·served, ·serv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To keep in safety; guard: May the gods *preserve* you. **2.** To keep intact or unimpaired; maintain. **3.** To prepare (food) for future consumption, as by boiling with sugar or by salting. **4.** To keep from decomposition or change, as by chemical treatment. **5.** To keep for one's private hunting or fishing: to *preserve* foxes. — *v.i.* **6.** To make preserves, as of fruit. **7.** To maintain a game preserve. — *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* Fruit that has been cooked, usu. with sugar, to prevent its fermenting. **2.** Something that preserves or is preserved. **3.** An area set apart for the protection of wildlife, forests, etc.; also, such an area reserved for restricted or private hunting or fishing. [< OF < LL < L *prae-* before + *servare* to keep] — **pre·serv'a·bil'i·ty** *n.* — **pre·serv'a·ble** *adj.* — **pres·er·va'tion** (prez'ər·vā'shən) *n.* — **pre·serv'er** *n.*

pre-shrunk (prē'shrungk') *adj.* Shrunk during manufacture to minimize later shrinkage during cleaning.

pre·side (pri·zīd') *v.i.* **·sid·ed, ·sid·ing** **1.** To sit in authority, as over a meeting; act as chairman or president. **2.** To exercise direction or control. **3.** To occupy a featured place, as an instrumentalist on a program. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *sedere* to sit] — **pre·sid'er** *n.*

pres·i·den·cy (prez'ə·dən·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** **1.** The office, function, or term of office of a president. **2.** *Often cap.* The office of president of the U.S.

pres·i·dent (prez'ə·dənt) *n.* **1.** One who is chosen to preside over an organized body. **2.** *Often cap.* The chief executive of a republic. **3.** The chief executive officer of a government department, corporation, society, or similar body. **4.** The chief officer of a college or university. **5.** The chairman of a meeting conducted under parliamentary rules. [< OF < L *praesidens, -entis*, ppr. of *praesidere* to preside] — **pres·i·den·tial** (prez'ə·den'shəl) *adj.* — **pres'i·dent·ship'** *n.*

pre·sid·i·o (pri·sid'ē·ō) *n.* *pl.* **·sid·i·os** A garrisoned post; fortified settlement; fort. [< Am. Sp. < L *praesidium*]

pre·sid·i·um (pri·sid'ē·əm) *n.* An executive committee in the Soviet Union serving as the permanent organ of a larger governmental body.

Pre·sid·i·um (pri·sid'ē·əm) *n.* **1.** A governmental body of the Soviet Union that exercises the powers of the Supreme Soviet between plenary sessions. **2.** The supreme policy-making committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union, headed by the party secretary. See POLITBURO.

pre·sig·ni·fy (prē·sig'nə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To signify or give token of in advance; presage; foreshadow.

press[1] (pres) *v.t.* **1.** To act upon by weight or pressure: to *press* a button. **2.** To compress so as to extract the juice: to *press* grapes. **3.** To extract by pressure, as juice. **4.** To exert pressure upon so as to smooth, shape, make compact, etc. **5.** To smooth or shape by heat and pressure, as clothes; iron. **6.** To embrace closely; hug. **7.** To force or impel. **8.** To distress or harass; place in difficulty. **9.** To urge persistently; entreat: They *pressed* me for an answer. **10.** To advocate persistently; emphasize. **11.** To put forward insistently: to *press* a claim. **12.** To urge onward; hasten. **13.** To proceed further in, as a lawsuit. **14.** To produce (a phonograph record) from a matrix. — *v.i.* **15.** To exert pressure; bear heavily. **16.** To advance forcibly or with speed. **17.** To press clothes, etc. **18.** To crowd; cram. **19.** To be urgent or importunate. — *n.* **1.** Newspapers or periodical literature collectively, or the persons concerned with such publications, as editors, reporters, etc. **2.** Criticism, news, etc., in newspapers and periodicals. **3.** The place of business where printing is carried on. **4.** The art, process, or business of printing. **5.** A printing press. **6.** An apparatus by which pressure is applied, as for crushing grapes to make wine. **7.** The act of crowding together. **8.** Hurry or pressures of affairs: the *press* of business. **9.** The proper creases and folds in a pressed garment. **10.** A movable upright closet. [< OF < L *pressare*, freq. of *premere* to press] — **press'er** *n.*

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

Number—Name	*Birthplace—Inaugurated: year*		*Age*
1 George Washington	Westmoreland Co., Va.	1789	57
2 John Adams	Quincy, Mass.	1797	61
3 Thomas Jefferson	Shadwell, Va.	1801	57
4 James Madison	Port Conway, Va.	1809	57
5 James Monroe	Westmoreland Co., Va.	1817	58
6 John Quincy Adams	Quincy, Mass.	1825	57
7 Andrew Jackson	Union Co., N.C.	1829	61
8 Martin Van Buren	Kinderhook, N.Y.	1837	54
9 William H. Harrison	Berkeley, Va.	1841	68
10 John Tyler	Greenway, Va.	1841	51
11 James K. Polk	Little Sugar Creek, N.C.	1845	49
12 Zachary Taylor	Orange Co., Va.	1849	64
13 Millard Fillmore	Summerhill, N.Y.	1850	50
14 Franklin Pierce	Hillsboro, N.H.	1853	48
15 James Buchanan	Cove Gap, Pa.	1857	65
16 Abraham Lincoln	Hardin Co., Ky.	1861	52
17 Andrew Johnson	Raleigh, N.C.	1865	56
18 Ulysses S. Grant	Point Pleasant, Oh.	1869	46
19 Rutherford B. Hayes	Delaware, Oh.	1877	54
20 James A. Garfield	Cuyahoga Co., Oh.	1881	49
21 Chester A. Arthur	Fairfield, Vt.	1881	50
22 Grover Cleveland	Caldwell, N.J.	1885	47
23 Benjamin Harrison	North Bend, Oh.	1889	55
24 Grover Cleveland	Caldwell, N.J.	1893	55
25 William McKinley	Niles, Oh.	1897	54
26 Theodore Roosevelt	New York, N.Y.	1901	42
27 William H. Taft	Cincinnati, Oh.	1909	51
28 Woodrow Wilson	Staunton, Va	1913	56
29 Warren G. Harding	Corsica, Oh.	1921	55
30 Calvin Coolidge	Plymouth, Vt.	1923	51
31 Herbert C. Hoover	West Branch, Ia.	1929	55
32 Franklin D. Roosevelt	Hyde Park, N.Y.	1933	51
33 Harry S Truman	Lamar, Mo.	1945	60
34 Dwight D. Eisenhower	Denison, Tex.	1953	62
35 John F. Kennedy	Brookline, Mass.	1961	43
36 Lyndon B. Johnson	Stonewall, Tex.	1963	55
37 Richard M. Nixon	Yorba Linda, Calif	1969	56
38 Gerald R. Ford	Omaha, Nebr.	1974	61
39 Jimmy Carter	Plains, Ga.	1977	52
40 Ronald W. Reagan	Dixon, Ill.	1981	69
41 George H. W. Bush	Milton, Mass.	1989	64
42 Bill Clinton	Hope, Ark.	1993	46

press[2] (pres) *v.t.* **1.** To force into military or naval service. **2.** To put to use in a manner not intended or desired. — *n.* A commission to impress men into the public service; also, the impressment of men. [< obs. *prest* enlistment for advance pay < OF < L < *prae-* before + *stare* to stand]

press agent A person employed to advance the interests of an actor, singer, etc., by means of publicity.

press conference An interview granted by a celebrity, official, etc., to a number of journalists at the same time.

press gang A detachment of men detailed to press men into naval or military service. Also **press-gang** (pres′gang′).

press·ing (pres′ing) *adj.* **1.** Demanding immediate attention; urgent. **2.** Importunate. — **press′ing·ly** *adv.*

press·man (pres′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** A man in charge of a press, as a printing press. **2.** *Brit.* A journalist.

press of canvas *Naut.* The maximum spread of sail that can be carried with safety. Also **press of sail.**

press·or (pres′ər) *adj.* *Physiol.* Increasing the functional activities of an organ, as a nerve. [< PRESS[1]]

press release A bulletin prepared by a public relations department, etc., announcing an event, decision, etc.

pres·sure (presh′ər) *n.* **1.** The act of pressing, or the state of being pressed. **2.** Any force that acts against an opposing force. **3.** An impelling or constraining moral force. **4.** Urgent demands on one's time or strength. **5.** The oppressive influence or depressing effect of something hard to bear; weight. **6.** *Physics* The force acting upon a surface per unit of area. — *v.t.* **·sured, ·sur·ing** *Informal* To compel, as by forceful persuasion. [< OF < L < *premere* to press]

pressure cabin *Aeron.* An enclosed compartment in an aircraft in which air is pressurized.

pressure cooker A strong, airtight pot for cooking food at high temperature under pressure: also called *autoclave.*

pressure group A group that seeks to influence legislators and public opinion in behalf of its own special interests.

pres·sur·ize (presh′ər·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To subject to high pressure. **2.** To establish (in an aircraft compartment, special suit, etc.) an air pressure higher than the low atmospheric pressure at high altitudes. — **pres′sur·i·za′tion** *n.*

press·work (pres′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** The operating or management of a printing press. **2.** The work done by it.

pres·ti·dig·i·ta·tion (pres′tə·dij′ə·tā′shən) *n.* The practice of sleight of hand; legerdemain. [< F < Ital. < LL *praestus* nimble + L *digitus* finger] — **pres′ti·dig′i·ta′tor** *n.*

pres·tige (pres·tēzh′, pres′tij, pres·tēj′) *n.* **1.** Authority or importance based on past achievements, reputation, power, etc. **2.** Importance, respect, etc., due to the appearance of wealth or power. [< F < L *praestigium* illusion < *prae-* before + *stringere* to bind]

pres·tig·ious (pres·tij′əs, -tē′jəs) *adj.* Having a famous reputation or name; honored or well-known; illustrious. — **pres·tig′ious·ly** *adv.* — **pres·tig′ious·ness** *n.*

pres·to (pres′tō) *adj.* *Music* Quick; faster than allegro. — *adv.* **1.** *Music* In a presto manner: a direction to the performer. **2.** At once; speedily. — *n.* *Music* A presto movement or passage. [< Ital. < L *praesto* at hand]

pre·sum·a·ble (pri·zōō′mə·bəl) *adj.* That may be assumed or presumed; reasonable. — **pre·sum′a·bly** *adv.*

pre·sume (pri·zōōm′) *v.* **·sumed, ·sum·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take for granted; assume to be true until disproved. **2.** To take upon oneself without warrant or permission; venture: usu. with the infinitive. **3.** To indicate the probability of; seem to prove: A concealed weapon *presumes* the intent to commit a crime. — *v.i.* **4.** To act or proceed presumptuously or overconfidently. **5.** To make excessive demands: with *on* or *upon.* [< OF < L < *prae-* before + *sumere* to take] — **pre·sum′ed·ly** (pri·zōō′mid·lē) *adv.* — **pre·sum′er** *n.*

pre·sump·tion (pri·zump′shən) *n.* **1.** Offensively forward or arrogant conduct or speech; insolence. **2.** The act of presuming; also, something presumed. **3.** A ground or reason for presuming. **4.** That which may be logically assumed true until disproved. **5.** *Law* The inference of a fact from circumstances that usually or necessarily attend such a fact. — **Syn. 1,** arrogance, boldness, impudence, impertinence.

pre·sump·tive (pri·zump′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Creating or affording reasonable grounds for belief. **2.** Based upon presumption: an heir *presumptive.* — **pre·sump′tive·ly** *adv.*

pre·sump·tu·ous (pri·zump′chōō·əs) *adj.* Unduly confident or bold; audacious; arrogant. — **pre·sump′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pre·sump′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

pre·sup·pose (prē′sə·pōz′) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** **1.** To assume to start with. **2.** To imply as a necessary antecedent condition. — **pre·sup·po·si·tion** (prē′sup·ə·zish′ən) *n.*

pre·tend (pri·tend′) *v.t.* **1.** To assume or display a false appearance of; feign. **2.** To claim or assert falsely. **3.** To feign in play; make believe. — *v.i.* **4.** To make believe, as in play or deception. **5.** To put forward a claim: with *to.* [< L < *prae-* before + *tendere* to spread out]

pre·tend·ed (pri·ten′did) *adj.* **1.** Alleged or asserted; professed. **2.** Deceptive; false. — **pre·tend′ed·ly** *adv.*

pre·tend·er (pri·ten′dər) *n.* **1.** One who advances a claim or title; a claimant to a throne. **2.** One who pretends.

pre·tense (pri·tens′, prē′tens) *n.* **1.** A pretended claim; pretext. **2.** A false assumption of a character or condition. **3.** The act or state of pretending. **4.** A right or title asserted. **5.** The condition of being a claimant. Also *Brit.* **pre·tence′.** [< AF < Med.L < L *praetendere* to pretend]

pre·ten·sion (pri·ten′shən) *n.* **1.** A claim put forward, as to an office, privilege, rank, etc. **2.** Affectation; display. **3.** A bold or presumptuous assertion.

pre·ten·tious (pri·ten′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Making an ambitious outward show; ostentatious. **2.** Making claims, esp. when exaggerated or false. [< F *prétentieux*] — **pre·ten′tious·ly** *adv.* — **pre·ten′tious·ness** *n.*

preter- *prefix* Beyond; past; more than: also spelled *praeter-.* [< L *praeter* beyond < *prae* before]

pret·er·it (pret′ər·it) *Gram. adj.* Signifying past time or completed past action. — *n.* The tense that expresses absolute past time; also, a verb in this tense. Also **pret′er·ite.** [< OF < L < *praeter-* beyond + *ire* to go]

pre·ter·i·tive (pri·ter′ə·tiv) *adj.* *Gram.* Used only in a past tense or past tenses: said of certain verbs.

pre·ter·mit (prē′tər·mit′) *v.t.* **·mit·ted, ·mit·ting** To fail or cease to do; neglect; omit. [< L < *praeter-* beyond + *mittere* to send] — **pre′ter·mis′sion** (-mish′ən) *n.*

pre·ter·nat·u·ral (prē′tər·nach′ər·əl) *adj.* **1.** Diverging from or exceeding the common order of nature, but not outside the natural order: distinguished from *supernatural.* **2.** Outside the natural order. — **Syn.** See SUPERNATURAL. — **pre′ter·nat′u·ral·ism** *n.* — **pre′ter·nat′u·ral·ly** *adv.*

pre·text (prē′tekst) *n.* **1.** A fictitious reason or motive advanced to conceal a real one. **2.** A specious excuse or explanation. [< F < L < *prae-* before + *texere* to weave]

pre·tor (prē′tər), **pre·to·ri·an** (pri·tôr′ē·ən, -tō′rē-), etc. See PRAETOR, etc.

pret·ti·fy (prit′i·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To make pretty; embellish overmuch.

pret·ty (prit′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** **1.** Characterized by delicacy, gracefulness, or proportion rather than by striking beauty. **2.** Pleasant; attractive: a *pretty* melody. **3.** Decent; good; sufficient: often used ironically: A *pretty* mess you've made of it! **4.** *Informal* Rather large in size or degree; considerable. **5.** Foppish. — *adv.* To a fair extent; rather: He looked *pretty* well. — **sitting pretty** *Informal* In good circumstances. — *n.* *pl.* **·ties** (-tēz) A pretty person or thing. [OE *prættig* sly, cunning] — **pret′ti·ly** *adv.* — **pret′ti·ness** *n.*

pret·zel (pret′səl) *n.* A glazed, salted biscuit, usu. baked in the form of a loose knot. [< G *brezel*]

pre·vail (pri·vāl′) *v.i.* **1.** To gain mastery; triumph: with *over* or *against.* **2.** To be effective or efficacious. **3.** To use persuasion or influence successfully: with *on, upon,* or *with.* **4.** To be or become a predominant feature or quality; be prevalent. **5.** To have general or widespread use or acceptance. [< OF or L < *prae-* before + *valere* to be strong]

pre·vail·ing (pri·vā′ling) *adj.* **1.** Current; prevalent. **2.** Having effective power or influence; efficacious. — **pre·vail′ing·ly** *adv.* — **pre·vail′ing·ness** *n.*

prev·a·lent (prev′ə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Of wide extent or frequent occurrence; common. **2.** Predominant; superior. **3.** Efficacious; effective. — **prev′a·lence** *n.* — **prev′a·lent·ly** *adv.*

pre·var·i·cate (pri·var′ə·kāt) *v.i.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To speak or act in a deceptive, ambiguous, or evasive manner; lie. [< L < *prae-* before + *varicare* to straddle] — **pre·var′i·ca′tion** *n.* — **pre·var′i·ca′tor** *n.*

pre·vent (pri·vent′) *v.t.* **1.** To keep from happening, as by previous measures or preparations; preclude; thwart. **2.** To keep from doing something; forestall; hinder. [< L < *prae-* before + *venire* to come] — **pre·vent′a·ble** or **pre·vent′i·ble** *adj.* — **pre·vent′a·bil′i·ty** or **pre·vent′i·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **pre·vent′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Prevent* suggests forcible restraint and complete stoppage. The sense of anticipation, originally understood in *prevent,* is now to be found in *preclude* and *forestall.* An event is *precluded* by circumstances which make its occurrence impossible; to *forestall* is to make advance preparation to deal with, esp. to restrain. *Avert* suggests a warding off of something. — **Ant.** permit, facilitate.

pre·ven·tion (pri·ven′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of preventing. **2.** A hindrance; obstruction.

pre·ven·tive (pri·ven′tiv) *adj.* Intended or serving to ward off harm, disease, etc.: *preventive* medicine. — *n.* That which prevents or hinders. Also **pre·vent·a·tive** (pri·ven′tə·tiv). — **pre·ven′tive·ly** *adv.* — **pre·ven′tive·ness** *n.*

pre·view (prē′vyōō′) *n.* **1.** An advance showing of a motion picture, a fashion show, etc., to invited guests. **2.** Any ad-

vance display or viewing. — *v.t.* To view in advance. Also spelled *prevue*.

pre·vi·ous (prē′vē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Existing or taking place before something else in time or order; antecedent; prior to. **2.** *Informal* Acting or occurring too soon; premature. — **previous to** Antecedent to; before. [< L < *prae-* before + *via* way] — **pre′vi·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pre′vi·ous·ness** *n.*

pre·vise (prē·vīz′) *v.t.* **·vised, ·vis·ing** **1.** To foresee. **2.** To notify beforehand. [< L < *prae-* before + *videre* to see]

pre·vi·sion (prē·vizh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act or power of foreseeing; prescience; foresight. **2.** An anticipatory vision.

pre·vue (prē′vyōō′) See PREVIEW.

pre·war (prē′wôr′) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a condition, arrangement, time, etc., before a war.

prex·y (prek′sē) *pl.* **·ies** *n. Slang* A president; esp., a college president. Also **prex.**

prey (prā) *n.* **1.** Any animal seized by another for food. **2.** A victim of a harmful or hostile person or influence. — *v.i.* **1.** To seek or take prey for food. **2.** To make someone a victim, as by cheating. **3.** To exert a wearing or harmful influence. Usu. with *on* or *upon*. [< OF < L *praeda* booty] — **prey′er** *n.*

Pri·am (prī′əm) In Greek legend, the father of Hector and Paris, the last king of Troy who was killed at the end of the Trojan War.

price (prīs) *n.* **1.** The amount of money, goods, etc., for which something is bought or sold. **2.** The cost at which something is obtained. **3.** Value; worth. **4.** A bribe, or anything used for a bribe. **5.** A reward for the capture or death of someone. — **beyond price** **1.** Invaluable; priceless. **2.** Not bribable. — **to price out of the market** To lose one's share of a market by overpricing. — **to set a price on one's head** To offer a reward for the capture of a person, dead or alive. — *v.t.* **priced, pric·ing** **1.** To set a price on; establish a price for. **2.** *Informal* To ask the price of. [< OF < L *pretium*]

price cutting The act of reducing the price of an article below the price at which it is usually advertised or sold.

price fixing **1.** The establishment and maintenance of a scale of prices by specified groups of producers or distributors. **2.** The establishing by law of maximum or minimum or fixed prices for certain goods and services. **3.** The fixing of the retail price of a product by a manufacturer or producer. — *adj.* Pertaining to price fixing.

price·less (prīs′lis) *adj.* **1.** Beyond price or valuation; invaluable. **2.** *Informal* Wonderfully amusing or absurd.

price list A catalogue of goods listing their prices.

price rigging The concealed illegal fixing of prices.

prick (prik) *v.t.* **1.** To pierce slightly, as with a sharp point; puncture. **2.** To affect with sharp mental pain; sting; spur. **3.** To outline or indicate by punctures. **4.** To transplant (young plants) preparatory to later planting. **5.** To trace (a ship's course, etc.) on a chart: with *off*. **6.** To urge on with or as with a spur; goad. — *v.i.* **7.** To have or cause a stinging or piercing sensation. — **to prick up one's** (or **its**) **ears** **1.** To raise the ears erect. **2.** To listen attentively. — *n.* **1.** The act of pricking; also, the sensation of being pricked. **2.** A mental sting or spur. **3.** A slender, sharp-pointed thing, as a thorn or weapon. **4.** A puncture; dot. [OE *prica* point, dot] — **prick′er** *n.*

prick·le (prik′əl) *n.* **1.** A small, sharp point, as on the bark of a plant. **2.** A tingling or stinging sensation. — *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To prick; pierce. **2.** To cause a tingling or stinging sensation in. — *v.i.* **3.** To have a stinging sensation; tingle. [OE *pricel*]

prick·ly (prik′lē) *adj.* **1.** Furnished with prickles. **2.** Stinging, as if from a prick or sting: a *prickly* sensation.

prickly heat A rash characterized by redness, itching, and small eruptions: also called *heat rash*.

prickly pear **1.** A flat-stemmed cactus bearing a pear-shaped and often prickly fruit. **2.** The fruit itself.

pride (prīd) *n.* **1.** An undue sense of one's own superiority; arrogance; conceit. **2.** A proper sense of personal dignity and worth. **3.** That of which one is justly proud. **4.** The most excellent part of anything: the nation's *pride*. **5.** The best time or the flowering of something: the *pride* of summer. **6.** A group or company: said of lions. — *v.t.* **prid·ed, prid·ing** To take pride in (oneself) for something: with *on* or *upon*. [OE *prūt* proud]

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** *Pride* manifests itself in disdain or haughtiness toward others; *self-esteem*, in more deference to one's opinions than others grant. *Conceit* is an exaggerated opinion of one's ability or worth. *Vanity* is seen in an excessive desire for admiration, while *vainglory* points to undue boasting about one's accomplishments. **6.** See FLOCK. — **Ant.** humility, modesty.

pride·ful (prīd′fəl) *adj.* Full of pride; haughty; disdainful.

prie-dieu (prē·dyœ′) *n.* A small desk with a shelf for a book, at which to kneel at prayers. [< F, pray God]

pri·er (prī′ər) *n.* One who pries: also spelled *pryer*.

priest (prēst) *n.* **1.** One esp. consecrated to the service of a divinity, and serving as mediator between the divinity and his worshipers. **2.** In the Anglican, Greek, and Roman Catholic churches, a clergyman in the second order of the ministry, ranking next below a bishop, and having authority to administer the sacraments. [OE < L *presbyter*]

priest·craft (prēst′kraft′, -kräft′) *n.* **1.** Priestly arts and wiles: a disparaging term. **2.** The knowledge of priests.

priest·ess (prēs′tis) *n.* A woman or girl who exercises priestly functions.

priest·hood (prēst′hŏŏd) *n.* **1.** The priestly office or character. **2.** Priests collectively. [OE *prēosthad*]

priest·ly (prēst′lē) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or befitting a priest or the priesthood. — **priest′li·ness** *n.*

priest-rid·den (prēst′rid′n) *adj.* Completely under the influence or domination of priests.

prig (prig) *n.* A formal and narrow-minded person who assumes superior virtue and wisdom. [Origin uncertain]

prig·gish (prig′ish) *adj.* Like a prig; smug. — **prig′gish·ly** *adv.* — **prig′gish·ness** *n.*

prim (prim) *adj.* Minutely or affectedly precise and formal; stiffly proper and neat. — *v.t.* **primmed, prim·ming** To fix (the face, mouth, etc.) in a precise or prim expression. [Origin uncertain] — **prim′ly** *adv.* — **prim′ness** *n.*

pri·ma·cy (prī′mə·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** **1.** The state of being first, as in rank or excellence. **2.** The office or province of a primate; archbishopric: also **pri′mate·ship** (-mit·ship). **3.** In the Roman Catholic Church, the office of the Pope. [< OF < Med.L < LL *primas, primatis* one of the first]

pri·ma don·na (prē′mə don′ə) **1.** A leading female singer, as in an opera company. **2.** *Informal* A temperamental or vain person. [< Ital., lit., first lady]

pri·ma fa·ci·e (prī′mə fā′shi·ē, fā′shē) *Latin* At first view; so far as at first appears. — **pri′ma-fa′ci·e** *adj.*

prima-facie evidence Evidence that, if unexplained or uncontradicted, would establish the fact alleged.

pri·mal (prī′məl) *adj.* **1.** Being at the beginning or foundation; first; original. **2.** Most important; chief. [< Med.L < L *primus*]

pri·ma·ri·ly (prī·mâr′ə·lē, prī′mə·rə·lē) *adv.* In the first place; originally; essentially.

pri·ma·ry (prī′mer·ē, -mər·ē) *adj.* **1.** First in time or origin; primitive. **2.** First in a series or sequence. **3.** First in rank or importance; chief. **4.** Constituting the fundamental or original elements of which a whole is composed; basic; elemental. **5.** Of the first stage of development; elementary; lowest: *primary* school. **6.** *Electr.* Of, pertaining to, or noting an inducing current or its circuit: a *primary* coil. **7.** *Chem.* **a** Having some characteristic in the first degree, as an initial replacement of one atom or radical. **b** Having a carbon atom directly joined to only one other carbon atom in a molecule. — *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** That which is first in rank, dignity, or importance. **2.** *Usu. pl.* A direct primary election. **3.** One of the primary colors. **4.** A primary cell. **5.** *Ornithol.* One of the large flight feathers of the pinion of a bird's wings. **6.** *Astron.* A body, as a planet, as distinguished from another body that revolves around it, as a satellite. [< L *primus* first]

primary cell *Electr.* Any of several devices consisting of two electrodes immersed in an electrolyte and capable of generating a current by chemical action when the electrodes are in contact through a conducting wire. Also called *voltaic cell*.

primary colors Any of several sets of colors considered basic to all other colors, as red, green, and blue (**physiological, fundamental,** or **additive primaries**); red, yellow, green, blue, black, and white (**psychological** or **subtractive primaries**); and red, yellow, and blue (**painting primaries**).

primary election A direct primary election.

primary school A school for very young pupils, usu. the first four grades of elementary school.

pri·mate (prī′mit, -māt) *n.* **1.** The prelate highest in rank in a nation or province. **2.** Any of an order of mammals, including the tarsiers, lemurs, marmosets, monkeys, apes, and man. [< OF < LL < L *primus*] — **pri·ma·tial** (prī·mā′shəl) *adj.*

pri·ma·tol·o·gy (prī′mə·tol′ə·jē) *n.* The study of the origin, structure, evolution, and classification of primates. — **pri′ma·tol′o·gist** *n.*

prime[1] (prīm) *adj.* **1.** First in rank, dignity, or importance. **2.** First in value or quality; first-rate. **3.** First in time or order; original; primitive. **4.** *Math.* Divisible by no whole number except itself and unity. Two or more numbers are said to be *prime* to each other when they have no common factor except unity. **5.** Not derived; first. — *n.* **1.** The period of full vigor, beauty, and power succeeding youth and preceding age. **2.** The period of full perfection in anything. **3.** The beginning of anything; dawn; spring. **4.** The best of anything: a *prime* grade. **5.** *Math.* A prime number. **6.** A mark or accent (′) written above and to the right of a letter or figure; also, an inch, a minute, etc., as indicated by that sign. **7.** *Music* Unison. — *v.* **primed, prim·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To prepare; make ready. **2.** To put a primer into (a gun, etc.) preparatory to firing. **3.** To pour water into (a pump) so

as to displace air and promote suction. **4.** To cover (a surface) with sizing, a first coat of paint, etc. **5.** To supply beforehand with facts, information, etc.; brief. — *v.i.* **6.** To make something ready, as for firing, pumping, etc. [< OF < L *primus*] — **prime'ly** *adv.* — **prime'ness** *n.*

prime[2] (prīm) *n. Often cap. Eccl.* The second of the seven canonical hours. [OE < LL *prima* (*hora*) first (hour)]

prime meridian A meridian from which longitude is reckoned, now, generally, the one that passes through Greenwich, England.

prime minister The chief minister and head of a cabinet, and often the chief executive of a government.

prim·er[1] (prim'ər) *n.* **1.** An elementary textbook; esp., a beginning reading book. **2.** *Printing* Either of two sizes of type, **great primer** (18-point) and **long primer** (10-point). [< Med.L < L *primus*]

prim·er[2] (prī'mər) *n.* **1.** Any device, as a cap, tube, etc., used to detonate the main charge of a gun, mine, etc. **2.** One who or that which primes.

pri·me·val (prī·mē'vəl) *adj.* Belonging to the first ages; primitive. [< L *primus* first + *aevum* age] — **pri·me'val·ly** *adv.*

primi- *combining form* First. [< L *primus* first]

pri·mi·ge·ni·al (prī'mə·jē'nē·əl) *adj.* Being the first or first-born; primal; original. [< L *primus* + *genus* kind]

prim·ing (prī'ming) *n.* **1.** That with which anything is primed. **2.** A combustible composition used to ignite an explosive charge. **3.** The first layer of paint laid on a surface.

prim·i·tive (prim'ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the beginning or origin; earliest; primary; not derived. **2.** Resembling the manners or style of early times; simple; crude. **3.** *Anthropol.* Of or pertaining to the earliest anthropological forms or civilizations. **4.** *Biol.* **a** Being or occurring at an early stage of development or growth; first-formed; rudimentary. **b** Not much changed by evolution: a *primitive* species. — *n.* **1.** An artist, or a work of art, belonging to an early period; also, a work resembling such art, or an artist producing it. **2.** One who or that which is primitive. [< F < L < *primus* first] — **prim'i·tive·ly** *adv.* — **prim'i·tive·ness, prim'i·tiv'i·ty** *n.*

prim·i·tiv·ism (prim'ə·tiv·iz'əm) *n.* Belief in or adherence to primitive forms and customs.

pri·mo·gen·i·tor (prī'mə·jen'ə·tər) *n.* An earliest ancestor; a forefather. [< Med.L < L *primo* first + *genitor* father]

pri·mo·gen·i·ture (prī'mə·jen'ə·chər) *n.* **1.** The state of being the first-born child. **2.** The exclusive right of the eldest son to inherit the property, title, etc., of a parent. [< Med.L < L *primo* first + *gignere* to beget]

pri·mor·di·al (prī·môr'dē·əl) *adj.* **1.** First in time; original; elemental. **2.** *Biol.* First in order or appearance in the growth or development of an organism. [< LL < L *primus* first + *ordiri* to begin a web] — **pri·mor'di·al·ly** *adv.*

primp (primp) *v.t. & v.i.* To prink; dress up, esp. with superfluous attention to detail.

prim·rose (prim'rōz) *n.* **1.** An early-blossoming perennial herb with tufted basal leaves and variously colored flowers. **2.** The evening primrose. **3.** A pale yellow color, named for the common primrose of England. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a primrose. **2.** Of primrose color. **3.** Flowery; gay. [ME < OF < Med.L < L *primus* first]

prince (prins) *n.* **1.** A nonreigning male member of a royal family. **2.** A male monarch or sovereign. **3.** *Brit.* The son of a sovereign or of a son of the sovereign. **4.** One of a high order of nobility. **5.** The ruler of a small state. **6.** One of the highest rank of any class: a merchant *prince*. [< OF < L < *primus* first + stem of *capere* to take]

Prince Al·bert (al'bûrt) A long, double-breasted frock coat.

prince consort The husband of a reigning female sovereign.

prince·ling (prins'ling) *n.* **1.** A young prince. **2.** A subordinate prince. Also **prince'let** (-lit).

prince·ly (prins'lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** **1.** Liberal; generous. **2.** Like or suitable for a prince. **3.** Having the rank of a prince. — *adv.* In a princely manner. — **prince'li·ness** *n.*

Prince of Darkness Satan.

Prince of Peace Jesus Christ.

Prince of Wales The title conferred on the eldest son of the British sovereign, to make that son heir apparent.

prin·cess (prin'sis) *n.* **1.** A nonreigning female member of a royal family. **2.** The consort of a prince. **3.** Formerly, a female sovereign. **4.** *Brit.* A daughter of the sovereign or of a son of the sovereign. [< F *princesse*]

prin·cesse (prin·ses', prin'sis) *adj.* Designating a woman's close-fitting garment hanging in an unbroken line from shoulder to flared hem. Also **prin'cess.** [< F, princess]

princess royal The eldest daughter of a sovereign.

prin·ci·pal (prin'sə·pəl) *adj.* First in rank, character, or importance. — *n.* **1.** One who takes a leading part in some action. **2.** *Law* **a** The actor in a crime, or one present aiding and abetting. **b** The employer of one who acts as an agent. **c** One primarily liable for whom another has become surety. **d** The capital or body of an estate. **3.** One who is at the head of some body or society. **4.** The head teacher, master, or officer of a school. **5.** Property or capital, as opposed to interest or income. **6.** The chief truss or rafter of a roof. [< F < L *princeps* first, principal] — **prin'ci·pal·ly** *adv.* — **prin'ci·pal·ship'** *n.*

principal axis *Optics* The imaginary line passing through the center of a lens or mirror at right angles to each surface.

principal clause *Gram.* An independent clause. See under CLAUSE.

prin·ci·pal·i·ty (prin'sə·pal'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The territory of a reigning prince, or one that gives to a prince a title of courtesy. **2.** The state, office, or jurisdiction of a prince.

principal parts The inflected forms of a verb from which all other inflected forms may be derived. In English, the principal parts of a verb are the infinitive (*go, walk*), the past tense (*went, walked*), and the past participle (*gone, walked*). In this dictionary, when appropriate, the past, past participle, and present participle are shown (*gave, given, giving*). When, however, the principal parts are entirely regular in formation, adding *-ed* and *-ing* directly to the infinitive without spelling modification, they are not shown. In cases where the past tense and past participle are identical, only the one is shown (*behaved, behaving*).

prin·ci·ple (prin'sə·pəl) *n.* **1.** A general truth or law, basic to other truths. **2.** A rule of personal conduct. **3.** Moral standards collectively: a man of *principle*. **4.** That which is inherent in anything, determining its nature. **5.** A primary source or fundamental cause. **6.** An established mode of action or operation in natural phenomena: the *principle* of relativity. **7.** *Chem.* An essential constituent of a compound or substance. [< L *principium* a beginning]

prin·ci·pled (prin'sə·pəld) *adj.* Having or characterized by ethical principles: often in combination: *high-principled.*

prink (pringk) *v.t.* **1.** To dress (oneself) for show. — *v.i.* **2.** To dress oneself showily or fussily. — **prink'er** *n.*

print (print) *n.* **1.** An impression with ink from type, plates, etc.; printed characters collectively; also, any printed matter. **2.** Anything printed from an engraved plate or lithographic stone; a proof; also, a printed picture or design. **3.** An impression or mark made upon a substance by pressure; imprint: the *print* of a shoe in the snow. **4.** Any fabric stamped with a design. **5.** Any tool or device bearing a pattern or design, or that upon which it is impressed. **6.** *Photog.* A positive picture made from a negative. — **in print** Printed; also, for sale in printed form. — **out of print** No longer on sale, the edition being exhausted: said of books, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To mark, as with inked type, a stamp, die, etc. **2.** To stamp or impress (a mark, seal, etc.) on or into a surface. **3.** To fix as if by impressing: The scene is *printed* on my memory. **4.** To produce (a book, newspaper, etc.) by the application of inked type, plates, etc., to paper or similar material. **5.** To cause to be put in print; publish. **6.** To write in letters similar to those used in print. **7.** *Photog.* To produce (a positive picture) by transmitting light through a negative onto a sensitized surface. — *v.i.* **8.** To be a printer. **9.** To take or give an impression in printing. **10.** To form letters similar to printed ones. [< OF < L *premere* to press] — **print'a·ble** *adj.* — **prin'ter** *n.*

printer's devil Devil (def. 7).

print·ing (prin'ting) *n.* **1.** The making and issuing of printed matter. **2.** The act of reproducing a design upon a surface. **3.** That which is printed. **4.** The number of copies of anything printed at one time. **5.** Writing that resembles printed matter. **6.** The act of one who or that which prints.

printing press A mechanism for printing from an inked surface, operating by pressure.

pri·or[1] (prī'ər) *adj.* Preceding in time, order, or importance. — **prior to** Before. [< L, earlier, superior]

pri·or[2] (prī'ər) *n.* A monastic officer next in rank below an abbot. [OE < L] — **pri'or·ate** (-it) *n.*

pri·or·ess (prī'ər·is) *n.* A woman holding a position corresponding to that of a prior; a nun next below an abbess.

pri·or·i·ty (prī·ôr'ə·tē, -or'-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Antecedence; precedence. **2.** A first right established on emergency or need. **3.** A certificate giving a first right to a manufacturer or contractor.

pri·or·y (prī'ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·or·ies** A monastic house presided over by a prior or prioress. [< OF *priorie* < Med.L *prioria*]

prism (priz'əm) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* A solid whose bases or ends are any similar equal and parallel plane figures, and whose lateral faces are parallelograms. **2.** *Optics* A prism made of glass or other transparent substance and usually having triangular ends, used to produce a spectrum or to refract light beams. [< LL < Gk., < *prixein* to saw]

pris·mat·ic (priz·mat'ik) *adj.* **1.** Refracted or formed by a prism. **2.** Resembling the spectrum; exhibiting rainbow

tints. **3.** Pertaining to or shaped like a prism. Also **pris·mat'i·cal.** — **pris·mat'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pris·on (priz'ən) *n.* **1.** A public building for the safekeeping of persons in legal custody; a penintentiary. **2.** Any place of confinement. **3.** Imprisonment. — *v.t.* To imprison. [< OF < F < *prehendere* to seize]

pris·on·er (priz'ən·ər, priz'nər) *n.* **1.** One who is confined in a prison or whose liberty is forcibly restrained. **2.** A person confined for any reason. [< OF *prisonier*]

pris·sy (pris'ē) *Informal adj.* **·si·er, ·si·est** Effeminate; overprecise; prim. [Blend of PRIM or PRECISE + SISSY]

pris·tine (pris'tēn, -tin; *Brit.* pris'tīn) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the earliest state or time; primitive. **2.** Extremely pure; untouched; unspoiled. [< L *pristinus* primitive]

prith·ee (prith'ē) *interj. Archaic* I pray thee.

pri·va·cy (prī'və·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The condition of being private; seclusion. **2.** The state of being secret; secrecy.

pri·vate (prī'vit) *adj.* **1.** Removed from public view; secluded. **2.** Not for public or common use. **3.** Having no official rank, character, office, etc.: a *private* citizen. **4.** Not generally known; secret. **5.** Not common or usual; special: a *private* interpretation. **6.** Individual; personal: one's *private* opinion. — *n.* **1.** *Mil.* An enlisted man ranking below a corporal. Abbr. *Pvt.* See table at GRADE. **2.** *pl.* The genitals. — **in private** In secret. [< L *privatus* apart from the state] — **pri'vate·ly** *adv.* — **pri'vate·ness** *n.*

private detective A detective employed by a private citizen, business enterprise, etc., rather than by a city or state.

private enterprise Free enterprise.

pri·va·teer (prī'və·tir') *n.* **1.** A vessel owned and commanded by private persons, but carrying on maritime war under letters of marque. **2.** The commander or one of the crew of a privateer: also **pri'va·teers'man** (-tirz'mən). — *v.i.* To cruise in or as a privateer. — **pri'va·teer'ing** *n.*

private eye *Informal* A private detective.

private first class A soldier ranking next above a private and below a corporal. Abbr. *Pfc, Pfc.* See table at GRADE.

private school *U.S.* A school maintained under private or corporate management, usu. for profit.

private secretary A secretary who works for one individual only and is usu. entrusted with confidential matters.

pri·va·tion (prī·vā'shən) *n.* The state of lacking something necessary or desirable; esp., want of the common comforts of life. [< L *privare* to set apart]

priv·a·tive (priv'ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Causing privation, want, or destitution; depriving. **2.** *Gram.* Altering a word so as to express a negative instead of a positive meaning: *privative* particles (such prefixes and suffixes as *a-, an-, in-, -less*). — *n. Gram.* A privative prefix or suffix. [< L *privativus*] — **priv'a·tive·ly** *adv.* — **priv'a·tive·ness** *n.*

priv·et (priv'it) *n.* An ornamental, bushy shrub of the olive family, with white flowers and black berries, used for hedges. [Earlier *primet*; origin unknown]

priv·i·lege (priv'ə·lij) *n.* **1.** A special or peculiar benefit, favor, or advantage. **2.** An exemption or immunity by virtue of one's office or station. **3.** A fundamental or basic civil, legal, or political right; the *privilege* of voting. — *v.t.* **·leged, ·leg·ing** **1.** To grant a privilege to. **2.** To exempt or free: with *from*. [< OF < L < *privus* one's own + *lex* law]

priv·i·leged (priv'ə·lijd) *adj.* Having or enjoying a privilege.

priv·y (priv'ē) *adj.* **1.** Participating with another or others in the knowledge of a secret transaction: with *to*: *privy* to the plot. **2.** *Archaic* Secret. — *n. pl.* **priv·ies** **1.** *Law* One who is concerned with another in a matter affecting the interests of both. **2.** A small toilet or outhouse. [< F < L *privatus*. See PRIVATE.] — **priv'i·ly** *adv.*

privy council Any body of advisers or counselors, as appointed by a sovereign for his personal use.

Privy Council **1.** In Great Britain, the sovereign's personal council whose duties have been largely assumed by the cabinet. **2.** In Canada, a body that advises the Governor General.

privy seal In Great Britain, the seal used by the sovereign on papers that later pass under the great seal or do not demand the great seal.

prix fixe (prē fēks') A meal served at a fixed price; table d'hôte. Compare À LA CARTE. [< F, fixed price]

prize[1] (prīz) *n.* **1.** That which is offered or won as a reward for superiority or success, as in a contest. **2.** Anything to be striven for. **3.** Anything offered or won, as in a lottery, etc. — *adj.* **1.** Offered or awarded as a prize: a *prize* medal. **2.** Having drawn a prize; entitled to a prize. **3.** Highly valued or esteemed. — *v.t.* **prized, priz·ing** **1.** To value highly. **2.** To estimate the value of; appraise. [Var. of PRICE.]

prize[2] (prīz) *n.* In international law, property, as a vessel and cargo, captured by a belligerent at sea in conformity with the laws of war. — *v.t.* **prized, priz·ing** **1.** To seize as a prize, as a ship. **2.** To raise or force with a lever; pry: also spelled *prise*. [< F *prise* something taken, booty]

prize court A court sitting for the adjudication of prizes taken at sea in wartime.

prize fight A fight between professional boxers for a prize, a certain sum of money, etc., generally limited to a specified number of rounds. — **prize fighter** — **prize fighting**

prize ring A roped enclosure within which boxers fight.

pro[1] (prō) *n. pl.* **pros** **1.** An argument or vote in favor of something: in the phrase *pros and cons*. **2.** *Usu. pl.* One who votes for or favors a proposal. — *adv.* In behalf of; in favor of; for: to argue *pro* and con. [< L, for]

pro[2] (prō) *n. pl.* **pros** *Informal* **1.** A professional athlete. **2.** Any expert in any field.

pro-[1] *prefix* **1.** Forward; to or toward the front from a position behind; forth: *produce*, to lead forth; *project*, to throw forth. **2.** Forth from its place; away: *profugate*, to flee away. **3.** To the front of; forward and down: *prolapse*, to slip forward and down. **4.** Forward in time or direction: *proceed*, to go forward. **5.** In behalf of: *prolocutor*. **6.** In place of; substituted for: *proconsul*. **7.** In favor of: *pro-Russian*. [< L *pro-* < *pro* before, forward, for]

pro-[2] *prefix* **1.** Prior; occurring earlier in time: *prognosis*. **2.** Situated in front; forward; before: *prognathous*. [< Gk. *pro-* < *pro* before, in front]

pro·a (prō'ə) *n.* A swift Malaysian vessel, propelled by sails or oars. Also called *prahu*. [< Malay *prāū*]

prob·a·bil·i·ty (prob'ə·bil'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being probable; likelihood. **2.** A probable event, statement, condition, etc.

prob·a·ble (prob'ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Likely to be true or to happen, but leaving room for doubt. **2.** That renders something worthy of belief, but falls short of demonstration: *probable* evidence. — **Syn.** See APPARENT. [< OF < L *probare* to prove, test]

prob·a·bly (prob'ə·blē) *adv.* In all probability.

pro·bate (prō'bāt) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a probate court. **2.** Pertaining to making proof. — *n.* **1.** Formal, legal proof, as of a will. **2.** The right or jurisdiction of proving wills. — *v.t.* **·bat·ed, ·bat·ing** To obtain probate of, as a will. [< L < *probare* to prove]

probate court A court having jurisdiction of the proof of wills, of guardianships, and of the settlement of estates.

pro·ba·tion (prō·bā'shən) *n.* **1.** *Law* A method of allowing a person convicted of a minor offense to go at large but usu. under the supervision of a probation officer. **2.** A proceeding or period designed to test character, qualifications, etc., as of a new employee. **3.** The status or condition of one being tried out, or free under suspension of sentence: to be on *probation*. **4.** The act of proving; also, proof. — **pro·ba'tion·al, pro·ba'tion·ar'y** *adj.*

pro·ba·tion·er (prō·bā'shən·ər) *n.* One on probation.

probation officer A person delegated to supervise an offender on suspended sentence.

pro·ba·tive (prō'bə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Serving to prove or test. **2.** Pertaining to probation; proving. Also **pro·ba·to·ry** (prō'bə·tôr'ē, -tō'rē).

probe (prōb) *v.* **probed, prob·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To explore with a probe. **2.** To investigate or examine thoroughly. — *v.t.* **3.** To penetrate; search. — *n.* **1.** *Surg.* An instrument for exploring cavities, wounds, etc. **2.** That which proves or tests. **3.** *U.S.* A searching investigation or inquiry, esp. into crime. [< LL *proba* proof] — **prob'er** *n.*

pro·bi·ty (prō'bə·tē, prob'ə·) *n.* Virtue or integrity tested and confirmed. [< F < L < *probus* good, honest]

prob·lem (prob'ləm) *n.* **1.** A perplexing question or situation, esp. when difficult or uncertain of solution. **2.** Any puzzling or difficult circumstance or person. **3.** *Math.* A proposition in which some operation or construction is required, as to bisect an angle. — *adj.* **1.** Presenting and dealing with a problem. **2.** Being a problem. [< OF < L < Gk. < *pro-* forward + *ballein* to throw]

prob·lem·at·ic (prob'ləm·at'ik) *adj.* Constituting or involving a problem; questionable; contingent. Also **prob'·lem·at'i·cal.** — **prob'lem·at'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pro·bos·cis (prō·bos'is) *n. pl.* **·bos·cis·es** or **·bos·ci·des** (-bos'ə·dēz) **1.** *Zool.* **a** A long flexible snout, as of the tapir. **b** The trunk of an elephant. **2.** *Entomol.* Any of various tubular feeding structures of certain insects, as bees and mosquitoes. **3.** A human nose: a humorous term. [< L < Gk. < *pro-* before + *boskein* to feed]

pro·caine (prō·kān', prō'kān) *n.* A white crystalline compound, $C_{13}H_{20}O_2N_2$, used chiefly in its hydrochloride form as a local anesthetic. [< PRO-[1] + (CO)CAINE]

pro·ce·dure (prə·sē'jər) *n.* **1.** A manner of proceeding or acting in any course of action. **2.** The methods or forms of conducting a business, parliamentary affairs, etc. **3.** A course of action; a proceeding. — **pro·ce'du·ral** *adj.*

pro·ceed (prə·sēd') *v.i.* **1.** To go on or forward, esp. after a stop. **2.** To begin and carry on an action or process. **3.** To issue or come, as from some cause, source, or origin: with *from*. **4.** *Law* To institute and carry on legal proceedings. [< OF < L < *pro-* forward + *cedere* to go] — **pro·ceed'er** *n.*

pro·ceed·ing (prə·sē'ding) *n.* **1.** An act or course of action; also, a particular act or course of action. **2.** The act of one

who or that which proceeds. **3.** *pl.* The records or minutes of the meetings of a society, etc. **4.** *Law* Any action instituted in a court.

pro·ceeds (prō′sēdz) *n.pl.* The amount derived from the disposal of goods, work, or the use of capital; return; yield.

proc·ess (pros′es, *esp. Brit.* prō′ses) *n.* **1.** A course or method of operations in the production of something. **2.** A series of continuous actions that bring about a particular result, end, or condition: the *process* of growth. **3.** A forward movement; advance; course. **4.** *Law* **a** Any judicial writ or order. **b** A writ issued to bring a defendant into court. **c** The whole course of proceedings in a cause. **5.** *Biol.* An accessory outgrowth or prominence of an organism or any of its parts: vertebral *process.* — *adj.* **1.** Produced by a special method: *process* butter; *process* cheese. **2.** Pertaining to, for, or made by a mechanical or chemical photographic process: a *process* illustration. — *v.t.* **1.** To subject to a routine procedure: to *process* an application. **2.** To treat or prepare by a special method. **3.** *Law* **a** To issue or serve a process on. **b** To proceed against. [See PROCEED.] — **proc′·es·sor** or **proc′ess·er** *n.*

pro·ces·sion (prə·sesh′ən, prō-) *n.* **1.** An array, as of persons or vehicles, arranged in succession and moving in a formal manner; a parade; also, any continuous course: the *procession* of the stars. **2.** The act of proceeding or issuing forth: the *procession* of the Holy Ghost from the Father. — *v.i.* To march in procession. [See PROCEED.]

pro·ces·sion·al (prə·sesh′ən·əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or moving in a procession. — *n.* **1.** A hymn sung at the opening of a church service, during the entrance of the choir, etc. **2.** The music played or sung during a procession. — **pro·ces′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

pro·claim (prō·klām′) *v.t.* **1.** To announce or make known publicly or officially; declare. **2.** To make plain; manifest. **3.** To outlaw, prohibit, or restrict by proclamation. [< L < *pro-* before + *clamare* to call] — **pro·claim′er** *n.*

proc·la·ma·tion (prok′lə·mā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of proclaiming. **2.** That which is proclaimed.

pro·cliv·i·ty (prō·kliv′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** Natural tendency: usu. with *to.* [< L < *pro-* before + *clivus* slope]

pro·con·sul (prō·kon′səl, prō′kon′-) *n.* **1.** In ancient Rome, an official who exercised authority over a province or an army. **2.** A governor of a dependency; a viceroy. [< L] — **pro·con′su·lar** (-sə·lər, -syə-) *adj.* — **pro·con′su·late** (-sə·lit, -syə-), **pro·con′sul·ship** *n.*

pro·cras·ti·nate (prō·kras′tə·nāt) *v.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To put off taking action until a future time; be dilatory. — *v.t.* **2.** To defer or postpone. [< L *procrastinare*] — **pro·cras′ti·na′tion** *n.* — **pro·cras′ti·na′tor** *n.*

pro·cre·ate (prō′krē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To engender or beget (offspring). **2.** To originate; produce. [< L < *pro-* before + *creare* to create] — **pro′cre·ant** *adj.* — **pro′cre·a′tion** *n.* — **pro′cre·a′tor** *n.*

pro·cre·a·tive (prō′krē·ā′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Possessed of generative power; reproductive. **2.** Pertaining to procreation.

Pro·crus·te·an (prō·krus′tē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or characteristic of Procrustes. **2.** Ruthlessly or violently bringing about conformity.

Pro·crus·tes (prō·krus′tēz) In Greek mythology, a giant of Attica, who tied travelers to an iron bed and amputated or stretched their limbs until they fitted it.

procto- *combining form Med.* Related to or affecting the rectum. Also, before vowels, **proct-**. [< Gk. *proktos* anus]

proc·tol·o·gy (prok·tol′ə·jē) *n.* The branch of medicine that treats of the diseases of the rectum. — **proc·to·log·i·cal** (prok′tə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **proc·tol′o·gist** *n.*

proc·tor (prok′tər) *n.* **1.** An agent acting for another; attorney; proxy. **2.** A university or college official charged with maintaining order, supervising examinations, etc. — *v.t. & v.i.* To supervise (an examination). [ME *proketour, procutour*] — **proc·to·ri·al** (prok·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.*

pro·cum·bent (prō·kum′bənt) *adj.* **1.** *Bot.* Lying on the ground; trailing, as certain vines and plants. **2.** Lying down or on the face; prone; prostrate. [< L < *pro-* forward + *cumbere* to lie down]

pro·cur·a·ble (prō·kyŏŏr′ə·bəl) *adj.* That can be procured.

pro·cur·ance (prō·kyŏŏr′əns) *n.* The process of procuring.

proc·u·ra·tor (prok′yə·rā′tər) *n.* **1.** A person authorized to act for and manage the affairs of another. **2.** In ancient Rome, one who had charge of the imperial revenues or, in a province, was an administrator. [See PROCURE.] — **proc′u·ra·to′ri·al** (-rə·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* — **proc′u·ra′tor·ship** *n.*

pro·cure (prō·kyŏŏr′) *v.* **·cured, ·cur·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To obtain by some effort or means; acquire. **2.** To bring about; cause. **3.** To obtain (women) for the gratification of the lust of others. — *v.i.* **4.** To be a procurer or procuress. — **Syn.** See GET. [< OF < L < *pro-* on behalf of + *curare* to attend to] — **pro·cure′ment** *n.*

pro·cur·er (prō·kyŏŏr′ər) *n.* One who procures for another, as to gratify lust; a pimp. — **pro·cur′ess** *n.fem.*

Pro·cy·on (prō′sē·on) *n.* One of the 20 brightest stars, 2.12 magnitude; Alpha in the constellation Canis Minor: also called *Dog Star.* [< L < Gk. *Prokyōn*]

prod (prod) *v.t.* **prod·ded, prod·ding** **1.** To punch or poke with or as with a pointed instrument. **2.** To arouse mentally; urge; goad. — *n.* **1.** Any pointed instrument used for prodding; a goad. **2.** A thrust or punch; a poke. **3.** A reminder. [Origin unknown] — **prod′der** *n.*

prod·i·gal (prod′ə·gəl) *adj.* **1.** Addicted to wasteful expenditure, as of money, time, or strength; extravagant. **2.** Yielding in profusion; bountiful. **3.** Lavish; profuse. — *n.* One who is wasteful or profligate; a spendthrift. [< L *prodigus* wasteful] — **prod′i·gal·ly** *adv.*

prod·i·gal·i·ty (prod′ə·gal′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Extravagance; wastefulness. **2.** Great abundance; lavishness. **3.** Extreme generosity; bounteousness.

pro·dig·ious (prə·dij′əs) *adj.* **1.** Enormous or extraordinary in size, quantity, or degree; vast. **2.** Marvelous; amazing. [< L *prodigium* omen] — **pro·dig′ious·ly** *adv.* — **pro·dig′ious·ness** *n.*

prod·i·gy (prod′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** A person having remarkable qualities or powers: a violin *prodigy.* **2.** Something extraordinary. **3.** Something out of the ordinary course of nature; a monstrosity. [< L *prodigium*]

pro·duce (*v.* prə·dōōs′, -dyōōs′; *n.* prod′ōōs, -yōōs, prō′dōōs, -dyōōs) *v.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To bring forth or bear; yield, as young or a natural product. **2.** To bring forth by mental effort; compose, write, etc. **3.** To bring about: His words *produced* a violent reaction. **4.** To bring to view; exhibit: to *produce* evidence. **5.** To manufacture; make. **6.** To bring to performance before the public, as a play. **7.** To extend or lengthen, as a line. **8.** *Econ.* To create (anything with exchangeable value). — *v.i.* **9.** To yield or generate an appropriate product or result. — *n.* That which is produced; a product; esp. farm products collectively. [< L < *pro-* forward + *ducere* to lead] — **pro·duc′i·ble** *adj.*

pro·duc·er (prə·dōō′sər, -dyōō′-) *n.* **1.** One who or that which produces, esp. one who makes things for sale and use. **2.** One who finances and generally controls the production of a play, concert, motion picture, etc.

prod·uct (prod′əkt, -ukt) *n.* **1.** Anything produced or obtained as a result of some operation or work, as by generation, growth, labor, study, or skill. **2.** A result. **3.** *Math.* The result obtained by multiplication.

pro·duc·tion (prə·duk′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of producing. **2.** That which is produced. **3.** Any tangible result of industrial, artistic, or literary effort.

pro·duc·tive (prə·duk′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Producing or tending to produce; fertile; creative, as of artistic things. **2.** Producing or tending to produce profits or increase in quantity, quality, or value. **3.** Causing; resulting in: with *of.* — **pro·duc′tive·ly** *adv.* — **pro·duc·tiv·i·ty** (prō′duk·tiv′ə·tē), **pro·duc′tive·ness** *n.*

pro·em (prō′əm) *n.* An introductory statement; preface. [< OF < L < Gk. *prooimion* overture] — **pro·e·mi·al** (prō·ē′mē·əl) *adj.*

prof·a·na·tion (prof′ə·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of profaning; also, an instance of it. **2.** Abusive or improper treatment of anything.

pro·fane (prə·fān′, prō-) *v.t.* **·faned, ·fan·ing** **1.** To treat (something sacred) with irreverence or abuse; desecrate; pollute. **2.** To put to an unworthy or degrading use; debase. — *adj.* **1.** Manifesting irreverence or disrespect toward the Deity or sacred things. **2.** Not religious or concerned with religious things; secular. **3.** Vulgar; common; coarse. [< F < L < *profanus* before or outside the temple, hence, unsacred] — **pro·fan·a·to·ry** (prə·fan′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **pro·fane′ly** *adv.* — **pro·fan′er** *n.* — **pro·fane′ness** *n.*

pro·fan·i·ty (prə·fan′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being profane. **2.** Profane speech or action.

— **Syn. 2.** *Profanity* may refer to irreverent use of a sacred name, as well as to the use of words considered lewd or coarse. *Blasphemy* is a much stronger word; *profanity* may be thoughtless or careless speech, but *blasphemy* denotes a degree of malicious insult to sacred things. *Cursing* and *swearing* are types of *profanity*; *cursing* involves the uttering of imprecations in the name of God, generally as an expression of rage or frustration, while *swearing* is the uttering of rash or empty oaths.

pro·fess (prə·fes′) *v.t.* **1.** To declare openly; avow; affirm. **2.** To assert, usu. insincerely: to *profess* remorse. **3.** To declare or affirm faith in. **4.** To have as one's profession: to *profess* the law. **5.** To receive into a religious order. — *v.i.* **6.** To make open declaration; avow. **7.** To take the vows of a religious order. [< L < *pro-* before < *fateri* to confess]

pro·fess·ed·ly (prə·fes′id·lē) *adv.* **1.** By open profession; avowedly. **2.** Pretendedly.

pro·fes·sion (prə·fesh′ən) *n.* **1.** An occupation that properly involves a liberal, scientific, or artistic education. **2.** The collective body of those following such occupations. **3.** The act of professing or declaring; declaration: *professions* of good will. **4.** That which is avowed or professed; a declaration. **5.** The act of binding oneself to a religious order; also, the condition of being so bound. — **Syn.** See OCCUPATION.

pro·fes·sion·al (prə·fesh′ən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Connected with, preparing for, engaged in, appropriate to, or conforming to a profession: *professional* courtesy. **2.** Of or pertaining to an occupation pursued for gain: a *professional* ball player. — *n.* **1.** One who pursues as a business some vocation or occupation. **2.** One who engages for money to compete in sports. **3.** One skilled in a profession, craft, or art. — **pro·fes′sion·al·ism** *n.* — **pro·fes′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

pro·fes·sor (prə·fes′ər) *n.* **1.** A teacher of the highest rank in a university or college, or in an institution where professional or technical studies are pursued. ◆ *Professor* may be abbreviated *Prof.* before the full name but is usu. written out before the surname, as *Professor Smith.* **2.** One who professes skill and offers instruction in some sport or art. — **pro·fes′sor·ship** *n.*

pro·fes·so·ri·al (prō′fə·sôr′ē·əl, -sō′rē-, prof′ə-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a professor; pedagogic; academic. — **pro′fes·so′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

prof·fer (prof′ər) *v.t.* To offer for acceptance. — *n.* The act of proffering, or that which is proffered. [< AF, OF < L *pro-* in behalf of + *offere* to offer] — **prof′fer·er** *n.*

pro·fi·cien·cy (prə·fish′ən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** A high state of attainment in some knowledge, art, or skill; expertness.

pro·fi·cient (prə·fish′ənt) *adj.* Thoroughly versed, as in an art or science. — *n.* An expert. [< L < *pro-* forward + *facere* to do] — **pro·fi′cient·ly** *adv.*

pro·file (prō′fil, *esp. Brit.* prō′fēl) *n.* **1.** The outline of a human face or figure as seen from the side; also, a drawing of this outline. **2.** Any outline or contour. **3.** A short biographical sketch vividly presenting the most striking characteristics of a personality. **4.** *Archit.* The outline of a perpendicular section of a building, etc., or the contour of an architectural member. **5.** *Geol.* A vertical section of the earth's crust. — *v.t.* **·filed, ·fil·ing 1.** To draw a profile of. **2.** To write or make a profile of. [< Ital. *proffilare* to draw in outline < L *pro-* forward + *filum* thread, line]

prof·it (prof′it) *n.* **1.** Any advantage or gain; benefit. **2.** *Often pl.* Excess of returns over outlay or expenditure. **3.** The return from the employment of capital after deducting the amount paid for raw material and for wages, rent, interest, etc. **4.** That part of the amount received for goods which exceeds the sum originally paid for them with or without all secondary expenses involved. — **gross profit** The excess of receipts from sales over expenditures for production or purchase. — **net profit** The surplus remaining after all necessary deductions, as for interest, bad debts, etc. — *v.i.* **1.** To be of advantage or benefit. **2.** To derive gain or benefit. — *v.t.* **3.** To be of profit or advantage to. [< OF < L *profectus*, pp. of *proficere* to go forward] — **prof′it·less** *adj.*

prof·it·a·ble (prof′it·ə·bəl) *adj.* Bringing profit or gain; advantageous. — **prof′it·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **prof′it·a·bly** *adv.*

prof·i·teer (prof′ə·tir′) *v.i.* To seek or obtain excessive profits. — *n.* One who is given to making excessive profits, esp. to the detriment of others. — **prof′i·teer′ing** *n.*

profit sharing A system of remuneration by which workmen are given a share of the net profits of a business. — **prof′it·shar·ing** ((prof′it·shâr′ing) *adj.*

prof·li·ga·cy (prof′lə·gə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** The state or quality of being profligate.

prof·li·gate (prof′lə·git, -gāt) *adj.* **1.** Lost or insensible to principle, virtue, or decency. **2.** Recklessly extravagant; in great profusion. — *n.* **1.** A depraved or dissolute person. **2.** A reckless spendthrift. [< L, pp. of *profligare* to destroy < *pro-* forward + *fligere* to dash] — **prof′li·gate·ly** *adv.* — **prof′li·gate·ness** (-git·nis, -gāt′nis) *n.*

prof·lu·ent (prof′lōō·ənt) *adj.* Flowing smoothly or plentifully. [< L < *pro-* before + *fluere* to flow] — **prof′lu·ence** *n.*

pro·found (prə·found′, prō-) *adj.* **1.** Intellectually deep or penetrating. **2.** Reaching to, arising from, or affecting the depth of one's nature: *profound* respect. **3.** Situated far below the surface; unfathomable. **4.** Deep. **5.** Thorough; exhaustive: *profound* changes. — *n.* **1.** A fathomless depth. **2.** The ocean; the deep. [< OF < L < *pro-* very + *fundus* deep] — **pro·found′ly** *adv.* — **pro·found′ness** *n.*

pro·fun·di·ty (prə·fun′də·tē, prō-) *n. pl.* **·ties 1.** The state or quality of being profound, in any sense. **2.** A deep place or thing. **3.** A profound or abstruse statement, theory, etc.

pro·fuse (prə·fyōōs′, prō-) *adj.* **1.** Giving or given forth lavishly; liberal; extravagant. **2.** Copious; overflowing; abundant: *profuse* vegetation. [< L < *pro-* forward + *fundere* to pour] — **pro·fuse′ly** *adv.* — **pro·fuse′ness** *n.*

pro·fu·sion (prə·fyōō′zhən, prō-) *n.* **1.** A lavish supply or condition: a *profusion* of ornaments. **2.** The act of pouring forth or supplying in great abundance; prodigality.

pro·gen·i·tor (prō·jen′ə·tər) *n.* A forefather or parent. [< F < L < *pro-* forth + *gignere* to beget]

prog·e·ny (proj′ə·nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** Offspring.

pro·ges·ter·one (prō·jes′tə·rōn) *n. Biochem.* A female hormone, isolated as a white, crystalline compound, $C_{21}H_{30}O_2$, and also made synthetically. It is active in preparing the uterus for the fertilized ovum. Also **pro·ges·tin** (prō·jes′tin).

prog·na·thous (prog′nə·thəs, prog·nā′thəs) *adj.* Having abnormally projecting jaws. Also **prog·nath·ic** (prog·nath′ik). — **prog·na·thism** (prog′nə·thiz′əm) *n.*

prog·no·sis (prog·nō′sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** *Med.* **a** A prediction or conclusion regarding the course of a disease and the probability of recovery. **b** Likelihood of recovery: The *prognosis* is excellent. **2.** Any prediction or forecast. [< NL < Gk. < *pro-* before + *gignōskein* to know]

prog·nos·tic (prog·nos′tik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or serving as a prognosis. **2.** Predicting or foretelling. — *n.* **1.** A sign of some future occurrence; an omen. **2.** *Med.* A symptom indicative of the course of a disease.

prog·nos·ti·cate (prog·nos′tə·kāt) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing 1.** To foretell (future events, etc.) by present indications. **2.** To indicate beforehand. — **prog·nos′ti·ca′tion** *n.* — **prog·nos′ti·ca′tor** *n.*

pro·gram (prō′gram, -grəm) *n.* **1.** A performance or show, esp. one given at a scheduled time on television or radio. **2.** A printed announcement or schedule of events, esp. one for a theatrical performance. **3.** Any prearranged, proposed, or desired plan or course of proceedings. **4.** *Electronics* A sequence of instructions set up on the control panels of an electronic computer as guides in the performance of a desired operation or group of operations. Also *Brit.* **pro′·gramme.** — *v.t.* **·gramed** or **·grammed, ·gram·ing** or **·gram·ming 1.** To arrange or include in a program. **2.** To make up a program for (a radio station, a computer, etc.). [< LL < Gk. < *pro-* before + *graphein* to write] — **pro·gram·mat·ic** (pro′grə·mat′ik) or **pro′gram·at′ic** *adj.*

pro·gram·mer (prō′gram·ər) *n.* One who makes up a computer program. Also **pro′gram·er.**

program music See under MUSIC.

prog·ress (*n.* prog′res, *esp. Brit.* prō′gres; *v.* prə·gres′) *n.* **1.** A moving forward in space; movement forward nearer a goal. **2.** Advancement toward maturity or completion; improvement. — *v.i.* **1.** To move forward or onward. **2.** To advance toward completion or fuller development. [< L < *pro-* forward + *gradi* to walk]

pro·gres·sion (prə·gresh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of progressing; advancement. **2.** *Math.* A sequence of numbers or quantities, each of which is derived from the preceding by a constant relationship. **3.** *Music* **a** A movement from one tone or chord to another. **b** A succession of tones, chords, etc. **4.** Course or lapse of time; passage. — **pro·gres′sion·al** *adj.* — **pro·gres′sion·ism** *n.*

pro·gres·sive (prə·gres′iv) *adj.* **1.** Moving forward; advancing. **2.** Proceeding gradually or step by step. **3.** Aiming at or characterized by progress. **4.** Spreading from one part to others; increasing: said of a disease: *progressive* paralysis. **5.** Striving for or favoring progress or reform, esp. social, political, educational, or religious. **6.** Denoting or pertaining to a tax or taxes in which the tax rate increases as the amount taxed increases. **7.** *Gram.* Designating an aspect of the verb that expresses the action as being in progress at some time in the past, present, or future: formed with any tense of the auxiliary *be* and the present participle; as, He *is speaking*; he *had been speaking*; he *will be speaking.* — *n.* **1.** One who believes in progress or in progressive methods; esp., one who favors or promotes reforms or changes, as in politics or religion. **2.** *Gram.* A progressive verb form. [< OF *progressif*] — **pro·gres′sive·ly** *adv.* — **pro·gres′·sive·ness** *n.* — **pro·gres′siv·ism** *n.* — **pro·gres′siv·ist** *n.*

Pro·gres·sive-Con·ser·va·tive Party (prə·gres′iv·kən·sûr′və·tiv) In Canada, one of the principal political parties, formerly called the Conservative Party.

Progressive Party **1.** A political party formed under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. **2.** A political party formed in 1924 under the leadership of Robert M. LaFollette. **3.** A political party formed in 1948, which nominated Henry A. Wallace for president.

pro·hib·it (prō·hib′it) *v.t.* **1.** To forbid, esp. by authority or law; interdict. **2.** To prevent or hinder. [< L < *pro-* before + *habere* to have] — **pro·hib′it·er** *n.*

pro·hi·bi·tion (prō′ə·bish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of prohibiting, preventing, or stopping; also, a decree or order forbidding anything. **2.** The forbidding of the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic liquors as beverages.

pro·hi·bi·tion·ist (prō′ə·bish′ən·ist) *n.* One who favors legal prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors.

pro·hib·i·tive (prō·hib′ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Prohibiting or tending to prohibit. **2.** Preventing the sale, purchase, etc., of something: *prohibitive* costs. Also **pro·hib′i·to′ry** (-tôr′ē, -tō′rē). — **pro·hib′i·tive·ly** *adv.*

pro·ject (*n.* proj′ekt; *v.* prə·jekt′) *n.* **1.** Something proposed or mapped out in the mind, as a course of action; a plan. **2.** In schools, a problem, task, or piece of work given to a student or group of students. **3.** A housing project. — *v.t.* **1.** To cause to extend forward or out. **2.** To throw forth or forward, as missiles. **3.** To visualize as an external reality. **4.** To cause (an image, shadow, etc.) to fall on a surface. **5.** To propose or plan. **6.** *Math.* **a** To make a projection of (a solid, etc.) on a plane. **b** To reproduce (a figure) by drawing lines from a vertex through every point (of the figure) to the corresponding point of the reproduction. **7.** To use or produce (one's voice, words, etc.) so as to be heard clearly and at a distance. — *v.i.* **8.** To protrude. **9.** *Psychol.* To attribute one's own ideas, impulses, etc., to others. **10.** To speak or sing so as to be heard clearly and at a distance. [< L < *pro-* before + *jacere* to throw]

pro·jec·tile (prə·jek′təl, *esp. Brit.* -tīl) *adj.* **1.** Projecting, or impelling forward. **2.** Capable of being or intended to be projected or shot forth. **3.** Protrusile. — *n.* **1.** A body projected or thrown forth by force. **2.** *Mil.* A missile for discharge from a gun or cannon. [< NL < L *projectus* thrown out]

pro·jec·tion (prə·jek′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of projecting; a jutting, throwing, or shooting out or forth. **2.** That which projects; a projecting part. **3.** A scheme; project. **4.** A system of lines drawn on a given fixed plane, as in a map, representing point for point a given terrestrial or celestial surface. **5.** *Psychol.* **a** The unconscious process of attributing one's own feelings, attitudes, etc., to others. **b** An instance of this process. **6.** *Photog.* **a** The process of exhibiting motion pictures or slides on a screen. **b** The picture so produced. — **pro·jec′tive** *adj.* — **pro·jec′tive·ly** *adv.*

pro·jec·tor (prə·jek′tər) *n.* **1.** An apparatus for throwing illuminated images or motion pictures upon a screen. **2.** A mirror or combination of lenses for projecting a beam of light. **3.** One who devises projects; schemer; promoter.

pro·lapse (prō·laps′) *Pathol. v.i.* **·lapsed, ·laps·ing** To fall out of place, as an organ or part. — *n.* The falling down of an organ or part, as the uterus, from its normal position. Also **pro·lap·sus** (prō·lap′səs). [< L < *pro-* forward + *labi* to glide, fall]

pro·late (prō′lāt) *adj.* **1.** Extended lengthwise. **2.** Lengthened toward the poles, as a spheroid. [< L < *pro-* forward + *ferre* to carry]

pro·le·gom·e·non (prō′lə·gom′ə·non) *n. pl.* **·na** (-nə) *Often pl.* An introductory remark or remarks; a preface. [< Gk. < *pro-* before + *legein* to say] — **pro′le·gom′e·nous** *adj.*

pro·le·tar·i·an (prō′lə·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the proletariat. — *n.* A member of the proletariat. [< L < *proles* offspring: so called because they served the Roman state only by having children] — **pro′le·tar′i·an·ism** *n.*

pro·le·tar·i·at (prō′lə·târ′ē·ət) *n.* **1.** Wageworkers collectively; the working class: a term used esp. in Marxism. **2.** In ancient Rome, the lowest class of the state.

pro·lif·er·ate (prō·lif′ə·rāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To produce, reproduce, or grow, esp. with rapidity, as cells in tissue formation. — **pro·lif′er·a′tion** *n.* — **pro·lif′er·a′tive** *adj.*

pro·lif·er·ous (prō·lif′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Producing offspring freely. **2.** *Bot.* **a** Developing buds, branches, and flowers from unusual places. **b** Bearing progeny in the way of offshoots, buds, etc. [< Med.L < L *proles, prolis* offspring + *ferre* to bear]

pro·lif·ic (prō·lif′ik) *adj.* **1.** Producing abundantly, as offspring or fruit; fertile. **2.** Producing results abundantly: a *prolific* writer. [< F < Med.L < L *proles, prolis* offspring + stem of *facere* to make] — **pro·lif′i·ca·cy** (-i·kə·sē), **pro·lif′ic·ness** *n.* — **pro·lif′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** fruitful, fecund. **2.** productive.

pro·lix (prō′liks, prō·liks′) *adj.* **1.** Unduly long and verbose, as an address. **2.** Indulging in long and wordy discourse. [< F < L < *pro-* before + stem of *liquere* to flow] — **pro·lix′i·ty** (prō·lik′sə·tē), **pro′lix·ness** *n.* — **pro′lix·ly** *adv.*

pro·logue (prō′lôg, -log) *n.* **1.** A prefatory statement to a poem, discourse, or performance; esp., an introduction, often in verse, spoken or sung before a play or opera. **2.** Any anticipatory act or event. — *v.t.* To introduce with a prologue or preface. Also **pro′log.** [< OF < L < Gk. < *pro-* before + *logos* discourse]

pro·logu·ize (prō′lôg·īz, -log-) *v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make or utter a prologue. Also **pro′log·ize.** — **pro′logu·iz′er** *n.*

pro·long (prə·lông′, -long′) *v.t.* To extend in time or space; continue; lengthen. Also **pro·lon′gate** (-lông′gāt, -long′-). [< OF < LL < L *pro-* forth + *longus* long] — **pro′lon·ga′tion** *n.* — **pro·long′er** *n.* — **pro·long′ment** *n.*

prom (prom) *n. U.S. Informal* A formal college or school dance or ball. [Short for *promenade*]

prom·e·nade (prom′ə·nād′, -näd′) *n.* **1.** A walk for amusement or exercise, or as part of a formal or social entertainment. **2.** A place for promenading. **3.** A concert or ball opened with a formal march; also, the march. — *v.* **·nad·ed, ·nad·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To take a promenade. — *v.t.* **2.** To take a promenade through or along. **3.** To take or exhibit on or as on a promenade. [< MF < LL < *pro-* before + *minare* to drive (cattle)] — **prom′e·nad′er** *n.*

Pro·me·theus (prə·mē′thyōōs, -thē·əs) In Greek mythology, a Titan who stole fire from heaven for mankind and as a punishment was chained to a rock, where an eagle daily devoured his liver, which was made whole again at night. [< L < Gk. *Promētheus*] — **Pro·me′the·an** *adj. & n.*

pro·me·thi·um (prə·mē′thē·əm) *n.* A radioactive element (symbol Pm), separated from uranium fission products and belonging to the lanthanide series: formerly called *illinium.* See ELEMENT. [< NL < PROMETHEUS]

prom·i·nence (prom′ə·nəns) *n.* **1.** The state of being prominent. **2.** That which is prominent. **3.** *Astron.* One of the great tongues of flame shooting out from the sun's surface, seen during total eclipses. Also **prom′i·nen·cy.**

prom·i·nent (prom′ə·nənt) *adj.* **1.** Jutting out; projecting; protuberant. **2.** Conspicuous in position, character, or importance. **3.** Well-known; eminent. [< L < *prominere* to project] — **prom′i·nent·ly** *adv.*

pro·mis·cu·ous (prə·mis′kyōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Composed of individuals or things confusedly or indiscriminately mingled. **2.** Indiscriminate, esp. in sexual relations. **3.** *Informal* Lacking plan or purpose; casual; irregular. [< L < *pro-* thoroughly + stem of *miscere* to mix] — **pro·mis·cu·i·ty** (prō′mis·kyōō′ə·tē, prom′is-) *n.* — **pro·mis′cu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pro·mis′cu·ous·ness** *n.*

prom·ise (prom′is) *n.* **1.** An assurance given by one person to another that the former will or will not perform a specified act. **2.** Reasonable ground for hope or expectation, esp. of future excellence or satisfaction. **3.** Something promised. — *v.* **·ised, ·is·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To engage or pledge by a promise: used with the infinitive or a clause. **2.** To make a promise of (something) to someone. **3.** To give reason for expecting. **4.** *Informal* To assure (someone). — *v.i.* **5.** To make a promise. **6.** To give reason for expectation. [< L < *pro-* forth + *mittere* to send] — **prom′is·ee** *n.* — **prom′is·er** *n.*

Promised Land **1.** Canaan, promised to Abraham by God. *Gen.* xv 18. **2.** Any longed-for place of happiness or improvement. **3.** Heaven; paradise. Also *Land of Promise.*

prom·is·ing (prom′is·ing) *adj.* Giving promise of good results: a *promising* sign. — **prom′is·ing·ly** *adv.*

prom·is·so·ry (prom′ə·sôr′ē, -sō′rē) *adj.* **1.** Containing or of the nature of a promise. **2.** Indicating what is to be required after the signing of an insurance contract.

promissory note A written promise by one party to pay another party a certain sum of money at a specified time, or upon demand.

prom·on·to·ry (prom′ən·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A high point of land extending into the sea; headland. **2.** *Anat.* A rounded projection or part. [< Med.L < L, ? < *prominere* to project]

pro·mote (prə·mōt′) *v.t.* **·mot·ed, ·mot·ing** **1.** To contribute to the progress, development, or growth of; further; encourage. **2.** To advance to a higher position, grade, or honor. **3.** To work in behalf of; advocate actively. **4.** In education, to advance (a pupil) to the next higher school grade. **5.** To seek to make (a commercial product, business venture, etc.) popular or successful, as by securing capital or by advertising. [< L < *pro-* forward + *movere* to move] — **pro·mot′er** *n.* — **pro·mo′tion** *n.* — **pro·mo′tion·al** *adj.* — **pro·mo′tive** *adj.*

prompt (prompt) *v.t.* **1.** To incite to action; instigate. **2.** To suggest or inspire (an act, thought, etc.). **3.** To remind of something forgotten or next in order; give a cue to. — *v.i.* **4.** To give help or suggestions. — *adj.* **1.** Acting or ready to act at the moment; punctual. **2.** Done or rendered with readiness or alacrity; taking place at the appointed time. — *n.* **1.** An act of prompting. **2.** The information imparted by prompting. [< OF < L < *pro-* forth + *emere* to take] — **prompt′ness** *n.*

prompt·er (prompt′ər) **1.** In a theater, one who follows the lines and prompts the actors. **2.** One who or that which prompts.

promp·ti·tude (promp′tə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* The quality, habit, or fact of being prompt; promptness.

prompt·ly (prompt′lē) *adv.* In a prompt manner; at once.

pro·mul·gate (prō·mul′gāt, prom′əl·gāt) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** To make known or announce officially and formally; put into effect by public proclamation, as a law or dogma. [< L < *pro-* forth + *vulgus* people] — **pro′mul·ga′tion** *n.* — **pro·mul·ga·tor** (prō·mul′gā·tər, prom′əl-) *n.*

prone (prōn) *adj.* **1.** Lying flat, esp. with the face, front, or palm downward; prostrate. **2.** Leaning forward or downward; also, moving or sloping sharply downward. **3.** Men-

tally inclined or predisposed: with *to*. [< L *pronus* prostrate] — **prone'ly** *adv.* — **prone'ness** *n.*

prong (prông, prong) *n.* **1.** A pointed end of an instrument, as the tine of a fork. **2.** Any pointed, projecting part, as the end of an antler. — *v.t.* To prick or stab with or as with a prong. [Cf. LG *prange* pointed stick, Du. *prangen* to pinch]

prong·horn (prông'hôrn', prong'-) *n.* *pl.* **·horns** or **·horn** A ruminant of western North America, resembling an antelope, with deciduous branched horns.

pro·nom·i·nal (prō·nom'ə·nəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a pronoun. — **pro·nom'i·nal·ly** *adv.*

pronominal adjective The possessive case of a personal pronoun used attributively, as *my, your, his, her,* etc.

pro·noun (prō'noun) *n.* *Gram.* A word that may be used instead of a noun or noun phrase, as an adjective, or to introduce a question. [< OF < L < *pro-* in place of + *nomen* name, noun]

pro·nounce (prə·nouns') *v.* **·nounced, ·nounc·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To utter or deliver officially or solemnly; proclaim: to *pronounce* judgment. **2.** To assert; declare, esp. as one's judgment. **3.** To enunciate or articulate (sounds). **4.** To utter the constituent sounds of (a word or phrase) in a particular sequence or with a particular accentual pattern. **5.** To utter (the sound of a letter). — *v.i.* **6.** To make a judgment or pronouncement. **7.** To articulate words; speak. [< OF < LL < L < *pro-* forth + *nuntiare* to announce] — **pro·nounce'a·ble** *adj.* — **pro·nounc'er** *n.*

pro·nounced (prə·nounst') *adj.* Of marked or clearly indicated character. — **pro·nounc·ed·ly** (prə·noun'sid·lē) *adv.*

pro·nounce·ment (prə·nouns'mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of pronouncing. **2.** A formal declaration or announcement.

pron·to (pron'tō) *adv.* *U.S. Informal* Quickly; promptly; instantly. [< Sp. < L *promptus* brought forth]

pro·nun·ci·a·men·to (prə·nun'sē·ə·men'tō, -shē·ə-) *n.* *pl.* **·tos** A public announcement; proclamation; manifesto. [< Sp. < L *pronuntiare* to pronounce]

pro·nun·ci·a·tion (prə·nun'sē·ā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act or manner of uttering words. **2.** Articulation.

proof (prōōf) *n.* **1.** The act or process of proving; esp., the establishment of a fact by evidence or a truth by other truths. **2.** A trial of strength, truth, excellence, etc. **3.** Evidence and argument sufficient to induce belief. **4.** *Law* Anything that serves to determine a verdict. **5.** The state or quality of having successfully undergone a test. **6.** Impenetrability; also, impenetrable armor. **7.** The standard of strength of alcoholic liquors. **8.** *Printing* A printed trial sheet showing the contents or condition of matter in type or of a plate, or the like. **9.** In engraving and etching, a trial impression taken from an engraved plate, stone, or block; also, a perfect impression from such a plate, etc., when finished. **10.** *Photog.* A trial print from a negative. **11.** *Math.* A process to check a computation by using its result; also, a demonstration. **12.** In philately, an experimental printing of a stamp. — *adj.* **1.** Employed in or connected with proving or correcting. **2.** Capable of resisting successfully: with *against*. **3.** Of standard alcoholic strength, as liquors. [< OF < LL < *probare* to test]

-proof *combining form* **1.** Impervious to; able to withstand; not damaged by. *bombproof.* **2.** Protected against: *mothproof.* **3.** As strong as: *armorproof.* **4.** Resisting; showing no effects of: *panicproof.* Adjectives formed with *-proof* may also be used as verbs. [< PROOF, adj.]

proof·read (prōōf'rēd') *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·read** (-red'), **·read·ing** (-rē'ding) To read and correct (printers' proofs). — **proof'·read'er** *n.* — **proof'read'ing** *n.*

proof spirit An alcoholic liquor that contains a standard amount of alcohol. In the U.S. 100 proof indicates a liquor half of whose volume is ethyl alcohol having a specific gravity of 0.7939 at 60° F.

prop[1] (prop) *n.* **1.** A rigid object, as a beam or pole, that bolsters or sustains an incumbent weight. **2.** One who gives support to an institution, organization, etc. — *v.t.* **propped, prop·ping** **1.** To support or keep from falling with or as with a prop. **2.** To lean or place: usu. with *against*. **3.** To support; sustain. [< MDu. *proppe* a support]

prop[2] (prop) *n.* A property (def. 7.).

prop·a·ga·ble (prop'ə·gə·bəl) *adj.* That can be propagated.

prop·a·gan·da (prop'ə·gan'də) *n.* **1.** A systematic effort to persuade a body of people to support or adopt a particular opinion, attitude, or course of action. **2.** Any selection of facts, ideas, or allegations forming the basis of such an effort. **3.** An institution or scheme for propagating a doctrine or system. ◆ *Propaganda* is now often used in a disparaging sense, as of a body of distortions and half-truths calculated to bias one's judgment or opinions. [< PROPAGANDA] — **prop'a·gan'dism** *n.* — **prop'a·gan'dist** *n.* & *adj.*

Prop·a·gan·da (prop'ə·gan'də) *n.* In the Roman Catholic Church, a society of cardinals charged with overseeing the foreign missions. [< NL (*congregatio de*) *propaganda* (*fide*) (the council for) propagating (the faith)]

prop·a·gan·dize (prop'ə·gan'diz) *v.* **·dized, ·diz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To spread by means of propaganda. **2.** To subject to propaganda. — *v.i.* **3.** To carry on or spread propaganda.

prop·a·gate (prop'ə·gāt) *v.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause (animals, plants, etc.) to multiply by natural reproduction. **2.** To spread from person to person, as a doctrine or belief; disseminate. **3.** To transmit through a medium: to *propagate* heat. **4.** To reproduce (itself), as a species of plant or animal. **5.** To pass on (traits, qualities, etc.) to one's offspring. — *v.i.* **6.** To have offspring; breed. [< L < *pro-* forth + *pag-* root of *pangere* to fasten] — **prop'a·ga'tion** *n.* — **prop'a·ga·tive** *adj.* — **prop'a·ga'tor** *n.*

pro·pane (prō'pān) *n.* *Chem.* A gaseous hydrocarbon of the methane series, C_3H_8, obtained from petroleum and sometimes used as a fuel gas.

pro pa·tri·a (prō pā'trē·ə) *Latin* For one's country.

pro·pel (prə·pel') *v.t.* **·pelled, ·pel·ling** To cause to move forward or ahead; drive or urge forward. [< L < *pro-* forward + *pellere* to drive]

pro·pel·lant (prə·pel'ənt) *n.* **1.** One who or that which propels. **2.** *Mil.* An explosive that upon ignition propels a projectile from a gun. **3.** A solid or liquid fuel that serves to propel a rocket, guided missile, etc.: also spelled *propellent.*

pro·pel·lent (prə·pel'ənt) *adj.* Able to propel; propelling. — *n.* See PROPELLANT.

pro·pel·ler (prə·pel'ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which propels. **2.** Any device for propelling a craft through water or air; esp., one having blades mounted at an angle on a power-driven shaft and producing a thrust by their rotary action on the medium.

pro·pe·no·ic acid (prō'pə·nō'ik) *Chem.* Acrylic acid.

pro·pen·si·ty (prə·pen'sə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** A natural disposition or tendency; bent. [< L < *pro-* forward + *pendere* to hang]

prop·er (prop'ər) *adj.* **1.** Specially suited or adapted for some end; appropriate. **2.** Conforming to a prevalent standard of conduct or manners; fitting. **3.** Understood in a strict or literal sense: usu. following the noun modified: part of the book *proper.* **4.** Naturally belonging to a particular person, thing, or class: Crying is *proper* to babies. **5.** Modest; decent. **6.** *Gram.* Designating a particular person, place, or the like: a *proper* name. **7.** *Brit. Informal* Thorough; unmitigated: a *proper* bore. — *n.* *Sometimes cap.* *Eccl.* The portion of the breviary, missal, or Mass containing the prayers and collects suitable to special occasions or feasts: with *the*: distinguished from *ordinary.* [< OF < L *propius* one's own] — **prop'er·ly** *adv.* — **prop'er·ness** *n.*

proper fraction *Math.* A fraction in which the numerator is less than the denominator.

proper noun *Gram.* A noun that names a particular person, place, or thing, and is always capitalized, as *Paul, Venice, U.S.S. Nautilus*: distinguished from *common noun.*

prop·er·tied (prop'ər·tēd) *adj.* Owning property.

prop·er·ty (prop'ər·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** Any object of value that a person may lawfully acquire and hold; that which may be owned, as stocks, land, etc. **2.** The legal right to the possession, use, enjoyment, and disposal of a thing. **3.** Holdings, land, etc., owned; wealth. **4.** A parcel of land. **5.** Any of the qualities or characteristics that together make up the nature or basic structure of a thing. **6.** A quality or feature that belongs distinctively to a particular object or class; a peculiarity. **7.** In the theater, any portable article used in a performance other than scenery and the costumes, as books, dishes, etc.: also called *prop.* [< OF < L *proprius* one's own.] — **prop'er·ty·less** *adj.*

— **Syn. 3.** chattels, goods, estate. **6.** See CHARACTERISTIC.

proph·e·cy (prof'ə·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** **1.** A prediction made under divine influence and direction. **2.** Any prediction. **3.** Discourse delivered by a prophet under divine inspiration. **4.** A book of prophecies. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *pro* before + *phanai* to speak]

proph·e·sy (prof'ə·sī) *v.* **·sied, ·sy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To utter or foretell with or as with divine inspiration. **2.** To predict (a future event). **3.** To point out beforehand. — *v.i.* **4.** To speak by divine influence, or as a medium between God and man. **5.** To foretell the future. **6.** To explain or teach religious subjects; preach. [See PROPHECY] — **proph'e·si'·er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Prophesy* and *foretell* are often interchangeable, but in Scriptural sense *prophesy* refers to the uttering of religious truths under divine inspiration, and does not necessarily include the prediction of future events. *Foretell* always bears the latter sense.

proph·et (prof'it) *n.* **1.** One who delivers divine messages or interprets the divine will. **2.** One who foretells the future; esp., an inspired predictor. **3.** A religious leader. **4.** An interpreter or spokesman for any cause. **5.** A mantis. — **the Prophet** According to Islam, Mohammed. — **the Prophets** The second of the three ancient divisions of the Old Testament, containing all those books not found in the Pentateuch or the Hagiographa. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *pro-* before + *phanai* to speak] — **proph'et·ess** *n.fem.*

pro·phet·ic (prə·fet'ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a prophet

or prophecy. **2.** Pertaining to or involving prediction or presentiment; predictive. Also **pro·phet′i·cal.** — **pro·phet′i·al·ly** *adv.* — **pro·phet′i·cal·ness** *n.*

pro·phy·lac·tic (prō′fə·lak′tik, prof′ə-) *adj.* Tending to protect against or ward off something, esp. disease; preventive. — *n.* A prophylactic medicine or appliance. [< Gk. < *pro-* before + *phylassein* to guard]

pro·phy·lax·is (prō′fə·lak′sis, prof′ə-) *n.* Preventive treatment for disease. [< NL < Gk. *pro-* before + *phylaxis* guarding]

pro·pin·qui·ty (prō·ping′kwə·tē) *n.* **1.** Nearness in place or time. **2.** Kinship. — **Syn.** See APPROXIMATION. [< L < *prope* near]

pro·pi·ti·ate (prō·pish′ē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To cause to be favorably disposed; conciliate. [See PROPITIOUS.] — **pro·pi′ti·a·ble** (prō·pish′ē·ə·bəl) *adj.* — **pro·pi′ti·at′ing·ly** *adv.* — **pro·pi′ti·a′tion** *n.* — **pro·pi′ti·a′tive** *adj.* — **pro·pi′ti·a′tor** *n.*

pro·pi·ti·a·to·ry (prō·pish′ē·ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Pertaining to or causing propitiation.

pro·pi·tious (prō·pish′əs) *adj.* **1.** Attended by favorable circumstances; auspicious. **2.** Kindly disposed; gracious. [< OF < L *propitious* favorable, ? < *pro-* before + *petere* to seek] — **pro·pi′tious·ly** *adv.* — **pro·pi′tious·ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Propitious* may be applied to persons, while *auspicious* is not so used.

prop·jet (prop′jet′) *n. Aeron.* A turboprop.

pro·po·nent (prə·pō′nənt) *n.* **1.** One who makes a proposal or proposition. **2.** One who advocates or supports a cause or doctrine. [< L < *pro-* forth + *ponere* to put]

pro·por·tion (prə·pôr′shən, -pōr′-) *n.* **1.** Relative magnitude, number, or degree, as existing between parts, a part and a whole, etc. **2.** Fitness and harmony; symmetry. **3.** A proportionate or proper share. **4.** An equality or identity between ratios. **5.** *Math.* The relationship among four terms such that the product of the second and third terms is equal to the product of the first and fourth. **6.** *pl.* Size; dimensions. — *v.t.* **1.** To adjust properly as to relative magnitude, amount, or degree. **2.** To form with a harmonious relation of parts. [< OF < L < *pro-* for + *portio, -onis* share] — **pro·por′tion·a·ble** *adj.* — **pro·por′tion·a·bly** *adv.* — **pro·por′tion·er** *n.* — **pro·por′tion·ment** *n.*

pro·por·tion·al (prə·pôr′shən·əl, -pōr′-) *adj.* **1.** Of or being in proportion. **2.** *Math.* **a** Constituting the terms of a proportion. **b** Varying so that corresponding values form a proportion. — *n.* Any quantity or number in proportion to another or others. — **pro·por′tion·al·ly** *adv.* — **pro·por′tion·al′i·ty** (-al′ə·tē) *n.*

pro·por·tion·ate (*adj.* prə·pôr′shən·it, -pōr′-; *v.* prə·pôr′shən·āt, -pōr′-) *adj.* Being in due proportion; proportional. — *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To make proportionate. — **pro·por′tion·ate·ly** *adv.* — **pro·por′tion·ate·ness** *n.*

pro·po·sal (prə·pō′zəl) *n.* **1.** An offer proposing something to be accepted or adopted. **2.** An offer of marriage. **3.** Something proposed, as a scheme or plan.

pro·pose (prə·pōz′) *v.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To put forward for acceptance or consideration. **2.** To nominate, as for appointment. **3.** To intend; aim. **4.** To suggest the drinking of (a toast or health). — *v.i.* **5.** To form or announce a plan or design. **6.** To make an offer, as of marriage. [< OF < *pro-* forth (< L) + *poser* to put down, rest] — **pro·pos′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 3.** What we *propose* to do is subject to further consideration. What we *purpose* to do is settled; the word suggests that the mind has been made up.

prop·o·si·tion (prop′ə·zish′ən) *n.* **1.** A scheme or proposal offered for consideration or acceptance. **2.** *U.S. Informal* Any matter or person to be dealt with. **3.** A subject or statement presented for discussion. **4.** *Logic* A statement in which something (the *subject*) is affirmed or denied in terms of something else (the *predicate*). **5.** *Math.* A statement of a truth to be demonstrated (a *theorem*) or of an operation to be performed (a *problem*). [< OF < L < *pro-* forth + *ponere* to put] — **prop′o·si′tion·al** *adj.* — **prop′o·si′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

pro·pound (prə·pound′) *v.t.* To put forward for consideration, solution, etc.; submit. [Earlier *propone* < L *proponere* to set forth] — **pro·pound′er** *n.*

pro·pri·e·tar·y (prə·prī′ə·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Of or belonging to a proprietor. **2.** Subject to exclusive ownership. **3.** Designating an article, as a medicine, protected by copyright, patent, secrecy, etc. — *n. pl.* **·tar·ies** **1.** A proprietor or proprietors collectively. **2.** Proprietorship; ownership. [< LL < L *proprius* one's own]

pro·pri·e·tor (prə·prī′ə·tər) *n.* A person having the exclusive title to anything. — **pro·pri′e·tor·ship′** *n.* — **pro·pri′e·tress** *n.fem.*

pro·pri·e·ty (prə·prī′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The character or quality of being proper; esp., accordance with recognized usage or principles. — **the proprieties** The standards of good society. [< OF *propriete* < L *proprius* one's own]

pro·pul·sion (prə·pul′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or operation of propelling. **2.** A propelling force. — **pro·pul′sive** (-siv) *adj.*

pro·pyl (prō′pil) *n. Chem.* The univalent radical, C_3H_7, derived from propane.

pro ra·ta (prō rā′tə, rat′ə, rä′tə) In proportion. [< L *pro rata (parte)* according to the calculated (share)]

pro·rate (prō·rāt′, prō′rāt′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To distribute or divide proportionately. [< PRO RATA] — **pro·rat′a·ble** *adj.* — **pro·ra′tion** *n.*

pro·ro·ga·tion (prō′rə·gā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of proroguing. **2.** The act of prolonging; also, continuance.

pro·rogue (prō·rōg′) *v.t.* **·rogued, ·ro·guing** To discontinue a session of (an assembly). [< MF < L < *pro-* forward + *rogare* to ask]

pro·sa·ic (prō·zā′ik) *adj.* **1.** Unimaginative; commonplace; dull. **2.** Of or like prose. Also **pro·sa′i·cal.** [< LL < L *prosa* prose] — **pro·sa′ic·ness** *n.*

pro·sce·ni·um (prō·sē′nē·əm) *n. pl.* **·ni·a** (-nē·ə) The part of a theater stage in front of the curtain, sometimes including the curtain and its arch. [< L < Gk. < *pro-* before + *skēnē* stage, tent]

pro·scribe (prō·skrīb′) *v.t.* **·scribed, ·scrib·ing** **1.** To denounce or condemn; prohibit. **2.** To outlaw or banish. **3.** In ancient Rome, to publish the name of (one condemned or exiled). [< L *proscribere* to write publicly] — **pro·scrib′er** *n.* — **pro·scrip′tion** (-skrip′shən) *n.* — **pro·scrip′tive** *adj.*

prose (prōz) *n.* **1.** Speech or writing without metrical structure: distinguished from *verse.* **2.** Commonplace or tedious discourse. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to prose. **2.** Tedious; tiresome. — *v.t. & v.i.* **prosed, pros·ing** To write or speak in prose. [< OF < L *prosa* (*oratio*) straightforward (discourse)]

pros·e·cute (pros′ə·kyōōt) *v.* **·cut·ed, ·cut·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To go on with so as to complete. **2.** To carry on or engage in, as a trade. **3.** *Law* **a** To bring suit against. **b** To seek to enforce, as a claim, by legal process. — *v.i.* **4.** To begin and carry on a legal proceeding. — **Syn.** See PUSH. [< L < *pro-* forward + *sequi* to follow]

prosecuting attorney The attorney empowered to act in behalf of the state, county, or national government in prosecuting for penal offenses.

pros·e·cu·tion (pros′ə·kyōō′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of prosecuting. **2.** *Law* The instituting and carrying forward of a judicial or criminal proceeding. **3.** The party instituting and conducting it.

pros·e·cu·tor (pros′ə·kyōō′tər) *n.* **1.** One who prosecutes. **2.** *Law* **a** One who institutes and carries on a suit, esp. a criminal suit. **b** A prosecuting attorney.

pros·e·lyte (pros′ə·līt) *n.* One who has been brought over to any opinion, belief, sect, or party, esp. from one religious belief to another. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·lyt·ed, ·lyt·ing** To proselytize. [< LL < Gk. *proselytos,* orig., a newcomer] — **pros′e·lyt′ism** (-lə·tiz′əm, -līt′iz·əm) *n.*

pros·e·lyt·ize (pros′ə·lit·īz′) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To make proselytes. — *v.t.* **2.** To make a convert of. Also *proselyte:* also *Brit.* **pros′e·lyt·ise′.**

pros·en·ceph·a·lon (pros′en·sef′ə·lon) *n. Anat.* The anterior segment of the three divisions of the brain in embryos, developing into the cerebrum and the optic thalamus, with related structures: also called *forebrain.* [< NL < Gk. *pros* toward + *encephalon* brain] — **pros′en·ce·phal′ic** (-sə·fal′ik) *adj.*

Pros·er·pine (pros′ər·pīn, prō·sûr′pə·nē) In Roman mythology, the daughter of Ceres and wife of Pluto: identified with the Greek *Persephone.* Also **Pro·ser·pi·na** (prō·sûr′pə·nə).

pro·sit (prō′sit, *Ger.* prō′zit) *interj.* To your good health: used as a drinking toast, esp. by the Germans. Also **prost** (prōst). [< L, lit., may it benefit]

pro·slav·er·y (prō·slā′vər·ē, -slāv′rē) *adj.* In U.S. history, advocating Negro slavery.

pro·sod·ic (prō·sod′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to prosody. Also **pro·sod′i·cal.**

prosodic symbols In the scansion of verse, those signs used to indicate the various kinds of syllables, stresses, feet, etc.: these include the breve (˘), macron (¯), acute (´), caesura (‖), and vertical bar (|).

pros·o·dy (pros′ə·dē) *n.* The science of poetical forms, including quantity and accent of syllables, meter, versification, and metrical composition. [< L < Gk. *prosōidia* a song sung to music] — **pro·so·di·ac** (prō·sō′dē·ak), **pro·so·di·al** (prō·sō′dē·əl) *adj.* — **pros′o·dist** *n.*

pros·pect (pros′pekt) *n.* **1.** A future probability; esp., often in the plural, the chance for future success. **2.** An extended view. **3.** An exposure; outlook. **4.** A prospective buyer. — *v.t. & v.i.* To explore (a region) for gold, oil, etc. [< L < *pro-* forward + *specere* to look]

pro·spec·tive (prə·spek′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Anticipated. **2.** Looking toward the future. — **pro·spec′tive·ly** *adv.*

pros·pec·tor (pros′pek·tər) *n.* One who searches or examines a region for mineral deposits or precious stones.

pro·spec·tus (prə·spek′təs) *n. pl.* **·tus·es** **1.** A paper containing information of a proposed undertaking. **2.** A summary; outline. [< L < *pro-* forward + *specere* to look]

pros·per (pros′pər) *v.i.* To be prosperous; thrive; flourish. [< OF < L *prosperus* favorable, prosperous]

pros·per·i·ty (pros·per′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state of being prosperous; material well-being.

pros·per·ous (pros′pər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Successful; flourishing. **2.** Auspicious. **3.** Favorable. [< MF < L *prosperus* favorable] — **pros′per·ous·ly** *adv.* — **pros′per·ous·ness** *n.*

pros·tate (pros′tāt) *Anat. adj.* Of or designating the prostate gland. — *n.* The prostate gland. [< NL < Gk. *prostatēs* stander before < *pro-* before + *histanai* to set]

prostate gland *Anat.* A partly muscular gland at the base of the bladder and surrounding the urethra in male mammals, providing some of the chemicals necessary to maintain the sperm for reproduction. — **pro·stat·ic** (prō·stat′ik) *adj.*

pros·the·sis (pros′thə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** *Surg.* The fitting of artificial parts to the body. **2.** A part so fitted, as an artificial limb, false tooth, etc. [< L < Gk. < *pros-* to + *tithenai* to put] — **pros·thet·ic** (pros·thet′ik) *adj.*

pros·thet·ics (pros·thet′iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of surgery that specializes in artificial parts. — **pros·the·tist** (pros′thə·tist) *n.*

pros·tho·don·tics (pros′thə·don′tiks) *n.* The branch of dentistry concerned with the making of crowns, bridges, dentures, and artificial teeth; dental prosthetics. Also **pros′tho·don′ti·a.** (-thə·don′shē·ə). [< NL < Gk. *prosthesis* addition + *odous* tooth] — **pros·tho·don·tist** (pros′thə·don′tist) *n.*

pros·ti·tute (pros′tə·tōōt, -tyōōt) *n.* **1.** A woman who offers her body for hire for purposes of sexual intercourse. **2.** One who sells his services for unworthy purposes. — *v.t.* **·tut·ed, ·tut·ing** **1.** To apply (talent, etc.) to unworthy purposes. **2.** To offer (oneself or another) for lewd purposes, esp. for hire. [< L < *pro-* forward + *statuere* to place] — **pros′ti·tu′tion** *n.* — **pros′ti·tu′tor** *n.*

pros·trate (pros′trāt) *adj.* **1.** Lying prone, or with the face to the ground. **2.** Brought low in mind or spirit. **3.** Lying at the mercy of another. **4.** *Bot.* Trailing along the ground. — *v.t.* **·trat·ed, ·trat·ing** **1.** To bow or cast (oneself) down, as in adoration or pleading. **2.** To throw flat; lay on the ground. **3.** To overcome; make helpless. [< L < *pro-* before + *sternere* to stretch out] — **pros·tra′tion** *n.*

pros·y (prō′zē) *adj.* **pros·i·er, pros·i·est** **1.** Like prose; prosaic. **2.** Dull; tedious. — **pros′i·ly** *adv.* — **pros′i·ness** *n.*

prot- Var. of PROTO-.

pro·tac·tin·i·um (prō′tak·tin′ē·əm) *n.* A radioactive metallic element (symbol Pa) of the actinide series, intermediate between thorium and uranium: also called *protoactinium.* See ELEMENT.

pro·tag·o·nist (prō·tag′ə·nist) *n.* **1.** The actor who played the chief part in a Greek drama. **2.** Any leading character, contender, etc. [< Gk. < *prōtos* first + *agōnistēs* actor]

pro·te·an (prō′tē·ən, prō·tē′ən) *adj.* Readily assuming different forms or various aspects; changeable. [< PROTEUS]

pro·te·ase (prō′tē·ās) *n. Biochem.* An enzyme that digests proteins.

pro·tect (prə·tekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To shield or defend from attack, harm, or injury. **2.** *Econ.* To assist (domestic industry) by means of protective tariffs. **3.** In commerce, to provide funds to guarantee payment of (a draft, etc.). [< L < *pro-* before + *tegere* to cover] — **pro·tect′ing·ly** *adv.*

pro·tec·tion (prə·tek′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of protecting, or the state of being protected. **2.** One who or that which protects. **3.** *Econ.* A system aiming to protect the industries of a country by imposing duties. See PROTECTIVE TARIFF. — **pro·tec′tive** *adj.* — **pro·tec′tive·ly** *adv.*

pro·tec·tion·ism (prə·tek′shən·iz′əm) *n.* The economic doctrine or system of protection. — **pro·tec′tion·ist** *n.*

protective tariff A tariff that is intended to insure protection of domestic industries against foreign competition.

pro·tec·tor (prə·tek′tər) *n.* **1.** One who protects; a defender. **2.** In English history, one appointed as a regent of the kingdom during minority or incapacity of the sovereign. Also **pro·tect′er.** — **pro·tec′tress** *n.fem.*

Pro·tec·tor (prə·tek′tər) *n.* The title borne by Oliver Cromwell, 1653–58, and by Richard Cromwell, his son, 1658–59 during the Protectorate: in full, **Lord Protector.**

pro·tec·tor·ate (prə·tek′tər·it) *n.* **1.** A relation of protection and partial control by a strong nation over a weaker power. **2.** A country or region under the protection of another. **3.** The office, or period of office, of a protector of a kingdom. Also **pro·tec′tor·ship.**

Pro·tec·tor·ate (prə·tek′tər·it) *n.* The English government during the rule of the Cromwells, 1653–59.

pro·té·gé (prō′tə·zhā, *Fr.* prō·tā·zhā′) *n.* One specially cared for by another who is older or more powerful. [< F < L *protegere* to protect] — **pro′té·gée** *n.fem.*

pro·te·in (prō′tē·in, -tēn) *n. Biochem.* Any of a class of highly complex nitrogenous compounds originally synthesized by plants, and forming an essential constituent in the processes of animal metabolism. Also **pro′te·id** (-id). [< G < Gk. *prōtos* first]

pro tem·po·re (prō tem′pə·rē) *Latin* For the time being.

Prot·er·o·zo·ic (prot′ər·ə·zō′ik) *Geol. adj.* Of or designating the geological era following the Archeozoic and succeeded by the Paleozoic. See chart for GEOLOGY. — *n.* The Proterozoic era. [< Gk. *proteros* former + ZOIC]

pro·test (*n.* prō′test; *v.* prə·test′) *n.* **1.** A solemn or formal objection or declaration. **2.** A public expression of dissent. **3.** A formal notarial certificate attesting the fact that a note or bill of exchange has been presented for acceptance or payment and that it has been refused. **4.** The act of protesting. — *adj.* Of or relating to public protest: *protest* demonstrations. — *v.t.* **1.** To assert earnestly or positively. **2.** *U.S.* To make a protest against; object to. **3.** To declare formally that payment of (a promissory note, etc.) has been duly submitted and refused. — *v.i.* **4.** To make solemn affirmation. **5.** To make a protest; object. [< OF < L < *pro-* forth + *testari* to testify] — **pro·test′er** *n.* — **pro·test′ing·ly** *adv.*

prot·es·tant (prot′is·tənt, prə·tes′-) *n.* One who makes a protest. [< MF < L < *protestari*]

Prot·es·tant (prot′is·tənt) *n.* A member of one of those bodies of Christians that adhere to Protestantism, as distinguished from Roman Catholicism. — *adj.* Pertaining to Protestants or Protestantism.

Protestant Episcopal Church A religious body in the United States that is descended from the Church of England: also called *Episcopal Church.*

Prot·es·tant·ism (prot′is·tənt·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The principles and common system of doctrines of the Protestants. **2.** The ecclesiastical system founded upon this faith; also, Protestants, collectively. **3.** The state of being a Protestant.

prot·es·ta·tion (prot′is·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of protesting; also, that which is protested. **2.** A formal declaration of dissent. **3.** Any solemn or urgent avowal.

Pro·te·us (prō′tē·əs, -tyōōs) In Greek mythology, a sea god who had the power of assuming different forms.

pro·tist (prō′tist) *n. Biol.* Any member of a large division or kingdom of one-celled or noncellular plants and animals, including bacteria, flagellates, rhizopods, and ciliates. [< NL < Gk. *prōtos* first] — **pro·tis′tan** *adj. & n.* — **pro·tis′tic** *adj.*

pro·ti·um (prō′tē·əm) *n. Chem.* The hydrogen isotope of atomic mass 1 (symbol, H^1): sometimes so called in distinction from deuterium and tritium. [< NL < Gk. *prōtos* first]

proto- *combining form* **1.** First in rank or time; chief; typical. **2.** Primitive; original: *prototype.* Also, before vowels, *prot-.* [< Gk. *prōtos* first]

pro·to·ac·tin·i·um (prō′tō·ak·tin′ē·əm) *n.* Protactinium.

pro·to·col (prō′tə·kôl, -kol) *n.* **1.** The rules of diplomatic and state etiquette and ceremony. **2.** The preliminary draft of diplomatic negotiation or of an official document, as a treaty. — *v.i.* **·coled** or **·colled, ·col·ing** or **·col·ling** To write or form protocols. [< OF < Med.L < LGk. *prōtokollon* the first sheet glued to a papyrus roll enumerating the contents < *prōtos* first + *kolla* glue]

pro·ton (prō′ton) *n. Physics* One of the elementary particles in the nucleus of an atom, having a unitary positive charge and a mass of approximately 1.672×10^{-24} gram. [< NL < Gk. < *prōtos* first]

pro·to·plasm (prō′tə·plaz′əm) *n. Biol.* The physicochemical basis of living matter, a viscid, grayish, translucent substance of complex composition that forms the essential part of plant and animal cells. [< G < Gk. *prōtos* first + *plasma* form] — **pro′to·plas′mic** *adj.*

pro·to·type (prō′tə·tīp) *n.* **1.** *Biol.* A primitive or ancestral organism; an archetype. **2.** An original model on which subsequent forms are to be based. [< F < NL < Gk. < *prōtos* first + *typos* form] — **pro′to·typ′al** (-tī′pəl), **pro′to·typ′ic** (-tip′ik), **pro′to·typ′i·cal** *adj.*

pro·to·zo·an (prō′tə·zō′ən) *n.* Any of a phylum of microscopic, single-celled organisms, largely aquatic and including many parasites. Also **pro′to·zo′on.** [< NL < Gk. *prōtos* first + *zōion* animal] — **pro′to·zo′an** *adj.* — **pro′to·zo′ic** *adj.*

pro·tract (prō·trakt′) *v.t.* **1.** To extend in time; prolong. **2.** In surveying, to draw or map by means of a scale and protractor; plot. **3.** *Anat.* To protrude or extend. [< L < *pro-* forward + *trahere* to draw] — **pro·trac′tion** *n.* — **pro·trac′tive** *adj.*

pro·trac·tile (prō·trak′til) *adj.* Capable of being protracted or protruded.

pro·trac·tor (prō·trak′tər) *n.* **1.** One who protracts. **2.** An instrument for measuring and laying off angles. **3.** *Anat.* A muscle that extends a limb or moves it forward.

pro·trude (prō·trōōd′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·trud·ed, ·trud·ing** To push

or thrust out; project outward. [< L < *pro-* forward + *trudere* to thrust] — **pro·tru′sion** (-trōō′zhən) *n.*

ro·tru·sile (prō-trōō′sil) *adj.* Adapted to being thrust out, as the tongue of an anteater. Also **pro·tru′si·ble.**

ro·tru·sive (prō-trōō′siv) *adj.* **1.** Tending to protrude; protruding. **2.** Pushing or driving forward. — **pro·tru′·sive·ly** *adv.* — **pro·tru′sive·ness** *n.*

ro·tu·ber·ance (prō-tōō′bər·əns, -tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** Something that protrudes; a knob; prominence. **2.** The state of being protuberant. Also **pro·tu′ber·an·cy, pro·tu′ber·a′tion.**

ro·tu·ber·ant (prō-tōō′bər·ənt, -tyōō-) *adj.* Swelling out beyond the surrounding surface; bulging. [< LL < L *pro-* forth + *tuber* a swelling] — **pro·tu′ber·ant·ly** *adv.*

roud (proud) *adj.* **1.** Actuated by, possessing, or manifesting pride; arrogant; also, self-respecting. **2.** Sensible of honor and personal elation: generally followed by *of* or by a verb in the infinitive. **3.** High-mettled, as a horse. **4.** Proceeding from or inspired by pride. **5.** Being a cause of honorable pride, as a distinction. — **to do oneself proud** To do extremely well. [OE < OF, prob. ult. < L < *pro-* for + *esse* to be] — **proud′ly** *adv.*

roud flesh *Pathol.* A granulated growth resembling flesh in a wound or sore. [So called from its swelling up]

rove (prōōv) *v.* **proved, proved** or **prov·en, prov·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To show to be true or genuine, as by evidence or argument. **2.** To determine the quality or genuineness of; test: to *prove* a gun. **3.** To establish the authenticity or validity of, as a will. **4.** *Math.* To verify the accuracy of (a calculation, etc.). — *v.i.* **5.** To be shown to be by the result or outcome; turn out to be. [< OF < L < *probus* upright] — **prov′a·ble** *adj.* — **prov′er** *n.*

ro·ven·çal (prō′vən·säl′, *Fr.* prō·väN·sal′) *n.* **1.** A native or resident of Provence, France. **2.** The Roman language of Provence, used esp. in the 12th and 13th centuries in the lyric literature of the troubadours. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Provence, its inhabitants, or their language.

rov·en·der (prov′ən·dər) *n.* **1.** Food for cattle; esp., dry food, as hay. **2.** *Rare* Provisions generally. — *v.t.* To provide with food, as cattle. [< OF < L *praebere* to supply]

rov·erb (prov′ərb) *n.* **1.** A pithy saying, esp. one condensing the wisdom of experience; adage; saw; maxim. **2.** An enigmatic saying. **3.** A typical example; byword. [< OF < L < *pro-* before + *verbum* word]

— **Syn. 1.** A *proverb* is usually a homely illustration of a general truth, as: A rolling stone gathers no moss. An *adage* is a time-honored and generally accepted *proverb*, as: A man is known by the company he keeps. Any ancient and hackneyed *adage* is a *saw*, as: All that glitters is not gold.

ro·ver·bi·al (prə·vûr′bē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, or like a proverb. **2.** Well-known; notorious. — **pro·ver′bi·al·ly** *adv.*

'rov·erbs (prov′ərbz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) An Old Testament book of moral sayings.

ro·vide (prə·vīd′) *v.* **·vid·ed, ·vid·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To supply or furnish. **2.** To afford; yield. **3.** To prepare, make ready, or procure beforehand. **4.** To set down as a condition; stipulate. — *v.i.* **5.** To take measures in advance: with *for* or *against*. **6.** To furnish means of subsistence: usu. with *for*. **7.** To make a stipulation. [< L < *pro-* before + *videre* to see] — **pro·vid′er** *n.*

ro·vid·ed (prə·vī′did) *conj.* On condition; if: He will get the loan *provided* he offers good security.

rov·i·dence (prov′ə·dəns) *n.* **1.** The care exercised by God over the universe. **2.** An event or circumstances ascribable to divine interposition. **3.** The exercise of foresight and care for the future. [< OF < L *providere* to foresee]

'rov·i·dence (prov′ə·dəns) God; the Deity.

rov·i·dent (prov′ə·dənt) *adj.* Anticipating and making ready for future wants. — **prov′i·dent·ly** *adv.*

rov·i·den·tial (prov′ə·den′shəl) *adj.* Resulting from or involving God's providence. — **prov′i·den′tial·ly** *adv.*

ro·vid·ing (prə·vī′ding) *conj.* On condition; provided.

rov·ince (prov′ins) *n.* **1.** A country incorporated with a kingdom or empire and subject to central administration. **2.** Any large administrative division of a country with a permanent local government. **3.** *pl.* Regions lying at a distance from the capital or most populous part of a country. **4.** A sphere of knowledge, activity, or endeavor. [< OF < L *provincia* province]

ro·vin·cial (prə·vin′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a province. **2.** Confined to a province; rustic; local. **3.** Narrow; uncultured; illiberal. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of a province. **2.** One who is provincial. — **pro·vin′ci·al′·i·ty** (-shē·al′ə·tē) *n.* — **pro·vin′cial·ly** *adv.*

ro·vin·cial·ism (prə·vin′shəl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The quality of being provincial. **2.** A provincial custom, esp. of speech.

ro·vi·sion (prə·vizh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of providing, or the state of being provided. **2.** Measures taken or means made ready in advance. **3.** *pl.* Food or a supply of food. **4.** Something provided or prepared, as against future need. **5.** The part of an agreement, instrument, etc., referring to one specific thing; a stipulation. — *v.t.* To provide with food or provisions. [< OF < L < *pro-* before + *videre* to see] — **pro·vi′sion·er** *n.*

pro·vi·sion·al (prə·vizh′ən·əl) *adj.* Provided for a present service or temporary necessity; adopted tentatively. Also **pro·vi′sion·ar′y.** — **pro·vi′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

pro·vi·so (prə·vī′zō) *n. pl.* **·sos** or **·soes** A stipulation or clause, as in a contract or statute, limiting, modifying, or rendering conditional its operation. [< Med.L *proviso* it being provided < L *providere* to foresee]

pro·vi·so·ry (prə·vī′zər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Conditional. **2.** Provisional. — **pro·vi′so·ri·ly** *adv.*

prov·o·ca·tion (prov′ə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of provoking. **2.** An incitement to action; stimulus.

pro·voc·a·tive (prə·vok′ə·tiv) *adj.* Serving to provoke; stimulating. — *n.* That which provokes or tends to provoke. — **pro·voc′a·tive·ly** *adv.* — **pro·voc′a·tive·ness** *n.*

pro·voke (prə·vōk′) *v.t.* **·voked, ·vok·ing 1.** To stir to anger or resentment; irritate; vex. **2.** To arouse or stimulate to some action. **3.** To stir up or bring about: to *provoke* a quarrel. **4.** To induce or cause; elicit: to *provoke* a smile. [< OF < L < *pro-* forth + *vocare* to call] — **pro·vok′ing·ly** *adv.* — **pro·vok′ing·ness** *n.*

prov·ost (prov′əst) *n.* **1.** A person having charge or authority over others. **2.** The chief magistrate of a Scottish city. **3.** In some English and American colleges, the head of the faculty. **4.** The head of a collegiate chapter or a cathedral; a dean. [< OE and OF, both < LL *propositus*, var. of L *praepositus* chief] — **prov′ost·ship** *n.*

pro·vost marshal (prō′vō) A military or naval officer exercising police functions: also called *provost.*

prow (prou) *n.* **1.** The fore part of the hull of a vessel; the bow. **2.** Any projection. [< MF < L < Gk. *prōira*]

prow·ess (prou′is) *n.* **1.** Strength, skill, and courage, esp. in battle. **2.** A daring and valiant deed. [< OF *prouesse, proece* < *prou* brave]

prowl (proul) *v.t. & v.i.* To roam about stealthily, as in search of prey or plunder. — *n.* The act of prowling. [ME *prollen* to search] — **prowl′er** *n.*

prowl car *U.S.* A police patrol car.

prox·i·mal (prok′sə·məl) *adj.* **1.** *Anat.* Relatively nearer the central portion of the body or point of origin. **2.** Proximate. — **prox′i·mal·ly** *adv.*

prox·i·mate (prok′sə·mit) *adj.* Being in immediate relation with something else; next: also *proximal.* [< LL < L *proximus*, superl. of *prope* near] — **prox′i·mate·ly** *adv.*

prox·im·i·ty (prok·sim′ə·tē) *n.* The state or fact of being near or next; nearness. [See PROXIMATE.]

proximity fuse A fuse in a projectile, usu. activated by an electronic device, that detonates by simple proximity to the target: also called *VT fuse.*

prox·i·mo (prok′sə·mō) *adv.* In or of the next or coming month. [See PROXIMATE.]

prox·y (prok′sē) *n. pl.* **prox·ies 1.** A person empowered by another to act for him. **2.** The office or right to so act, or the instrument conferring it. [ME *prokecie*]

prude (prōōd) *n.* A person who makes an affected display of modesty and propriety, esp. in matters relating to sex. [< F *preude* (*femme*) strong, hence, modest (woman)] — **prud′ish** *adj.* — **prud′ish·ly** *adv.* — **prud′ish·ness** *n.*

pru·dence (prōōd′ns) *n.* The quality or state of being prudent; sagacity; discretion.

pru·dent (prōōd′nt) *adj.* **1.** Cautious; worldly-wise. **2.** Exercising sound judgment. **3.** Not extravagant. **4.** Decorously discreet. [< OF < L *prudens, -entis* knowing, foreseeing] — **pru′dent·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** discreet, circumspect, wary. **3.** thrifty, economical, frugal. — **Ant.** imprudent, indiscreet, rash, reckless.

pru·den·tial (prōō·den′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Proceeding from or marked by prudence. **2.** Exercising prudence and wisdom. — **pru·den′tial·ly** *adv.*

prud·er·y (prōō′dər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies 1.** Extreme priggishness; primness. **2.** Prudish action or language.

prune[1] (prōōn) *n.* The dried fruit of the plum. [< OF < LL < L *prunum*]

prune[2] (prōōn) *v.t. & v.i.* **pruned, prun·ing 1.** To trim or cut branches or parts (from) so as to improve growth, appearance, etc. **2.** To cut off (branches or parts). [< OF *proöignier, proignier*, ? < *provaignier* to cut] — **prun′er** *n.*

pru·ri·ent (prōōr′ē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Having lustful cravings or desires. **2.** Lewd. [< L *pruriens, -entis*, ppr. of *prurire* to itch] — **pru′ri·ence, pru′ri·en·cy** *n.* — **pru′ri·ent·ly** *adv.*

pru·ri·tus (prōō·rī′təs) *n. Pathol.* Intense itching. [< L < *prurire* to itch] — **pru·rit′ic** (-rit′ik) *adj.*

Prus·sian (prush′ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Prussia, its inhabitants, or their language. **2.** Characteristic of the

Junkers of Prussia; militaristic; overbearing. — *n.* A native or inhabitant of Prussia.

Prussian blue 1. *Chem.* Any one of a group of cyanogen compounds containing chiefly ferric ferrocyanide, formerly much used in dyeing. 2. A deep blue pigment.

prus·sic acid (prus′ik) Hydrocyanic acid.

pry[1] (prī) *v.i.* **pried, pry·ing** To look or peer carefully, curiously, or slyly; snoop. — *n.* *pl.* **pries** 1. A sly and searching inspection. 2. One who pries; an inquisitive, prying person. [ME *prien*] — **pry′ing·ly** *adv.*

pry[2] (prī) *v.t.* **pried, pry·ing** *Chiefly U.S.* 1. To raise, move, or open by means of a lever; prize. 2. To obtain by effort. — *n.* A lever, as a bar, stick, or beam; also, leverage. [Back formation < *prize* lever]

pry·er (prī′ər) See PRIER.

psalm (säm) *n.* 1. *Often cap.* A sacred song or lyric contained in the Old Testament Book of Psalms. 2. Any sacred song. — *v.t.* To celebrate or praise in psalms. [OE < LL < Gk. *psalmos* song accompanied by a harp]

psalm·ist (sä′mist) *n.* A maker or composer of psalms. — **the Psalmist** King David, as the traditional author of many of the Scriptural psalms.

psalm·o·dy (sä′mə·dē, sal′-) *n.* *pl.* **·dies** 1. The use of psalms in divine worship. 2. A collection of psalms. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *psalmos* psalm + *aeidein* to sing]

Psalms (sämz) A lyrical book of the Old Testament, containing 150 hymns. Also **Book of Psalms.**

psal·ter (sôl′tər) *n.* The psalms appointed to be read or sung at any given service. [See PSALTERY.] — **psal·te·ri·an** (sôl·tir′ē·ən, sal-) *adj.*

Psal·ter (sôl′tər) *n.* The Book of Psalms, esp. for use in religious services. Also **Psal′ter·y.**

psal·ter·y (sôl′tər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ter·ies** An ancient stringed musical instrument played by plucking with a plectrum. [< OF < L < Gk. < *psallein* to pluck]

pseu·do (sōō′dō) *adj.* Pretended; sham.

pseudo- *combining form* 1. False; pretended: *pseudonym.* 2. Counterfeit; not genuine. 3. Closely resembling: *pseudopodium.* 4. Illusory; apparent. 5. Abnormal; erratic. Also, before vowels, **pseud-.** [< Gk. < *pseudēs* false]

pseu·do·nym (sōō′də·nim) *n.* A fictitious name; pen name. [< F < Gk. < *pseudēs* false + *onoma* name] — **pseu·don·y·mous** (sōō·don′ə·məs) *adj.* — **pseu·don′y·mous·ly** *adv.* — **pseu·don′y·mous·ness, pseu′do·nym′i·ty** *n.*

— **Syn.** *Pseudonym, alias, pen name,* and *nom de plume* denote an assumed name. Pseudonym is the general term, including all the others. An *alias* is a name taken to conceal one's true identity, most often for some wrongful purpose. *Pen name* and *nom de plume* refer to a fictitious name signed to a literary work by its author.

pseu·do·po·di·um (sōō′də·pō′dē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·di·a** (-dē·ə) *Zool.* A temporary extension of the protoplasm of a cell or of a protozoan, used for taking in food, locomotion, etc. Also **pseu′do·pod** (-pod), **pseu′do·pode** (-pōd). [< NL]

pshaw (shô) *interj.* An exclamation of annoyance, disapproval, disgust, or impatience. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* To exclaim *pshaw* at (a person or thing).

psi (sī, psī, psē) *n.* The twenty-third letter in the Greek alphabet (Ψ, ψ): equivalent to English *ps.* See ALPHABET.

psit·ta·co·sis (sit′ə·kō′sis) *n.* An acute, infectious virus disease of parrots and related birds, transmissible to man and resembling influenza: also called *parrot fever.* [< NL < Gk. *psittakos* parrot + -OSIS]

pso·ri·a·sis (sə·rī′ə·sis) *n.* *Pathol.* A noncontagious, inflammatory skin disease, chronic or acute, characterized by reddish patches and white scales. [< NL < Gk. *psōra* an itch] — **pso·ri·at·ic** (sôr′ē·at′ik, sō′rē-) *adj.*

psych- Var. of PSYCHO-.

psy·che (sī′kē) *n.* 1. The human soul. 2. *Psychoanal.* The mind, often regarded as an entity functioning apart from or independently of the body. [< Gk. *psychē* soul]

Psy·che (sī′kē) In Greek and Roman mythology, a maiden who is united with Eros and is a personification of the soul.

psy·che·del·ic (sī′kə·del′ik) *adj.* Causing or having to do with an abnormal stimulation of consciousness or perception. [< Gk. *psychē* soul + *del(os)* manifest + -IC]

psy·chi·a·trist (sī·kī′ə·trist, si-) *n.* A physician specializing in the practice of psychiatry.

psy·chi·a·try (sī·kī′ə·trē, si-) *n.* The branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. — **psy·chi·at·ric** (sī′kē·at′rik) or **·ri·cal** *adj.*

psy·chic (sī′kik) *adj.* 1. Pertaining to the mind. 2. Pertaining to mental phenomena that appear to be independent of normal sensory stimuli, as clairvoyance, telepathy, and extrasensory perception. 3. Caused by, proceeding from, or attributed to a nonmaterial or occult agency. 4. Sensitive to mental or occult phenomena. Also **psy′chi·cal.** — *n.* One sensitive to extrasensory phenomena. [See PSYCHE.] — **psy′chi·cal·ly** *adv.*

psycho- *combining form* Mind; soul; spirit: *psychosomatic.* Also, before vowels, *psych-.* [< Gk. *psychē.* See PSYCHE.]

psy·cho·a·nal·y·sis (sī′kō·ə·nal′ə·sis) *n.* A system of psychotherapy that seeks to alleviate neuroses and other mental disorders by the analysis of unconscious factors as revealed in dreams, free association, lapses of memory, etc. — **psy′cho·an′a·lyt′ic** (-an′ə·lit′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **psy′cho·an′a·lyt′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

psy·cho·an·a·lyst (sī′kō·an′ə·list) *n.* One who practices psychoanalysis.

psy·cho·an·a·lyze (sī′kō·an′ə·līz) *v.t.* **·lyzed, ·lyz·ing** To treat by psychoanalysis. Also *Brit.* **psy′cho·an′a·lyse.**

psy·cho·chem·i·cal (sī′kō·kem′i·kəl) *n.* *Chem.* A drug or compound that affects consciousness and behavior. — *adj.* Consisting or of the nature of a psychochemical.

psy·cho·gen·ic (sī′kō·jen′ik) *adj.* Having mental origin, or being affected by mental conflicts and states.

psy·cho·log·i·cal (sī′kə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to psychology. 2. Of or in the mind. Also **psy′cho·log′ic.** — **psy′cho·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

psy·chol·o·gist (sī·kol′ə·jist) *n.* A student of or a specialist in psychology.

psy·chol·o·gize (sī·kol′ə·jīz) *v.i.* **·gized, ·giz·ing** 1. To study psychology. 2. To theorize on psychology.

psy·chol·o·gy (sī·kol′ə·jē) *n.* *pl.* **·gies** 1. The science of the human mind in any of its aspects, operations, powers, or functions. 2. The systematic investigation of mental phenomena, especially those associated with consciousness, behavior, and the problems of adjustment to the environment. 3. The behavior patterns regarded as characteristic of an individual, type, group, etc. 4. A work on psychology.

psy·cho·mo·tor (sī′kō·mō′tər) *adj.* *Physiol.* Of or pertaining to muscular movements resulting from mental processes.

psy·cho·neu·ro·sis (sī′kō·nōō·rō′sis, -nyōō-) *n.* *pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) *Psychiatry* Neurosis. — **psy′cho·neu·rot′ic** (-rot′ik) *adj.* & *n.*

psy·cho·path (sī′kō·path) *n.* One who is mentally unstable, esp. in a criminal or antisocial manner.

psy·cho·path·ic (sī′kō·path′ik) *adj.* Of or characterized by psychopathy.

psy·cho·pa·thol·o·gy (sī′kō·pə·thol′ə·jē) *n.* The pathology of the mind. — **psy′cho·path′o·log′i·cal** (-path′ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **psy′cho·pa·thol′o·gist** *n.*

psy·chop·a·thy (sī·kop′ə·thē) *n.* Mental disorder.

psy·cho·phar·ma·col·o·gy (sī′kō·fär′mə·kol′ə·jē) *n.* The branch of pharmacology dealing with drugs that affect the mind. — **psy′cho·phar′ma·co·log′ic** (-kə·loj′ik) *adj.*

psy·cho·sis (sī·kō′sis) *n.* *pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) *Psychiatry* A severe mental disorder, often involving disorganization of the total personality, with or without organic disease. [< NL < Gk. *psychōsis* giving of life < *psychoein* to animate]

psy·cho·so·mat·ic (sī′kō·sō·mat′ik) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to the effect of emotional states upon the body, with special reference to certain disorders. 2. Designating a branch of medicine that treats such disorders with a psychological approach.

psy·cho·ther·a·py (sī′kō·ther′ə·pē) *n.* *pl.* **·pies** The treatment of nervous and mental disorders, by psychological methods, as hypnosis, re-education, psychoanalysis, etc. Also **psy′cho·ther′a·peu′tics** (-ther′ə·pyōō′tiks). — **psy′cho·ther′a·peu′tic** *adj.* — **psy′cho·ther′a·pist** *n.*

psy·chot·ic (sī·kot′ik) *n.* One suffering from a psychosis. — *adj.* Of or characterized by a psychosis.

psy·chot·o·mi·met·ic (sī·kot′ō·mi·met′ik, -mī·met′ik) *adj.* Designating a group of drugs capable of inducing altered states of consciousness and having possible therapeutic value.

psychro- *combining form* Cold. [< Gk. *psychros* cold]

ptar·mi·gan (tär′mə·gən) *n.* *pl.* **·gans** or **·gan** A grouse of the northern hemisphere, having a white winter plumage, and feathered toes. [< Scottish Gaelic *tarmachan*]

PT boat A patrol torpedo boat.

ptero- *combining form* Wing; feather; winglike. Also, before vowels, **pter-.** [< Gk. *pteron* wing]

pter·o·dac·tyl (ter′ə·dak′til) *n.* *Paleontol.* Any of a genus of extinct flying reptiles of the Jurassic period. [< NL < Gk. *pteron* wing + *daktylos* finger]

-pterous *combining form* Having (a specified number or kind of) wings: *dipterous.* [< Gk. *pteron* wing]

Ptol·e·ma·ic (tol′ə·mā′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Ptolemy, the astronomer, or to the dynasty of Egyptian kings that began with Ptolemy I. [< Gk. *Ptolemaïkos*]

Ptolemaic system The ancient astronomical system of Ptolemy. It assumed that the earth was the central body around which the sun, planets, and celestial bodies revolved.

Ptol·e·ma·ist (tol′ə·mā′ist) *n.* A believer in or adherent of the Ptolemaic system.

pto·maine (tō′mān, tō·mān′) *n.* *Biochem.* Any of a class of basic nitrogenous compounds, some of which are poisonous, derived from decomposing animal or vegetable protein. Also **pto′main.** [< Ital. < Gk. *ptōma* corpse]

ptomaine poisoning An erroneous term for food poisoning.

pty·a·lin (tī′ə·lin) *n.* *Biochem.* An enzyme, contained in saliva, that converts starch into dextrin and maltose. [< Gk. *ptyalon* saliva < *ptuein* to spit + -IN]

ub (pub) *n. Brit. Informal* A public house; inn; tavern.
u·ber·ty (pyōō′bər·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The period during which an individual becomes physiologically capable of reproduction. [< L < *pubes, puberis* an adult]
u·bes (pyōō′bēz) *n.* **1.** *Anat.* The part of the lower abdomen covered with hair in the adult; the pubic region. **2.** The hair that appears on the body at puberty; esp., the hair on the pubic region. [< L, pubic hair]
u·bes·cent (pyōō·bes′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Arriving or having arrived at puberty. **2.** Having a growth of soft, fine hairs, as certain plants. [< MF < L *pubescens, -entis*, ppr. of *pubescere* to grow hair, attain puberty] — **pu·bes′cence** *n.*
u·bic (pyōō′bik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the region in the lower part of the abdomen: the *pubic* bones.
u·bis (pyōō′bis) *n. pl.* **·bes** (-bēz) *Anat.* Either of the two bones that join with a third to form an arch on either ventral side of the pelvis. [See PUBES.]
ub·lic (pub′lik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or affecting the people at large or the community. **2.** Maintained by or for the public: *public* parks. **3.** Participated in by the people: a *public* demonstration. **4.** For the use of the public; especially, for hire: a *public* cab, hall, etc. **5.** Well-known; open; notorious: a *public* scandal. **6.** Acting before or for the community: a *public* official. — *n.* **1.** Those who may be grouped together for any given purpose. **2.** An audience; esp., the admirers of an actor or other celebrity. — **the public** The people of a locality or nation. [< MF < L *publicus*] — **pub′lic·ly** *adv.* — **pub′lic·ness** *n.*
ub·lic-ad·dress system (pub′lik·ə·dres′) An apparatus for the amplification of speech, music, etc., in public places.
ub·li·can (pub′lə·kən) *n.* **1.** In England, the keeper of a public house. **2.** In ancient Rome, a tax collector. [< OF < L < *publicum* public revenue, orig. neut. of *publicus*]
ub·li·ca·tion (pub′lə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of publishing or offering to public notice. **2.** Any printed work placed on sale or otherwise distributed or offered for distribution. **3.** Notification to people at large orally or by writing or print; promulgation; proclamation. [See PUBLISH.]
ublic domain Lands owned by a state or national government; public lands. — **in the public domain** Available for unrestricted use: said of material on which copyright or patent right has expired.
ublic enemy **1.** A person, esp. a criminal, regarded as a menace to the public. **2.** An enemy state.
ublic house **1.** An inn, tavern, or hotel. **2.** In England, a place licensed to sell intoxicating liquors; a saloon.
ub·li·cist (pub′lə·sist) *n.* **1.** A writer on international law or on topics of public interest. **2.** A public-relations man or publicity agent.
ub·lic·i·ty (pub·lis′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** Information or personal news intended to promote the interests of individuals, institutions, etc. **2.** The state of being public, or the act of making or becoming public; exposure; notoriety. **3.** The attention or interest of the public gained by any method.
ub·li·cize (pub′lə·sīz) *v.t.* **·cized, ·ciz·ing** To advertise.
ublic library **1.** A library maintained for the use of the public. **2.** The building in which it is contained.
ublic opinion The prevailing ideas, beliefs, and aims of the people, collectively.
ublic relations The activities and techniques used by organizations and individuals to establish favorable attitudes and responses in their behalf on the part of the general public or of special groups; also, the occupation of establishing such attitude and responses.
ublic school **1.** *U.S.* A school maintained by public funds for the free education of the children of the community, usu. covering elementary and secondary grades. **2.** *Brit.* A private or endowed school not run for profit, esp. one preparing students for the universities, as Eton, Harrow, etc.
ublic servant A government official.
ublic utility A business organization or industry that supplies water, electricity, gas, etc., to the public, and is subject to particular governmental regulations.
ublic works Architectural or engineering works or improvements built with public money, as parks, roads, etc.
ub·lish (pub′lish) *v.t.* **1.** To print and issue (a book, magazine, map, etc.) to the public. **2.** To make known or announce publicly; promulgate; proclaim. [See PUBLIC.] — **pub′lish·a·ble** *adj.*
ub·lish·er (pub′lish·ər) *n.* One who publishes; esp., one whose business is publishing books, etc.
uce (pyōōs) *adj.* Of a dark brown or purplish brown. [< F, flea color, flea < L *pulex, -icis* flea]
uck[1] (puk) *n.* An evil sprite or hobgoblin. [OE *pūca*]
uck[2] (puk) *n.* The black, hard, rubber disk used in playing ice hockey. [? < dial. E, to strike]
uck (puk) A mischievous elf or goblin in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* [< PUCK[1]]
puck·a (puk′ə) See PUKKA.
puck·er (puk′ər) *v.t. & v.i.* To gather or draw up into small folds or wrinkles. — *n.* A wrinkle or group of wrinkles. [Appar. freq. of POKE[2]] — **puck′er·y** *adj.*
puck·ish (puk′ish) *adj.* Mischievous; impish.
pud·ding (pŏŏd′ing) *n.* **1.** A sweetened and flavored dessert of soft food, usu. made of milk, flavoring, a thickening agent, etc. **2.** A sausage of seasoned minced meat, blood, or the like, usu. boiled or broiled. [ME *poding*, orig., sausage, black pudding]
pud·dle (pud′l) *n.* **1.** A small pool of water, esp. dirty water. **2.** A small pool of any liquid. — *v.t.* **·dled, ·dling** **1.** *Metall.* To convert (molten pig iron) into wrought iron by melting and stirring in the presence of oxidizing substances. **2.** To mix (clay, etc.) with water so as to obtain a watertight paste. **3.** To make muddy; stir up. [ME *podel*, dim. of OE *pudd* ditch] — **pud′dly** *adj.*
pud·dle·ball (pud′l·bôl′) *n. Metall.* A ball of iron reduced to a pasty condition in the puddling furnace and ready for hammering or rolling.
pud·dler (pud′lər) *n.* **1.** One who puddles. **2.** A device for stirring fused metal.
pud·dling (pud′ling) *n. Metall.* The operation or business of making wrought iron from pig iron in a puddling furnace.
puddling furnace A reverberatory furnace for puddling pig iron: also called *hearth.*
pudg·y (puj′ē) *adj.* **pudg·i·er, pudg·i·est** Short and fat; dumpy; chubby: also *podgy.* [< Scot.]
pueb·lo (pweb′lō *for def. 1*; pwā′blō *for def. 2*) *n. pl.* **·los** **1.** A communal adobe or stone building or group of buildings of the Indians of the SW U.S. **2.** A town or village of Indians or Spanish Americans, as in Mexico. [< Sp., village]
Pueb·lo (pweb′lō) *n.* A member of one of the Indian tribes of Mexico and the SW U.S., as a Zuni, Hopi, etc.
pu·er·ile (pyōō′ər·il, pyōō′rəl, -rīl, pwer′əl, -īl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or characteristic of childhood; juvenile. **2.** Immature; weak; silly: a *puerile* suggestion. [< L < *puer* boy, child] — **pu′er·ile·ly** *adv.* — **pu′er·ile·ness** *n.*
pu·er·il·i·ty (pyōō′ə·ril′ə·tē, pyōō·ril′-, pwer·il′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Puerile state. **2.** A childish act or expression.
pu·er·per·al (pyōō·ûr′pər·əl) *adj. Med.* Of or connected with childbirth. [< L < *puer* child + *parere* to bear]
puff (puf) *n.* **1.** A breath emitted suddenly and with force; also, a sudden emission, as of air, smoke, or steam. **2.** A light, air-filled piece of pastry. **3.** A light ball, tuft, wad, or pad for dusting powder on the hair or skin. **4.** A loose roll of hair in a coiffure, or a light cushion over which it is rolled. **5.** A quilted bed coverlet; a comforter. **6.** In dressmaking, a part of a fabric so gathered as to produce a loose, fluffy distention. **7.** Excessive praise, as in a newspaper or advertisement. **8.** A puffball. — *v.i.* **1.** To blow in puffs, as the wind. **2.** To breathe hard, as after violent exertion. **3.** To emit smoke, steam, etc., in puffs. **4.** To smoke a cigar, etc., with puffs. **5.** To move, act, or exert oneself while emitting puffs: with *away, up,* etc. **6.** To swell, as with air or pride; dilate: often with *up* or *out.* — *v.t.* **7.** To send forth or emit with short puffs or breaths. **8.** To move, impel, or stir up with or in puffs. **9.** To smoke, as a pipe or cigar, with puffs. **10.** To swell or distend. **11.** To praise excessively. **12.** To arrange (hair, etc.) in a puff. [ME *puf*]
puff adder A large, sluggish, venomous African viper with a habit of violently puffing out its breath.
puff·ball (puf′bôl′) *n.* Any of various globular fungi that puff out dustlike spores when broken open.
puff·er (puf′ər) *n.* One who or that which puffs.
puf·fin (puf′in) *n.* A sea bird allied to the auk and having a deep, compressed, highly colored bill. [ME *poffin*]
puff·y (puf′ē) *adj.* **puff·i·er, puff·i·est** **1.** Swollen with or as with air, etc. **2.** Inflated in manner; bombastic. **3.** Blowing in puffs. — **puff′i·ly** *adv.* — **puff′i·ness** *n.*
pug[1] (pug) *n.* Clay worked with water, for molding pottery or bricks. — *v.t.* **pugged, pug·ging** **1.** To knead or work (clay) with water, as in brickmaking. **2.** To fill in with clay, etc. [Origin unknown]
pug[2] (pug) *n.* **1.** A breed of dog characterized by a short square body, upturned nose, curled tail, and short smooth coat. **2.** A pug nose. [Prob. alter. of PUCK]
pug[3] (pug) *n. Anglo-Indian* An animal's footprint; trail. [< Hind. *pag* foot]
pug[4] (pug) *n. Slang* A professional pugilist. [Short for PUGILIST]
pugh (pyōō, pōō) *interj.* An exclamation of disgust.
pu·gi·lism (pyōō′jə·liz′əm) *n.* The art or practice of boxing or fighting with the fists. [< L *pugil* boxer] — **pu′gi·list** *n.* — **pu′gi·lis′tic** *adj.*
pug·na·cious (pug·nā′shəs) *adj.* Disposed or inclined to fight; quarrelsome. [< L *pugnare* to fight] — **pug·na′cious·ly** *adv.*

pug·nac·i·ty (pug·nas′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The quality of being pugnacious; quarrelsome disposition; combativeness. Also **pug·na′cious·ness** (-nā′shəs·nis).

pug nose A short nose tilted upward at the end. [< PUG²] — **pug-nosed** (pug′nōzd′) *adj.*

puis·ne (pyōō′nē) *adj. Law* Junior as to rank; younger. [< OF < *puis* afterwards + *né* born]

pu·is·sant (pyōō′ə·sənt, pyōō·is′ənt, pwis′ənt) *adj.* Powerful; mighty. [< OF < L *posse* to be able] — **pu′is·sance** *n.* — **pu′is·sant·ly** *adv.*

puke (pyōōk) *v.t. & v.i.* **puked, puk·ing** To vomit or cause to vomit. — *n.* Vomit. [Origin unknown]

puk·ka (puk′ə) *adj. Anglo-Indian* **1.** Made of good materials; substantial. **2.** Genuine; superior. Also spelled *pucka*. [< Hind. *pakkā* substantial, cooked, ripe]

pul·chri·tude (pul′krə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* Beauty; grace; physical charm. [< L *pulchritudo, -inis* < *pulcher* beautiful]

pul·chri·tu·di·nous (pul′krə·tōō′də·nəs, -tyōō′-) *adj.* Beautiful; lovely; esp., having physical beauty.

pule (pyōōl) *v.i.* **puled, pul·ing** To cry plaintively, as a child; whimper; whine. [Prob. imit.] — **pul′er** *n.*

Pul·itz·er Prize (pyōō′lit·sər, pōōl′it-) One of several annual awards for outstanding work in American journalism, letters, music, and art, established by Joseph Pulitzer, 1847–1911, U.S. journalist.

pull (pōōl) *v.t.* **1.** To apply force so as to cause motion toward or in the direction of the source of force; drag; tug. **2.** To draw or remove from a natural or fixed place. **3.** To give a pull or tug to. **4.** To pluck, as a fowl. **5.** To rip; tear; rend. **6.** To strain so as to cause injury. **7.** In golf, etc., to strike (the ball) so that it curves obliquely from the direction in which the striker faces. **8.** In baseball, to hit (the ball) to the field that the batter faces on completing his swing. **9.** *Slang* To put into effect; carry out: often with *off*. **10.** *Slang* To make a raid on; arrest. **11.** *Slang* To draw out so as to use. **12.** *Printing* To make or obtain by impression from type: to *pull* a proof. **13.** In boxing, to deliver (a punch, etc.) with less than one's full strength. **14.** In rowing: **a** To operate (an oar) by drawing toward one. **b** To propel or transport by rowing. **c** To be propelled by: The gig *pulls* four oars. — *v.i.* **15.** To use force in hauling, dragging, moving, etc. **16.** To move: with *out, in, away, ahead*, etc. **17.** To drink or inhale deeply. **18.** To propel a boat with oars; row. — **to pull for 1.** To strive in behalf of. **2.** *Informal* To declare one's allegiance to. — **to pull oneself together** To regain one's composure. — **to pull out** To withdraw, as from established position. — **to pull through** To manage to succeed, recover, etc. — **to pull up** To come to a halt. — **to pull up with** To advance to a position even with. — *n.* **1.** The act of pulling. **2.** Something that is pulled, as the handle of a drawer. **3.** An impression made by pulling the lever of a hand press. **4.** A long swallow, or a deep puff. **5.** Any steady, continuous effort. **6.** *Slang* A means of influencing those in power; influence. **7.** Attraction; appeal. **8.** The amount of resistance met in drawing a bowstring, pulling a trigger or the like, usu. measured in pounds. [OE *pullian* to pluck] — **pull′er** *n.*

pull·back (pōōl′bak′) *n.* **1.** A restraint or drawback. **2.** A device for drawing or holding something back, as part of a dress, or a window.

pul·let (pōōl′it) *n.* A young hen, or one not fully grown. [< OF *polete, poulet*, dim. of *poule* hen]

pul·ley (pōōl′ē) *n. pl.* **·leys** **1.** A wheel grooved to receive a rope, and usu. mounted in a block, used to increase the mechanical advantage of an applied force. **2.** A block with its pulleys or tackle. **3.** A wheel driving, carrying, or being driven by a belt. [< OF < Med.L *poleia*, prob. ult. < Gk. *polos* pivot, axis]

Pull·man (pōōl′mən) *n.* A sleeping car or chair car on a passenger train: a trade name. Also **Pullman car.** [after George M. *Pullman*, 1831–97, U.S. inventor]

pull-out (pōōl′out′) *n.* **1.** A withdrawal, as of troops. **2.** *Aeron.* The maneuver of an airplane in passing from a dive to horizontal flight.

pull-o·ver (pōōl′ō′vər) *adj.* Put on by being drawn over the head. — *n.* A garment so put on, as a sweater or shirt.

pulmo- *combining form* Lung. [< *pulmo, -onis* lung]

pul·mo·nar·y (pul′mə·ner′ē) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or affecting the lungs: also *pneumonic*. **2.** Having lunglike organs. [< L *pulmo, -onis* lung]

pulmonary artery *Anat.* An artery that conveys venous blood from the right ventricle of the heart to the lungs.

pulmonary tuberculosis Tuberculosis.

pul·mon·ic (pul·mon′ik) *adj.* Pulmonary.

Pul·mo·tor (pul′mō′tər, pōōl′-) *n.* An apparatus for producing artificial respiration by forcing oxygen into the lungs: a trade name. Also **pul′mo′tor.** [< PUL(MO)- + MOTOR]

pulp (pulp) *n.* **1.** A moist, soft, slightly cohering mass of matter, as the succulent part of fruit. **2.** A mixture of wood fibers or rags reduced to a pulpy consistency and forming the substance of paper. **3.** *Often pl.* A magazine printed on rough, unglazed paper, and usu. having contents of a cheap sensational nature: distinguished from *slick*. **4.** *Dent.* The soft tissue of vessels and nerves that fills the central cavity of a tooth. — *v.t.* **1.** To reduce to pulp. **2.** To remove the pulp or envelope from. — *v.i.* **3.** To be or become of a pulp consistency. [< MF < L *pulpa* flesh, pulp of fruit, pith] — **pulp′i·ness** *n.* — **pulp′y** *adj.*

pul·pit (pōōl′pit) *n.* **1.** An elevated stand or desk for preacher in a church. **2.** The office or work of preaching **3.** The clergy as a class. [< L *pulpitum* scaffold, stage]

pulp·wood (pulp′wōōd′) *n.* The soft wood of certain trees as the spruce, used in the manufacture of paper.

pul·que (pul′kē, pōōl′-; *Sp.* pōōl′kā) *n.* A fermented drink made from various species of agave, esp. from the juice of the maguey. [< Am. Sp.]

pul·sar (pul′sär) *n.* A rotating neutron star, a source of regularly pulsing radio waves. [< PULSE + QUASAR]

pul·sate (pul′sāt) *v.i.* **·sat·ed, ·sat·ing** **1.** To move or throb with rhythmical impulses, as the pulse or heart. **2.** To vibrate; quiver. [< L *pellere* (pp. *pulsus*) to beat] — **pul·sa′tion** *n.* — **pul′sa·tive** (-sə·tiv) *adj.* — **pul·sa′tor** *n.* — **pul·sa·to·ry** (pul′sə·tôr′ē) *adj.*

pulse¹ (puls) *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* The rhythmical beating of the arteries resulting from the successive contractions of the heart. **2.** Any throbbing or pulsation. **3.** *Telecom.* A brief surge of electrical or electromagnetic energy, usu. transmitted as a signal in communication. **4.** An indication of general opinion or sentiment. — *v.i.* **pulsed, puls·ing** To pulsate; throb. [< OF < L *pulsus* (*venarum*) the beating (of the veins)] — **pulse′less** *adj.*

pulse² (puls) *n.* Leguminous plants collectively, as peas, beans, etc.; also, their edible seeds. [< OF < L *puls* pottage of meal or pulse]

pulse·jet (puls′jet′) *n. Aeron.* A jet engine having movable vanes that intermittently take in air to develop power in rapid bursts. Also **pul′so·jet′** (-sō·jet′).

pul·som·e·ter (pul·som′ə·tər) *n.* A device for pumping liquids by steam pressure, consisting of two pear-shaped chambers connected by valves: also called *vacuum pump*.

pul·ver·ize (pul′və·rīz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To reduce to powder or dust, as by crushing. **2.** To demolish; annihilate. — *v.i.* **3.** To become reduced to powder or dust. Also *Brit.* **pul′ver·ise.** [< MF < LL < L *pulvis, pulveris* powder, dust] — **pul′ver·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **pul′ver·i·za′tion** *n.* — **pul′ver·iz′er** *n.*

pu·ma (pyōō′mə) *n.* A reddish carnivore of the cat family, ranging from Canada to Patagonia: also called *cougar, mountain cat, mountain lion*. [< Sp. < Peruvian]

pum·ice (pum′is) *n.* Spongy volcanic lava, used as an abrasive and polishing material, esp. when powdered. Also **pumice stone.** — *v.t.* **·iced, ·ic·ing** To smooth, polish, or clean with pumice. [< OF < L *pumex, pumicis*] — **pu·mi·ceous** (pyōō·mish′əs) *adj.*

pum·mel (pum′əl) *v.t.* **·meled** or **·melled, ·mel·ing** or **·mel·ling** To pommel. — *n.* A pommel.

pump¹ (pump) *n.* A mechanical device for raising, circulating, exhausting, or compressing a liquid or gas by drawing or pressing it through openings and pipes. — *v.t.* **1.** To raise with a pump, as water or other liquid. **2.** To remove the water, etc., from. **3.** To inflate with air by means of a pump. **4.** To propel, discharge, force, etc., from or as if from a pump. **5.** To obtain information from persistently or subtly: to *pump* a witness. **6.** To obtain (information) in such a manner. — *v.i.* **7.** To work a pump; raise water or other liquid with a pump. **8.** To move up and down like a pump handle. [Prob. < MDu. *pompe*] — **pump′er** *n.*

pump² (pump) *n.* A low-cut shoe without a fastening, having either a high or a low heel. [Origin uncertain]

pum·per·nick·el (pum′pər·nik′əl) *n.* A coarse, dark, sour bread made from unsifted rye. [< G]

pump·kin (pump′kin, pung′-) *n.* **1.** A large, round, edible, yellow-orange fruit borne by a coarse trailing vine with heart-shaped leaves. **2.** The vine. **3.** Any of several related European plants. [< MF < L < Gk. *pepon* melon]

pun (pun) *n.* The humorous use of two words having the same or similar sounds but different meanings, or of two different, more or less incongruous meanings of the same word. — *v.i.* **punned, pun·ning** To make a pun. [Origin uncertain] — **pun′ning·ly** *adv.*

punch¹ (punch) *n.* **1.** A tool for perforating or indenting, or for driving out or in an object inserted in a hole, as a bolt or pin. **2.** A machine for impressing a design or stamping a die. — *v.t.* To perforate, shape, indent, etc., with a punch. [Prob. short for PUNCHEON²]

punch² (punch) *v.t.* **1.** To strike sharply, esp. with the fist. **2.** To poke with a stick; prod. **3.** To operate; work; use: to *punch* a time clock. **4.** *U.S.* In the West, to drive (cattle). — *n.* **1.** A swift blow with the fist; also, a thrust or nudge. **2.** *Slang* Vitality; force: an editorial with *punch*. [Prob. var. of POUNCE²] — **punch′er** *n.*

punch³ (punch) *n.* A beverage having wine or spirits, milk,

tea, or fruit juices as a basic ingredient, sweetened, sometimes spiced, and diluted with water. [? < Hind. < Skt. *pañchan* five; from the five original ingredients]

Punch (punch) The quarrelsome, grotesque hero of a comic puppet show, **Punch and Judy**, who habitually fights with his wife, Judy. **— pleased as Punch** Extremely pleased; highly gratified. [Short for PUNCHINELLO]

punch card In data processing, a card marked by an arrangement of positions to record information indicated by the presence or absence of punched holes. Also **punched card.**

punch-drunk (punch′drungk′) *adj.* **1.** Groggy, slow in movement, speech, etc., from repeated blows to the head: said of prize fighters. **2.** Confused; dazed.

pun·cheon[1] (pun′chən) *n.* **1.** An upright supporting timber. **2.** A punch or perforating tool. **3.** A broad, heavy piece of roughly dressed timber. [< OF *ponçon, poinchon* a punch]

pun·cheon[2] (pun′chən) *n.* **1.** A liquor cask of variable capacity, from 72 to 120 gallons. **2.** A liquor measure of varying amount. [< OF *ponçon, poinchon*]

Pun·chi·nel·lo (pun′chə·nel′ō) *n. pl.* **·los** or **·loes** A comic character; buffoon, esp. in an Italian puppet show. Also **pun′chi·nel′lo.** [< dial. Ital. (Neapolitan) *Polcenella*]

punch·ing bag (pun′ching) An inflated or stuffed ball, usu. suspended, that is punched with the fists for exercise.

punch press A machine equipped to cut or form metal.

punc·til·i·o (pungk·til′ē·ō) *n. pl.* **·til·i·os** **1.** A fine point of etiquette. **2.** Preciseness in the observance of etiquette or ceremony. [< Sp. < Ital. < L *punctum* point]

punc·til·i·ous (pungk·til′ē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Very careful in the observance of forms of etiquette, etc. **2.** Very precise. **— punc·til′i·ous·ly** *adv.* **— punc·til′i·ous·ness** *n.*

punc·tu·al (pungk′chōō·əl) *adj.* **1.** Acting or arriving promptly. **2.** Done or made precisely at an appointed time. **3.** Punctilious; exact. [< Med.L < L *punctus* pricking, point] **— punc′tu·al·ly** *adv.*

punc·tu·al·i·ty (pungk′chōō·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The quality, characteristic, act, or habit of being punctual.

punc·tu·ate (pungk′chōō·āt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To divide or mark with punctuation. **2.** To interrupt at intervals. **3.** To emphasize; stress. — *v.i.* **4.** To use punctuation. [< Med.L < L *punctus* point] **— punc′tu·a′tor** *n.*

punc·tu·a·tion (pungk′chōō·ā′shən) *n.* The use of points or marks in written or printed matter to indicate the separation of the words into sentences, clauses, and phrases, and to aid in the better comprehension of the meaning; also, the marks so used (**punctuation marks**). **— punc′tu·a′tive** *adj.* The chief punctuation marks are:

period	.	parentheses	( )
colon	:	brackets	[ ]
semicolon	;	dash (em-dash)	—
comma	,	(en-dash)	-
question mark (interrogation point)	?	hyphen	-
		quotation marks	“ ”
exclamation mark	!	virgule (virgil)	/

punc·ture (pungk′chər) *v.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pierce with a sharp point. **2.** To make by pricking, as a hole. **3.** To cause to collapse: to *puncture* a tire. — *v.i.* **4.** To be pierced or punctured. — *n.* **1.** A small hole made by piercing with a sharp point. **2.** A minute depression; pit. **3.** The act of puncturing. [< L < *pungere* to prick]

pun·dit (pun′dit) *n.* **1.** In India, one versed in Sanskrit lore and in the science, laws, and religion of the Hindus. **2.** Any learned man. [< Hind. < Skt. *pandita*]

pun·gent (pun′jənt) *adj.* **1.** Sharp or acrid to taste or smell; keen; penetrating: a *pungent* odor. **2.** Affecting the mind or feelings so as to cause pain; poignant. **3.** Caustic; biting: *pungent* sarcasm. [< L < *pungere* to prick] **— pun′gence** (-jəns), **pun′gen·cy** *n.* **— pun′gent·ly** *adv.*

Pu·nic (pyōō′nik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to ancient Carthage or the Carthaginians. **2.** Untrustworthy, as the Carthaginians. — *n.* The language of the Carthaginians. [< L < *Poenus* Carthaginian, Phoenician]

Punic Wars See table for WAR.

pun·ish (pun′ish) *v.t.* **1.** To subject (a person) to pain, confinement, or other penalty for a crime or fault. **2.** To impose a penalty on. **3.** To use roughly; injure. **4.** To deplete, as a stock of food. [< OF < L *punire* to punish] **— pun′ish·a·ble** *adj.* **— pun′ish·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* **— pun′ish·er** *n.*

pun·ish·ment (pun′ish·mənt) *n.* **1.** A penalty imposed, as for transgression of law. ◆ Collateral adjective: *penal.* **2.** Any ill suffered in consequence of wrongdoing. **3.** The act of punishing. **4.** *Informal* Rough handling, as in a prize fight.

pu·ni·tive (pyōō′nə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or inflicting punishment: *punitive* measures. **2.** *Law* Of a character to punish or vindicate. Also **pu′ni·to′ry** (-tôr′ē, -tō′rē). **— pu′ni·tive·ly** *adv.* **— pu′ni·tive·ness** *n.*

Pun·ja·bi (pun·jä′bē) *n.* **1.** A native of the Punjab. **2.** The Sanskritic language of the Punjab: also spelled *Panjabi.*

punk[1] (pungk) *n.* **1.** Wood decayed through the action of a fungus, useful as tinder. **2.** An artificial preparation that will smolder without flame. [< Algonquian]

punk[2] (pungk) *U.S. Slang n.* **1.** Nonsense. **2.** A petty hoodlum. **3.** A young, inexperienced boy or man: a contemptuous term. — *adj.* **1.** Worthless. **2.** Unwell. [Origin uncertain]

pun·ka (pung′kə) *n.* A fan; esp., a rectangular strip of cloth, etc., swung from the ceiling and moved by a servant or by machinery. Also **pun′kah.** [< Hind. *pankhā* fan]

pun·ster (pun′stər) *n.* One who puns. Also **pun′ner.**

punt[1] (punt) *n.* A flat-bottomed, square-ended boat, often propelled by a pole, used in shallow waters. — *v.t.* **1.** To propel (a boat) by pushing with a pole against the bottom of a shallow stream, lake, etc. **2.** To convey in a punt. — *v.i.* **3.** To go or hunt in a punt. [OE < L *ponto, -onis* punt, pontoon] **— punt′er** *n.*

PUNT

punt[2] (punt) *v.i.* In certain card games, to gamble or bet, esp. against a bank. [< F < Sp. < L *punctum* point] **— punt′er** *n.*

punt[3] (punt) *n.* In football, a kick made by dropping the ball from the hands and kicking it before it strikes the ground. — *v.t. & v.i.* In football, to propel (the ball) with a punt. [? Var. of BUNT] **— punt′er** *n.*

pun·ty (pun′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** An iron rod used in glassmaking to handle the hot glass. [< F *pontil*]

pu·ny (pyōō′nē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** Of small and feeble development or importance; weak and insignificant. [See PUISNE.] **— pu′ni·ly** *adv.* **— pu′ni·ness** *n.*

pup (pup) *n.* **1.** A puppy (def. 1). **2.** The young of the seal, the shark, and certain other animals. — *v.i.* **pupped, pup·ping** To bring forth pups. [Short for PUPPY]

pu·pa (pyōō′pə) *n. pl.* **·pae** (-pē) *Entomol.* **1.** The quiescent stage in the development of an insect, following the larval and preceding the adult stage. **2.** An insect in such a stage. [< NL < L, girl, doll, puppet] **— pu′pal** *adj.*

pu·pil[1] (pyōō′pəl) *n.* A person of any age under the care of a teacher; learner. **— Syn.** See STUDENT. [< OF < L *pupillus*, dim. of *pupus* boy and *pupilla*, dim. of *pupa* girl]

pu·pil[2] (pyōō′pəl) *n. Anat.* The contractile opening in the iris of the eye, through which light reaches the retina. [< OF < L *pupilla* pupil of the eye]

pup·pet (pup′it) *n.* **1.** A small figure of a person, animal, etc., and animated by the hand. **2.** A marionette. **3.** One slavishly subject to the will of another; a tool. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to puppets. **2.** Not autonomous: a *puppet* state. [< OF < L *pupa* girl, doll, puppet]

pup·pet·eer (pup′i·tir′) *n.* One who manipulates puppets.

puppet show A drama with puppets for the actors.

pup·py (pup′ē) *n. pl.* **·pies** **1.** A young dog: also called *pup.* **2.** A pup (def. 2). [< OF < L *pupa* girl, doll] **— pup′py·ish** *adj.*

puppy love Sentimental, adolescent love or infatuation.

pup tent A shelter tent.

pur·blind (pûr′blīnd′) *adj.* **1.** Partly blind. **2.** Having little or no insight or understanding. [ME] **— pur′blind′ly** *adv.* **— pur′blind′ness** *n.*

pur·chase (pûr′chəs) *v.t.* **·chased, ·chas·ing** **1.** To acquire by paying money or its equivalent; buy. **2.** To obtain by exertion, sacrifice, flattery, etc. **3.** To move, hoist, or hold by a mechanical purchase. — *n.* **1.** Something purchased. **2.** The act of purchasing. **3.** A device that holds or grips something so as to prevent slipping, etc. **4.** A device that gives a mechanical advantage, as a tackle or lever; also, leverage. **5.** Any means of increasing influence or advantage. **6.** Value; worth. [< OF *porchacier* to seek for] **— pur′chas·a·ble** *adj.* **— pur′chas·er** *n.*

pur·dah (pûr′də) *n. Anglo-Indian* **1.** A curtain or screen used to seclude women. **2.** The state or system of such seclusion. [< Urdu and Persian *pardah*]

pure (pyōōr) *adj.* **pur·er, pur·est** **1.** Free from anything that weakens, impairs, or pollutes. **2.** Free from adulteration; clear; clean. **3.** Genuine; stainless: *pure* food; *pure* motives. **4.** Free from moral defilement; innocent; chaste. **5.** Free from foreign or imported elements, as a language. **6.** Free of harsh qualities, as music; also, correct in form or style; finished. **7.** Abstract; nonobjective: *pure* form. **8.** *Phonet.* Having a single, unvarying tone or sound: said of vowels. **9.** Concerned with fundamental research, as distinguished from practical application; theoretical: said of sciences. **10.** *Genetics* Breeding true with respect to one or more characters; purebred. **11.** Nothing but; sheer: *pure* luck. [< OF < L *purus* clean, pure] **— pure′ness** *n.*

pure-bred (*adj.* pyōōr′bred′; *n.* pyōōr′bred′) *adj. Biol.* Bred from stock having had no admixture for many generations: said especially of livestock. — *n.* A purebred animal.

pu·rée (pyōō-rā′, pyŏŏr′ā; *Fr.* pü-rā′) *n.* A thick pulp, usu. of vegetables, boiled and strained. [< F < OF < L *purare* to purify]

pure·ly (pyŏŏr′lē) *adv.* **1.** So as to be free from admixture, taint, or any harmful substance. **2.** Chastely; innocently. **3.** Completely; totally. **4.** Merely; simply.

pur·ga·tion (pûr·gā′shən) *n.* The act of purging; catharsis.

pur·ga·tive (pûr′gə·tiv) *adj.* Tending to purge; esp., precipitating a bowel movement. — *n.* A purgative agent.

pur·ga·to·ry (pûr′gə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** In Roman Catholic theology, a state or place where the souls of those who have died penitent are made fit for paradise by expiating venial sins and undergoing any punishment remaining for previously forgiven sins. **2.** Any place or state of temporary banishment, suffering, or punishment. [See PURGE.] — **pur′ga·to′ri·al** *adj.*

purge (pûrj) *v.* **purged, purg·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cleanse of what is impure or extraneous; purify. **2.** To remove (impurities, etc.) in cleansing: with *away*, *off*, or *out*. **3.** To rid (a group, nation, etc.) of elements regarded as undesirable or inimical, esp. by killing. **4.** To cleanse or rid of sin, fault, or defilement. **5.** *Med.* **a** To cause evacuation of (the bowels, etc.). **b** To induce evacuation of the bowels of. — *v.i.* **6.** To become clean or pure. **7.** *Med.* To have or induce evacuation of the bowels, etc. — *n.* **1.** The act or process of purging. **2.** That which purges, esp. a cathartic. [< OF < L *purgare* to cleanse < *purus* pure] — **purg′er** *n.* — **purg′ing** *n.*

pu·ri·fy (pyŏŏr′ə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make pure or clean. **2.** To free from sin. **3.** To free of foreign or debasing elements, as a language. — *v.i.* **4.** To become pure or clean. [< OF < L < *purus* pure + *facere* to make] — **pu′ri·fi·ca′·tion** *n.* — **pu·rif′i·ca·to·ry** (pyŏŏ·rif′ə·kə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **pu′ri·fi′er** *n.*

Pu·rim (pŏŏr′im, pyŏŏr′im; *Hebrew* pōō·rēm′) *n.* A Jewish festival commemorating the defeat of Haman's plot to massacre the Jews (*Esth.* ix 26), observed about the first of March. [< Hebrew *pūrīm*, pl. of *pūr* lot]

pur·ist (pyŏŏr′ist) *n.* **1.** One who believes in or practices exact or meticulous usage, as of a language, style, etc. **2.** One who practices or advocates an art form in which primary stress is placed on structural simplicity, as in works of a geometric nature. — **pur′ism** *n.* — **pu·ris′tic** *adj.*

pu·ri·tan (pyŏŏr′ə·tən) *n. Sometimes cap.* One who is scrupulously strict or exacting in his religious or moral life: often used disparagingly. — *adj.* Puritanical. — **pu′ri·tan·ism** *n.*

Pu·ri·tan (pyŏŏr′ə·tən) *n.* One of a group of English Protestants who in the 16th and 17th centuries advocated simpler forms of creed and ritual in the Church of England. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Puritans or to their beliefs or customs. [< LL < L *purus* pure] — **Pu′ri·tan·ism** *n.*

pu·ri·tan·i·cal (pyŏŏr′ə·tan′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Rigidly scrupulous or exacting in religious observance or morals; strict. **2.** *Often cap.* Of or characteristic of the Puritans. Also **pu′ri·tan′ic.** — **pu′ri·tan′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **pu′ri·tan′i·cal·ness** *n.*

pu·ri·ty (pyŏŏr′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The quality or state of being pure. **2.** Saturation: said of a color.

purl[1] (pûrl) *v.i.* **1.** To whirl; turn. **2.** To flow with a bubbling sound. **3.** To move in eddies. — *n.* **1.** A circling movement of water; an eddy. **2.** A gentle, continued murmur, as of a rippling stream. [Cf. Norw. *purla* to gush out]

purl[2] (pûrl) *v.i.* **1.** In knitting, to make (a stitch) backward. **2.** To edge with lace, embroidery, etc. Also spelled *pearl*. — *v.i.* **3.** To do edging with lace, etc.: also spelled *pearl*. — *n.* **1.** An edge of lace, embroidery, etc. **2.** In knitting, the inversion of the knit stitch, giving a horizontal rib effect. Also spelled *pearl*. **3.** A spiral of gold or silver wire used in lacework. [Earlier *pyrle* < *pyrl* twist]

pur·lieu (pûr′lōō) *n.* **1.** *pl.* The outlying districts or outskirts of any place. **2.** A place in which one is free to come and go. **3.** Formerly, ground unlawfully taken for a royal forest, but afterward disafforested and restored to its rightful owners. [< AF < OF < *puraler* to go through]

pur·lin (pûr′lin) *n.* A horizontal timber supporting rafters. Also **pur′line** (-lin). For illus. see ROOF. [ME *purlyn*]

pur·loin (pûr·loin′) *v.t. & v.i.* To steal; filch. [< OF *porloignier* to remove, put far off] — **pur·loin′er** *n.*

pur·ple (pûr′pəl) *n.* **1.** A color of mingled red and blue, between crimson and violet. **2.** Cloth or a garment of this color, worn formerly by sovereigns. **3.** Royal power or dignity: usu. in the phrase **born to the purple.** **4.** The office of a cardinal, from the official red hat and robes. **5.** The office of a bishop. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To make or become purple. — *adj.* **1.** Of the color of purple. **2.** Imperial; regal. **3.** Ornate; flowery: a *purple* passage of prose. [OE < OF < L *purpura*, orig., shellfish yielding Tyrian purple dye, or cloth dyed with it]

Purple Heart A decoration, the **Order of the Purple Heart,** awarded to members of the armed forces or to citizens of the U.S. honorably wounded in action. See DECORATION.

pur·plish (pûr′plish) *adj.* Somewhat purple.

pur·port (pûr′pôrt, -pōrt; *for v., also* pər·pôrt′, -pōrt′) *v.t.* **1.** To have or bear as its meaning; signify; imply. **2.** To claim or profess (to be), esp. falsely. — *n.* **1.** That which is conveyed or suggested to the mind as the meaning or intention; import. **2.** The substance of a statement, etc., given in other than the exact words. [< AF or OF < L *pro-* forth + *portare* to carry] — **pur·port′ed·ly** *adv.*

pur·pose (pûr′pəs) *n.* **1.** An idea or ideal kept before the mind as an end of effort or action; design; aim. **2.** A particular thing to be effected or attained. **3.** Practical advantage or result; use: words to little *purpose*. **4.** Settled resolution; determination. **5.** Purport; intent, as of spoken or written language. **6.** A proposition; question at issue. — **on purpose** Intentionally. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** To have the intention of doing or accomplishing (something); intend; aim. [< OF *pro-* forth + *poser* to put] — **pur′pose·ful** *adj.* — **pur′pose·ful·ly** *adv.* — **pur′pose·ful·ness** *n.* — **pur′pose·less** *adj.* — **pur′pose·less·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** Intent, intention, aim, goal, design, end.

pur·pose·ly (pûr′pəs·lē) *adv.* For a purpose; intentionally.

pur·po·sive (pûr′pə·siv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, having, or indicating purpose. **2.** Functional; useful. — **pur′po·sive·ly** *adv.* — **pur′po·sive·ness** *n.*

purr (pûr) *n.* A murmuring sound, such as a cat makes when pleased. — *v.i.* **1.** To make such a sound. — *v.t.* **2.** To express by or as by purring. [Imit.]

purse (pûrs) *n.* **1.** A small bag or pouch, esp. one for carrying money. **2.** Available resources or means; treasury: the public *purse*. **3.** A sum of money offered as a prize. — *v.t.* **pursed, purs·ing** To contract into wrinkles or folds: to *purse* the lips. [OE < LL < Gk. *byrsa* skin, hide]

purs·er (pûr′sər) *n.* **1.** An officer having charge of the accounts, etc., of a vessel. **2.** Formerly, a naval paymaster.

purs·lane (pûrs′lin, -lān) *n.* A common garden herb with reddish green stem and leaves and small yellow flowers, used as a salad: also called *pussley*. [< OF < L *porcilaca*]

pur·su·ance (pər·sōō′əns) *n.* The act of pursuing; a following up; prosecution: usu. in the phrase **in pursuance of.**

pur·su·ant (pər·sōō′ənt) *adj.* Done in accordance with or by reason of something; conformable. — *adv.* In accordance; conformably: usu. with *to*: also **pur·su′ant·ly.**

pur·sue (pər·sōō′) *v.* **·sued, ·su·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To follow in an attempt to overtake or capture; chase. **2.** To seek or attain. **3.** To advance along the course of; keep to the direction or provisions of, as a path, plan, or system. **4.** To apply one's energies to or have as one's profession or chief interest: to *pursue* one's studies. **5.** To follow persistently; harass. — *v.i.* **6.** To follow; chase. **7.** To continue; persist. [< AF, OF < LL < L < *pro-* forth + *sequi* to follow] — **pur·su′a·ble** *adj.* — **pur·su′er** *n.*

pur·suit (pər·sōōt′) *n.* **1.** The act of pursuing; a chase. **2.** That which is followed as a continued employment, pastime, etc. — **Syn.** See OCCUPATION.

pursuit plane *Mil.* A fighter plane.

purs·y (pûr′sē) *adj.* **purs·i·er, purs·i·est** **1.** Short-breathed; asthmatic. **2.** Fat; hefty. [Earlier *pursive* < AF *pursif*, OF *polsif* < *polser* to pant, gasp] — **purs′i·ness** *n.*

pu·ru·lent (pyŏŏr′ə·lənt, -yə·lənt) *adj.* Consisting of or secreting pus; suppurating. [< L < *pus, puris* pus] — **pu′·ru·lence** or **·len·cy** *n.* — **pu′ru·lent·ly** *adv.*

pur·vey (pər·vā′) *v.t. & v.i.* To furnish (provisions, etc.). [< AF < L *providere*] — **pur·vey′or** *n.*

pur·vey·ance (pər·vā′əns) *n.* **1.** The act of purveying. **2.** That which is purveyed or supplied; provisions.

pur·view (pûr′vyōō) *n.* **1.** Extent, sphere, or scope of anything, as of official authority. **2.** Range of view, experience, or understanding; outlook. **3.** *Law* The body or the scope or limit of a statute. [< AF *purveu* provided]

pus (pus) *n.* A yellowish secretion from inflamed tissues. [< L] — **pus·sy** (pus′ē) *adj.*

push (pŏŏsh) *v.t.* **1.** To exert force upon or against (an object) for the purpose of moving. **2.** To force (one's way), as through a crowd, jungle, etc. **3.** To press forward, prosecute, or develop with vigor and persistence. **4.** To urge, advocate, or promote vigorously and persistently: to *push* a new product. **5.** To bear hard upon; harass: I am *pushed* for time. — *v.i.* **6.** To exert steady pressure against something so as to move it. **7.** To move or advance vigorously or persistently. **8.** To exert great effort. — *n.* **1.** The act of pushing; a shove. **2.** *Informal* An extremity; exigency: at a *push* for money. **3.** Determined activity; energy. **4.** Anything pushed to cause action. **5.** An influential clique. [< OF < L *pusare* to beat]

push button A button or knob that on being pushed opens or closes a circuit in an electric system. — **push·but·ton** (pŏŏsh′but′n) *adj.*

push-cart (pŏŏsh′kärt′) *n.* A two- or four-wheeled cart pushed by hand, used by fruit venders, peddlers, etc.

push·er (pŏŏsh′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which pushes; esp., an active, energetic person. **2.** *Aeron.* An airplane with the propeller in the rear of the wings. **3.** *U.S. Slang* One who illegally sells narcotics to addicts.

push·ing (pŏŏsh′ing) *adj.* **1.** Possessing enterprise and energy. **2.** Aggressive; impertinent. — **push′ing·ly** *adv.*

push·o·ver (pŏŏsh′ō′vər) *n. Slang* **1.** One who is easily defeated, overcome, taken advantage of, etc.; an easy mark. **2.** Anything that can be done with little or no effort.

push·pin (pŏŏsh′pin′) *n.* A pin with a large head, inserted by thumb pressure and used for mounting papers, etc.

push-pull (pŏŏsh′pŏŏl′) *adj. Electronics* Designating a circuit or system that uses two similar components operating in opposite phase.

Push·tu (push′tŏŏ) *n.* Pashto.

push·y (pŏŏsh′ē) *adj.* **·i·er, ·i·est** *Informal* Offensively aggressive; bossy. — **push′i·ly** *adv.* — **push′i·ness** *n.*

pu·sil·lan·i·mous (pyōō′sə·lan′ə·məs) *adj.* **1.** Lacking courage, or spirit; cowardly. **2.** Characterized by weakness of purpose or lack of courage. [< LL < L *pusillus* very little + *animus* soul] — **pu′sil·la·nim′i·ty** (-lə·nim′ə·tē) *n.* — **pu′sil·lan′i·mous·ly** *adv.* — **pu′sil·lan′i·mous·ness** *n.*

puss[1] (pŏŏs) *n. Informal* **1.** A cat. **2.** A child or young woman: a term of affection. [< LG *puus*, name for a cat]

puss[2] (pŏŏs) *n. Slang* The mouth; face. [< Irish *pus* mouth]

puss·ley (pus′lē) *n.* Purslane. [Alter. of PURSLANE]

pus·sy (pŏŏs′ē) *n. pl.* **·sies** *Informal* **1.** A cat. **2.** A fuzzy catkin, as of a willow, birch, etc. [Dim. of PUSS[1]]

pus·sy·foot (pŏŏs′ē·fŏŏt′) *v.i.* **1.** To move softly and stealthily, as a cat does. **2.** To act or proceed without committing oneself or revealing one's intentions.

pus·sy willow (pŏŏs′ē) A small American willow with silky catkins in early spring.

PUSSY WILLOW

pus·tu·late (pus′chŏŏ·lāt; *for adj., also* pus′·chŏŏ·lit) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To form into or become pustules. — *adj.* Covered with pustules. [< L *pustulatus*, pp. of *pustulare* to blister] — **pus′tu·la′tion** *n.*

pus·tule (pus′chōōl) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* A small elevation of the skin with an inflamed base containing pus. **2.** Any elevation resembling a pimple or a blister. [< L *pustula*] — **pus′tu·lar, pus′·tu·lous** *adj.*

put (pŏŏt) *v.* **put, put·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To bring into or set in a specified or implied place or position; lay. **2.** To bring into a specified state or relation: to *put* a prisoner to death. **3.** To bring to bear; apply: *Put* your back into it! **4.** To impose. **5.** To ascribe or attribute, as the wrong interpretation on a remark. **6.** To place according to one's estimation: I *put* the time at five o'clock. **7.** To throw with a pushing motion of the arm: to *put* the shot. **8.** To incite; prompt. **9.** To bring forward for debate, answer, consideration, etc. **10.** To subject. **11.** To express in words: That's *putting* it mildly. **12.** To bet: I'll *put* six dollars on that horse. — *v.i.* **13.** To go; proceed: to *put* to sea. — **to put about** *Naut.* To change to the opposite tack; change direction. — **to put aside** (or **away** or **by**) **1.** To place in reserve; save. **2.** To thrust aside; discard. — **to put down 1.** To repress; crush. **2.** To degrade; demote. **3.** To write down; record. **4.** *Slang* To disparage. — **to put forth 1** To extend, as the arm or hand. **2.** To grow, as shoots or buds. **3.** To exert. **4.** To set out; leave port. — **to put forward** To advance; urge, as a claim. — **to put in 1.** *Naut.* To enter a harbor or place of shelter. **2.** To interpolate; interpose. **3.** *Informal* To devote; expend, as time. **4.** To advance (a claim, etc.). **5.** To submit, as an application. — **to put off 1.** To delay; postpone. **2.** To discard. — **to put on 1.** To don. **2.** To bring into action; turn on. **3.** To simulate; pretend. **4.** To give a representation of; stage. **5.** *Slang* To deceive; mock. — **to put out 1.** To extinguish. **2.** To expel; eject. **3.** To disconcert; embarrass. **4.** To inconvenience. **5.** In baseball, to retire (a batter or base runner). — **to put over 1.** To place in command or charge. **2.** *Informal* To accomplish successfully. — **to put one** (or **something**) **over on** *Informal* To deceive or dupe. — **to put through 1.** To bring to successful completion. **2.** To cause to undergo. — **to put up 1.** To erect; build. **2.** To preserve or can. **3.** To wager; bet. **4.** To provide (money, capital, etc.). **5.** To sheathe, as a weapon. — **to put upon** To take advantage of. — **to put up with** To endure. — *n.* The act of putting, as a throw. — *adj. Informal* Fixed; settled: My hat won't stay *put*. [Fusion of OE *pūtian* to instigate, *potian* to push, and *pȳtan* to put out]

pu·ta·tive (pyōō′tə·tiv) *adj.* Supposed; reputed. [< MF or LL < L, pp. of *putare* to think] — **pu′ta·tive·ly** *adv.*

put-off (pŏŏt′ôf′, -of′) *n.* An evasion; excuse.

put-on (pŏŏt′on′) *n. Slang* A hoax or deception.

put-out (pŏŏt′out′) *n.* In baseball, the act of causing an out, as of a batter or base runner.

pu·tre·fac·tion (pyōō′trə·fak′shən) *n.* **1.** The decomposition of organic matter. **2.** The state of being putrefied. **3.** Putrescent or putrefied matter.

pu·tre·fac·tive (pyōō′trə·fak′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to putrefaction. **2.** Producing putrefaction.

pu·tre·fy (pyōō′trə·fī) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing 1.** To decay or cause to decay with a fetid odor; rot. **2.** To make or become gangrenous. — **Syn.** See DECAY. [< F < L < *putrere* to decay + *facere* to make] — **pu′tre·fi′er** *n.*

pu·tres·cent (pyōō·tres′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Becoming putrid; **2.** Pertaining to putrefaction. — **pu·tres′cence** *n.*

pu·trid (pyōō′trid) *adj.* **1.** Being in a state of putrefaction; rotten. **2.** Indicating or produced by putrefaction: a *putrid* smell. **3.** Rotten; corrupt. [< L *putrere* to decay] — **pu·trid′i·ty** *n.* — **pu′trid·ly** *adv.* — **pu′trid·ness** *n.*

Putsch (pōōch) *n.* An outbreak or rebellion; an attempted *coup d'état*. [< G < dial. G (Swiss), lit., push, blow]

putt (put) *n.* In golf, a light stroke made on a putting green to place the ball in or near the hole. — *v.t. & v.i.* To strike (the ball) with such a stroke. [Var. of PUT]

put·tee (put′ē, pu·tē′) *n.* A strip of cloth wound spirally about the leg from knee to ankle, used by soldiers, sportsmen, etc.; also, a leather gaiter strapped around the leg. Also **put′ty.** [< Hind. < Skt. *patta* strip of cloth]

put·ter[1] (put′ər) *n.* **1.** In golf, one who putts. **2.** An upright, stiff-shafted golf club used on the putting green.

put·ter[2] (put′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To act or work in a dawdling manner. — *v.t.* **2.** To waste (time, etc.) in dawdling or puttering. [Var. of POTTER[1]]

put·ting green (put′ing) In golf: **a** Green (*n.* def. 5). **b** A place set aside for putting practice.

put·ty (put′ē) *n.* **1.** Whiting mixed with linseed oil to the consistency of dough, used for filling holes or cracks in wood surfaces, securing panes of glass in the sash, etc. **2.** Any of various similar substances. — *v.t.* **·tied, ·ty·ing** To fill, stop, fasten, etc., with putty. [< OF *potée* calcined tin, lit., potful] — **put′ti·er** *n.*

putty knife A knife with a spatulalike blade, used in applying putty.

put-up (pŏŏt′up′) *adj. Informal* Prearranged or contrived in an artful manner: a *put-up* job.

puz·zle (puz′əl) *v.* **·zled, ·zling** *v.t.* **1.** To confuse or perplex. **2.** To solve by investigation and study, as something perplexing: with *out*. — *v.i.* **3.** To be perplexed or confused. — **to puzzle over** To attempt to understand or solve. — *n.* **1.** Something that puzzles; enigma. **2.** A toy, word game, etc., designed to test one's ingenuity or patience. **3.** The state of being puzzled; perplexity. [Origin unknown] — **puz′zler** *n.* — **puz′zle·ment** *n.*

— **Syn.** (verb) **1.** confound, bewilder, baffle, daze. — (noun) **1.** A *puzzle* is usually intricate but can be solved by ingenuity and patience; many *puzzles* are made for amusement. An *enigma* is something said or written whose meaning is hidden and can only be inferred from clues. A *conundrum* is a baffling question, the answer to which depends upon some trick of words. *Conundrums* are also *riddles*, but a *riddle* is usually less playful in character.

py- Var. of PYO-.

pyelo- *combining form* Pelvis. Also, before vowels, **pyel-.** [< Gk. *pyelos* pelvis, trough]

py·e·mi·a (pī·ē′mē·ə) *n. Pathol.* A type of blood poisoning characterized by many abscesses. [< NL < Gk. *pyon* pus + *haima* blood] — **py·e′mic** *adj.*

Pyg·ma·li·on (pig·mā′lē·ən, -māl′yən) In Greek mythology, a sculptor of Cyprus who fell in love with his statue, Galatea, which Aphrodite later brought to life.

pyg·my (pig′mē) *adj.* **1.** Diminutive; dwarfish. **2.** Trivial; unimportant. — *n. pl.* **·mies** A small person or thing regarded as insignificant. Also spelled *pigmy*. [< L < Gk. *pygmē* the length from elbow to knuckles]

Pyg·my (pig′mē) *n. pl.* **·mies 1.** A member of a Negroid people of equatorial Africa, ranging in height from four to five feet. **2.** Any of the Negrito peoples of the Philippines, Andaman Islands, and Malaya.

py·ja·mas (pə·jä′məz, -jam′əz) See PAJAMAS.

py·lon (pī′lon) *n.* **1.** *Archit.* A monumental structure constituting an entrance to an Egyptian temple, consisting of a central gateway, flanked on each side by a truncated pyramidal tower. **2.** A stake marking the course in an airport or turning point in an air race. **3.** One of the steel towers supporting a high-tension electric power line. **4.** *Surg.* An artificial leg, usu. temporary. [< Gk. *pylōn* gateway]

py·lo·rus (pī·lôr′əs, -lō′rəs, pi-) *n. pl.* **·ri** (-rī) *Anat.* The opening between the stomach and the duodenum, surrounded by a sphincter. [< LL < Gk. < *pylē* gate + *ouros* watcher] — **py·lor′ic** (-lôr′ik, -lor′ik) *adj.*

pyo- *combining form* Pus; of or related to pus. Also, before vowels, *py-*. [< Gk. *pyon* pus]

py·or·rhe·a (pī′ə·rē′ə) *n. Pathol.* A continuous discharge of pus; esp., from the gums, with loosening of the teeth. [< NL < Gk. *pyon* pus + *rheein* to flow] — **py′or·rhe′al** *adj.*

pyr- Var. of PYRO-.

pyr·a·mid (pir′ə·mid) *n.* **1.** *Archit.* A structure of masonry typically having a square base and triangular sides meeting in an apex, sometimes vast in size, as those used as tombs or temples in ancient Egypt. **2.** Something pyramidal in form. **3.** *Geom.* A solid consisting of a polygonal base and triangular sides, having a common vertex. **4.** *Mineral.* A crystal form consisting of three or more similar planes having a common point of intersection. — *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To arrange or form in the shape of a pyramid. **2.** To buy or sell (stock) with paper profits, and to continue so buying or selling. [ME *piramis* (pl. *pyramids*) and later borrowing of F *pyramide*, both < L < Gk. *pyramis, -idos*] — **py·ram·i·dal** (pi·ram′ə·dəl), **pyr′a·mid′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **py·ram′i·dal·ly** *adv.*

PYRAMIDS AT GIZA

pyre (pīr) *n.* **1.** A heap of combustibles arranged for burning a dead body. **2.** Any pile or heap of combustible material. [< L *pyra* hearth, funeral pile < Gk. *pyr* fire]

py·reth·rum (pī·reth′rəm, -rē′thrəm) *n.* The powdered flowers of a chrysanthemum, used medically as an ointment, and as an insecticide. [< L, feverfew < Gk. *pyrethron*]

py·ret·ic (pī·ret′ik) *adj.* **1.** Affected with or relating to fever. **2.** Remedial in fevers. [< NL < Gk. *pyretos* fever]

Py·rex (pī′reks) *n.* A type of heat-resisting glass having a high silica content, with additions of soda, aluminum, and boron: a trade name. Also **py′rex.**

pyr·i·dox·ine (pir′ə·dok′sēn, -sin) *n. Biochem.* Vitamin B_6, a water-soluble compound, $C_8H_{10}NO_3$, occurring in cereal grains, vegetable oils, legumes, yeast, meats, and fish, and also made synthetically. [PYRID(INE) + OX(Y)-[2] + -INE[2]]

py·rite (pī′rīt) *n. pl.* **py·ri·tes** (pī·rī′tēz) A metallic, pale yellow iron disulfide, FeS_2, a source of sulfuric acid: also called *fool's gold, iron pyrites.* [< L < Gk. < *pyritēs* (*lithos*) fire (stone)] — **py·rit′ic** (-rit′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

py·ri·tes (pī·rī′tēz) *n.pl.* Any of various metallic sulfides.

pyro- *combining form* Fire; heat. Also, before vowels, *pyr-*. [< Gk. *pyr, pyros* fire]

py·ro·e·lec·tric (pī′rō·i·lek′trik, pir′ō-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or manifesting pyroelectricity; developing poles when heated. — *n.* A pyroelectric substance.

py·ro·e·lec·tric·i·ty (pī′rō·i·lek′tris′ə·tē, -ē′lek-, pir′ō-) *n.* Electrification or electric polarity developed in certain minerals by a change in temperature.

py·ro·gen·ic (pī′rə·jen′ik, pir′ə-) *adj.* **1.** Causing or produced by heat. **2.** Caused by or inducing fever. Also **py·rog·e·nous** (pī·roj′ə·nəs, pi-).

py·rog·ra·phy (pī·rog′rə·fē, pi-) *n.* The art or process of producing a design, as on wood or leather, by a red-hot point or fine flame. — **py·ro·graph** (pī′rə·graf, -gräf, pir′ə-) *n.* — **py·rog′ra·pher** *n.* — **py′ro·graph′ic** *adj.*

py·rol·y·sis (pī·rol′ə·sis) *n. Chem.* Decomposition of organic compounds or other substances by the action of heat. [< NL < Gk. *pyr, pyros* fire + *lysis* loosing] — **py·ro·lit·ic** (pī′rə·lit′ik, pir′ō-) *adj.*

py·ro·mag·net·ic (pī′rō·mag·net′ik, pir′ō-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or produced by changes in magnetic properties caused by change of temperature.

py·ro·ma·ni·a (pī′rə·mā′nē·ə, -mān′yə, pir′ə-) *n.* A compulsion to set things on fire. — **py′ro·ma′ni·ac** (-ak) *adj. & n.* — **py·ro·ma·ni·a·cal** (pī′rō·mə·nī′ə·kəl, pir′ō-) *adj.*

py·rom·e·ter (pī·rom′ə·tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring high degrees of heat. — **py·ro·met·ric** (pī′rə·met′rik, pir′ə-) or **·ri·cal** *adj.* — **py·rom′e·try** *n.*

py·ro·tech·nic (pī′rə·tek′nik, pir′ə-) *adj.* Pertaining to fireworks or their manufacture. Also **py′ro·tech′ni·cal.**

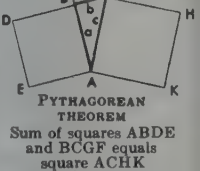
py·ro·tech·nics (pī′rə·tek′niks, pir′ə-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing. in defs. 1, 4*) **1.** The art of making or using fireworks. Also **py·ro·tech·ny** (pī′rə·tek′nē, pir′ə-) **2.** A display of fireworks. **3.** An ostentatious display, as of oratory. **4.** *Mil.* Rockets, flares, or the like, that produce flame or smoke for signaling, lighting, screening, etc. [< MF < Gk. *pyr, pyros* fire + *technē* art] — **py′ro·tech′nist** *n.*

py·ro·tox·in (pī′rə·tok′sin, pir′ə-) *n. Biochem.* Any of various toxins found in the body and inducing a rise of bodily temperature or symptoms of fever.

py·rox·y·lin (pī·rok′sə·lin) *n. Chem.* A cellulose nitrate mixture, less explosive than guncotton, and widely used in making Celluloid, collodion, lacquers, adhesives, etc. Also **py·rox′y·line** (-lēn, -lin). [< F < Gk. *pyr, pyros* fire + *xylon* wood + F *-in* -in]

Pyr·rhic victory (pir′ik) A victory gained at a ruinous loss, such as that of Pyrrhus over the Romans in 279 B.C. [after *Pyrrhus* king of Epirus]

Py·thag·o·re·an·ism (pi·thag′ə·rē′ən·iz′əm) *n.* The mystical philosophy taught by Pythagoras, including the idea that number is the essence of all things. — **Py·thag·o·re·an** (pi·thag′ə·rē′ən) *n. & adj.*



PYTHAGOREAN THEOREM
Sum of squares ABDE and BCGF equals square ACHK
$(a^2 + b^2 = c^2)$

Pythagorean theorem *Geom.* The theorem that the sum of the squares of the legs of a right triangle is equal to the square of the hypotenuse.

Pyth·i·an (pith′ē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Relating to Delphi, to Apollo's temple there, its oracle, or its priestess. **2.** Relating to the Pythian games. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Delphi. **2.** The priestess of Apollo. **3.** An epithet of the Delphic Apollo. [< L *Pythius* < Gk. *Pythios*]

Pythian games In ancient Greece, games held every four years at Delphi in honor of Apollo.

Pyth·i·as (pith′ē·əs) See DAMON AND PYTHIAS.

py·thon (pī′thon, -thən) *n.* **1.** A large, nonvenomous serpent that crushes its prey. **2.** Any nonvenomous constrictor. [< L < Gk. *Python*, a serpent slain by Apollo]

py·tho·ness (pī′thə·nis, pith′ə-) *n.* **1.** The priestess of the Delphic oracle. **2.** Any woman supposed to be possessed of the spirit of prophecy.

pyx (piks) *n. Eccl.* A vessel or casket, usu. of precious metal, in which the Host is preserved. [< L < Gk. *pyxos* box tree]

pyx·i·di·um (pik·sid′ē·əm) *n. pl.* **·i·a** (-ē·ə) *Bot.* A seed vessel with two parts, the upper separating as a lid.

pyx·is (pik′sis) *n. pl.* **pyx·i·des** (pik′sə·dēz) **1.** A box or pyx; esp., an ancient form of ornamental jewel case or toilet box. **2.** An emollient ointment. **3.** *Bot.* A pyxidium. [< L]

Q

q, Q (kyōō) *n. pl.* **q's** or **qs, Q's** or **Qs, cues** (kyōōz) **1.** The 17th letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *q*. In English *q* is always followed by *u* and represents (kw), as in *quack, quest, quote, equal,* etc. In some words borrowed from French, however, English follows the French pronunciation with (k) alone, as in *appliqué, conquer, coquette, pique.* Final *-que* always represents (k), as in *antique, oblique, physique, unique,* etc.

qua (kwā, kwä) *adv.* In the capacity of; by virtue of being; insofar as. [< L, ablative sing. fem. of *qui* who]

quack[1] (kwak) *v.i.* To utter a harsh, croaking cry, as a duck. — *n.* The sound made by a duck, or a similar croaking noise. [Imit.]

quack[2] (kwak) *n.* **1.** A pretender to medical knowledge or skill. **2.** One who falsely poses as an expert; a charlatan. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to quacks or quackery. — *v.i.* To play the quack. [Short for QUACKSALVER] — **quack′ish** *adj.* — **quack′ish·ly** *adv.*

quack·er·y (kwak′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** Ignorant or fraudulent practice. Also **quack′hood** (-hōōd), **quack′ism.**

quack·sal·ver (kwak′sal′vər) *n.* A medical quack. [< MDu. < *quacken* quack[1] + *salf* salve]

quad[1] (kwod) *n. Informal* A quadrangle, as of a college.

quad[2] (kwod) *n. Printing* A piece of type metal of less height than the letters, used for spacing: also called *quadrat.*

quad·ran·gle (kwod′rang·gəl) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* A plane figure having four sides and four angles. **2.** A court, either square or oblong; also, the building or buildings that surround such a court. [< OF < LL < L < *quattuor* four + *angulus* angle] — **quad·ran′gu·lar** (-gyə·lər) *adj.*

quad·rant (kwod′rənt) *n.* **1.** A quarter section of a circle, subtending an arc of 90°; also, the arc subtended. **2.** An in-

strument having a graduated arc of 90°, with a movable radius for measuring angles on it, used in navigation, surveying, and astronomy for measuring altitudes. [< L *quattuor* four] — **quad·ran·tal** (kwod·ran′təl) *adj.*

quad·ra·phon·ic (kwod′rə·fon′ik) *adj.* Designating a system of stereophonic sound that uses four loudspeakers.

quad·rat (kwod′rət) *n. Printing* A quad².

quad·rate (kwod′rāt; *for n., also* kwod′rit) *n.* **1.** In astrology, an aspect of two heavenly bodies in which they are distant from each other 90°. **2.** A cubical or square object. — *adj.* Square; four-sided. [< L *quadrare* to square]

quad·rat·ic (kwod·rat′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or resembling a square. **2.** *Math.* Pertaining to or designating an equation, curve, surface, etc., of the second degree. — *n. Math.* A quadratic equation, curve, etc.

quad·rat·ics (kwod·rat′iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) *Rare* The branch of algebra dealing with quadratic equations.

quad·ren·ni·al (kwod·ren′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Occurring once in four years. **2.** Lasting four years. — **quad·ren′ni·al·ly** *adv.*

quadri- *combining form* Four: *quadrilateral.* Also *quadru-*; also **quadr-** (before vowels). [< L *quattuor* four]

quad·ri·lat·er·al (kwod′rə·lat′ər·əl) *adj.* Formed or bounded by four lines; four-sided. — *n. Geom.* A figure bounded by four straight lines terminated at four angles. [< L *quattuor* four + *latus* side]

qua·drille (kwə·dril′) *n.* **1.** A square dance for four couples, having five figures. **2.** Music for or in the manner of this dance. [< F < Sp. < L *quattuor* four]

quad·ril·lion (kwod·ril′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand trillions, written as 1 followed by fifteen zeros: a cardinal number. **2.** *Brit.* A million trillions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by twenty-four zeros: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a quadrillion in number. [< MF < *quadri-* four + (*mi*)*llion* million] — **quad·ril′lionth** *adj. & n.*

quad·ri·no·mi·al (kwod′rə·nō′mē·əl) *n. Math.* An algebraic expression having four terms.

quad·ri·va·lent (kwod′rə·vā′lənt) *adj. Chem.* Having a valence of four, as carbon: also *tetratomic, tetravalent.* [< QUADRI- + L *valere* to be worth] — **quad′ri·va′lence, quad′ri·va′len·cy** *n.*

quad·roon (kwod·rōōn′) *n.* A person having one Negro grandparent. [< Sp. *cuarto* fourth]

quadru- Var. of QUADRI-.

quad·ru·ped (kwod′rōō·ped) *n.* An animal having four feet; esp., a four-footed mammal. — *adj.* Having four feet. [< L *quattuor* four + *pes* foot] — **quad·ru·pe·dal** (kwod·rōō′pə·dəl, kwod′rōō·ped′l) *adj.*

quad·ru·ple (kwod′rōō·pəl, kwod·rōō′pəl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To multiply by four; make or become four times larger. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of four. **2.** Multiplied by four. — *n.* A sum four times as great as another. — *adv.* So as to make four times larger. [< OF < L *quadruplus*]

quad·ru·plet (kwod′rōō·plit, kwod·rōō′-) *n.* **1.** A compound or combination of four things or objects. **2.** One of four offspring born of the same mother at one birth.

quad·ru·pli·cate (kwod·rōō′plə·kāt; *for adj. & n., also* kwod·rōō′plə·kit) *adj.* Quadruple; fourfold. — *n.* One of four like things. [< L *quattuor* four + stem of *plicare* to fold] — **quad·ru′pli·cate·ly** *adv.* — **quad·ru′pli·ca′tion** *n.*

quaff (kwaf, kwof, kwôf) *v.t. & v.i.* To drink, esp. copiously or with relish. — *n.* A drink; swallow. — **quaff′er** *n.*

quag·gy (kwag′ē, kwog′ē) *adj.* **·gi·er, ·gi·est** Yielding to or quaking under the foot, as soft, wet earth; boggy.

quag·mire (kwag′mīr′, kwog′-) *n.* **1.** Marshy ground that gives way under the foot. **2.** A difficult situation. [< obs. *quag* to shake + MIRE] — **quag′mired′, quag′mir′y** *adj.*

qua·hog (kwô′hôg, -hog, kwə·hôg′, -hog′) *n.* An edible American clam called *hard-shelled clam.* Also **qua′haug.** [< Algonquian (Narraganset) *poquauhock*]

quail¹ (kwāl) *n.* Any of various small American game birds related to the partridge, esp. the bobwhite. [< OF *quaille*, prob. of Gmc. origin]

quail² (kwāl) *v.i.* To shrink with fear; lose heart or courage. [ME *quailen*]

quaint (kwānt) *adj.* **1.** Combining an antique appearance with a pleasing oddity, fancifulness, or whimsicalness. **2.** Pleasingly odd or old-fashioned; fanciful. [< OF < L < *cognoscere* to ascertain] — **quaint′ly** *adv.* — **quaint′ness** *n.*

quake (kwāk) *v.i.* **quaked, quak·ing** **1.** To shake, as with violent emotion or cold. **2.** To shake or tremble, as earth during an earthquake. — **Syn.** See SHAKE. — *n.* **1.** The act of quaking. **2.** An earthquake. [OE *cwacian* to shake]

Quak·er (kwā′kər) *n.* A member of the Society of Friends: originally a term of derision. [< QUAKE, v.; with ref. to their founder's admonition to tremble at the word of the Lord] — **Quak′er·ish** *adj.* — **Quak′er·ish·ly** *adv.* — **Quak·er·ism** (kwā′kə·riz′əm) *n.* — **Quak′er·ly** *adj. & adv.*

qual·i·fi·ca·tion (kwol′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of qualifying, or the state of being qualified. **2.** Any ability, training, etc., that fits a person for a specific office, role, position, etc. **3.** A restriction: to accept without *qualification.*

qual·i·fied (kwol′ə·fīd) *adj.* **1.** Competent or fit, as for public office. **2.** Restricted or modified. — **qual′i·fied′ly** *adv.*

qual·i·fy (kwol′ə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make fit or capable, as for an office, occupation, or privilege. **2.** To make legally capable. **3.** To limit or restrict. **4.** To attribute a quality to; describe; characterize. **5.** To make less strong or extreme. **6.** To change the strength or flavor of. **7.** *Gram.* To modify. — *v.i.* **8.** To be or become qualified or fit; meet the requirements, as for entering a race. [< MF < Med.L < L *qualis* of such a kind + *facere* to make] — **qual′i·fi′a·ble** *adj.* — **qual′i·fi′er** *n.*

qual·i·ta·tive (kwol′ə·tā′tiv) *adj.* Of or pertaining to quality: distinguished from *quantitative.* [< LL < L *qualis* of such a kind] — **qual′i·ta′tive·ly** *adv.*

qualitative analysis *Chem.* The process of determining the kind and number of ingredients present in a substance.

qual·i·ty (kwol′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** That which makes something such as it is; a distinguishing element or characteristic. **2.** The basic or essential character, nature, etc., of something. **3.** Excellence: *quality* rather than quantity. **4.** The degree of excellence. **5.** A moral or personality trait or characteristic. **6.** *Music* The timbre of a voice or musical instrument. **7.** *Archaic* High or superior social rank or birth; also, persons of superior rank collectively. — *adj.* Of superior quality. [< F < L *qualis* of such a kind]

qualm (kwäm, kwôm) *n.* **1.** A feeling of sickness. **2.** A twinge of conscience; moral scruple. **3.** A sensation of fear or misgiving. [? OE *cwealm* death] — **qualm′ish** *adj.* — **qualm′ish·ly** *adv.* — **qualm′ish·ness** *n.* — **qualm′y** *adj.*

quan·da·ry (kwon′dər·ē, -drē) *n. pl.* **·da·ries** A state of hesitation or perplexity; predicament.

quan·ta (kwon′tə) Plural of QUANTUM.

quan·ti·ta·tive (kwon′tə·tā′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to quantity. **2.** Having to do with quantities only: distinguished from *qualitative.* — **quan′ti·ta′tive·ly** *adv.* — **quan′ti·ta′tive·ness** *n.*

quantitative analysis *Chem.* The process of finding the amount or percentage of each element or ingredient present in a material or compound.

quan·ti·ty (kwon′tə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A specified or indefinite number, amount, weight, etc. **2.** The property of a thing that admits of exact measurement. **3.** *Often pl.* A large amount: abundance: *quantities* of food. **4.** Measure; amount: *quantity* rather than quality. **5.** *Math.* An entity regarded as possessing a certain determinable magnitude, as length, size, volume, or number. **6.** The relative length of a speech sound, prosodic syllable, or musical tone. **7.** *Electr.* The amount of current. [< OF < L *quantus* how much]

quan·tize (kwon′tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** *Physics* **1.** To restrict the possible values of (an observable quantity or magnitude). **2.** To express as multiples of a given quantity or quantum. — **quan′ti·za′tion** *n.*

quan·tum (kwon′təm) *n. pl.* **·ta** (-tə) *Physics* A fundamental unit of energy as provided for in the quantum theory. [< L, neuter of *quantus* how much]

quantum theory *Physics* The theory that energy is not a smoothly flowing continuum but is manifested by the emission from radiating bodies of discrete particles or *quanta,* the values of which are expressed as the product of Planck's constant multiplied by the frequency of the given radiation.

quar·an·tine (kwôr′ən·tēn, kwor′-) *n.* **1.** The enforced isolation for a fixed period of time of persons, ships, or goods arriving from places infected with or exposed to contagious disease. **2.** A place designated for the enforcement of such interdiction. **3.** The enforced isolation of any person or place infected with contagious disease. **4.** Any enforced isolation. **5.** A period of forty days. — *v.t.* **·tined, ·tin·ing** To subject to or retain in quarantine; isolate by or as by quarantine. [< Ital. < ult. < L *quadraginta* forty]

quark (kwärk, kwôrk) *n. Physics* A hypothetical elementary particle. [after "Three *quarks* for Muster Mark" in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*]

quar·rel (kwôr′əl, kwor′-) *n.* **1.** An unfriendly, angry, or violent dispute. **2.** A falling out; breach of amity. **3.** The cause for dispute. — *v.i.* **quar·reled** or **·relled, quar·rel·ing** or **·rel·ling** **1.** To engage in a quarrel. **2.** To break off a mutual friendship. **3.** To find fault. [< F < L *queri* to complain] — **quar′rel·er** or **quar′rel·ler** *n.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** Wrangle, bicker, squabble, altercation, scrap.

quar·rel·some (kwôr′əl·səm, kwor′-) *adj.* Inclined to quarrel. — **quar′rel·some·ly** *adv.* — **quar′rel·some·ness** *n.*

quar·ry¹ (kwôr′ē, kwor′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A beast or bird hunted or killed, as in the chase. **2.** Anything hunted, slaughtered, or pursued. [< OF < L *corium* hide]

quar·ry² (kwôr′ē, kwor′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** An excavation from

which stone is taken by cutting, blasting, or the like. — *v.t.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** **1.** To cut, dig, or take from or as from a quarry. **2.** To establish a quarry in. [< OF < L *quadrus* square] — **quar'ri·er** *n.*

quart (kwôrt) *n.* **1.** A measure of capacity, the fourth part of a gallon, or two pints. In the U.S., the dry quart is equal to 1.10 liters and the liquid quart is equal to 0.946 liter. See table inside back cover. **2.** A container having such a capacity. [< OF < L *quartus* fourth]

quar·ter (kwôr'tər) *n.* **1.** One of four equal parts into which anything is or may be divided. **2.** In the U.S. and Canada, a coin having the value of 25 cents. **3.** Fifteen minutes or the fourth of an hour; also, the moment such a period begins or ends. **4.** Three months or a fourth of a year. **5.** A term of school, usu. one fourth of a year. **6.** *Astron.* A fourth part of the moon's revolution about the earth. **7.** One of the four periods into which a game, as football, is divided. **8.** One of the four principal points of the compass. **9.** A particular district or locality, as of a city: the native *quarter.* **10.** A place or source from which something comes: on authority of the highest *quarter.* **11.** *Usu. pl.* Proper or assigned station, as of officers and crew on a warship. **12.** *pl.* A place of lodging or residence. **13.** Mercy shown to a vanquished enemy. **14.** Either of the four limbs of a quadruped, together with the adjacent parts. **15.** *Naut.* The upper part of a vessel's side, near the stern. **16.** *Heraldry* **a** Any of four equal divisions into which a shield is divided. **b** An ordinary occupying such a division. — **at close quarters** Close by; at close range. — *adj.* **1.** Being one of four equal parts. **2.** Having one fourth of a standard value. — *v.t.* **1.** To divide into four equal parts. **2.** To divide into a number of parts or pieces. **3.** To cut the body of (an executed person) into four parts. **4.** To range from one side to the other of (a field, etc.) while advancing. **5.** To furnish with quarters or shelter; lodge. **6.** *Heraldry* **a** To divide (a shield) into quarters. **b** To bear or arrange (different coats of arms) quarterly upon a shield. — *v.i.* **7.** To be stationed or lodged. **8.** To range from side to side of an area, as dogs in hunting. **9.** *Naut.* To blow on a ship's quarter: said of the wind. [< OF < L < *quartus* fourth]

quar·ter·back (kwôr'tər·bak') *n.* In American football, one of the backfield, who often calls the signals.

quarter day Any of the four days of the year when quarterly payments are due.

quar·ter·deck (kwôr'tər·dek') *n. Naut.* The rear part of a ship's upper deck, reserved for officers.

quar·tered (kwôr'tərd) *adj.* **1.** Divided into four quarters. **2.** Lodged; stationed; also, having quarters. **3.** Quartersawed. **4.** *Heraldry* Divided into quarters.

quar·ter·ly (kwôr'tər·lē) *adj.* **1.** Containing or being a fourth part. **2.** Occurring at intervals of three months. — *n. pl.* **·lies** A publication issued once every three months. — *adv.* **1.** Once in a quarter of a year. **2.** In or by quarters.

quar·ter·mas·ter (kwôr'tər·mas'tər, -mäs'-) *n.* **1.** *Usu. cap. Mil.* An officer responsible for the supply of food, fuel, clothing, etc. **2.** On shipboard, a petty officer responsible for steering and related functions.

quar·tern (kwôr'tərn) *n.* A fourth part of certain measures or weights, as of a peck or pound. [< OF < L < *quartus* fourth]

quarter note *Music* A note having one fourth the time value of a whole note: also called *crotchet.*

quar·ter·saw (kwôr'tər·sô') *v.t.* **·sawed, ·sawed** or **·sawn, ·saw·ing** To saw (a log) lengthwise into quarters so that each face corresponds with one of the log's radii.

quarter section A tract of land half a mile square, containing one fourth of a square mile, or 160 acres.

quarter sessions A court held quarterly.

quar·ter·staff (kwôr'tər·staf', -stäf') *n. pl.* **·staves** (-stāvz') A stout, iron-tipped staff about 6½ feet long, formerly used in England as a weapon; also, the use of the quarterstaff.

quarter tone *Music* Half of a semitone. Also **quar·ter·tone** (kwôr'tər·tōn').

quar·tet (kwôr·tet') *n.* **1.** A composition for four voices or instruments. **2.** The four persons who perform such compositions. **3.** Any group or set of four things of a kind. Also **quar·tette'.** [< F *quartette* < Ital.]

quar·to (kwôr'tō) *adj.* Having four leaves or eight pages to the sheet: a *quarto* book. — *n. pl.* **·tos** A book or pamphlet having pages the size of a fourth of a sheet: often written **4to** or **4°.** [< L (*in*) *quarto* (in) fourth]

quartz (kwôrts) *n.* Silicon dioxide, SiO_2, a hard, vitreous mineral occurring in many varieties, sometimes massive, as jasper and chalcedony, or sometimes in colorless and transparent or diversely colored forms crystallizing in the hexagonal system. [< G *quarz*; ult. origin uncertain]

quartz crystal A thin section of pure quartz, accurately ground and polished for use in certain optical instruments and as a high-frequency oscillator in some electron tubes.

quartz lamp A mercury-vapor lamp that is enclosed in a quartz tube and transmits ultraviolet wavelengths.

qua·sar (kwā'zär) *n.* A galaxylike formation in remote space that emits radio waves and vast energy. [QUAS(I-STELL)AR(RADIO SOURCE)]

quash[1] (kwosh) *v.t. Law* To make void or set aside, as an indictment; annul. — **Syn.** See ANNUL. [< OF < L *quassare* to shatter; meaning infl. by SQUASH[1]]

quash[2] (kwosh) *v.t.* To put down or suppress forcibly or summarily: to *quash* a rebellion. [< OF < L *quassare* to shatter]

quasi- *prefix* **1.** (With nouns) Resembling; not genuine, as in *quasi-adult, quasi-insight.* **2.** (With adjectives) Nearly; almost, as in *quasi-complex, quasi-official.* [< L, as if]

qua·si-ju·di·cial (kwā'sī-jōō·dish'əl, -zī-, kwä'sē-) *adj.* Exercising functions of a judicial nature as a guide for official action, as a committee investigating facts and drawing conclusions from them.

quas·si·a (kwosh'ē·ə, kwosh'ə) *n.* **1.** The wood of either of two tropical American trees yielding a variety of economic products. **2.** A bitter drug prepared from this wood, used in medicine as a tonic, etc. **3.** The tree itself. [< NL, after Graman *Quassi* who discovered its use in 1730]

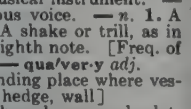
qua·ter·na·ry (kwə·tûr'nə·rē) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of four. **2.** Fourth in order. — *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The number four; a group of four things. **2.** *Math.* A quantic function having four variables. [< L *quaternarius* < *quaterni* by fours]

Qua·ter·na·ry (kwə·tûr'nə·rē) *adj. Geol.* Of, pertaining to, or designating a geological period and system of the Cenozoic era, following the Tertiary and still continuing. See chart for GEOLOGY. — *n.* The Quaternary system or period.

qua·ter·ni·on (kwə·tûr'nē·ən) *n.* A set, system, or file of four. [< LL < *quattuor* four < L *quattor*]

quat·rain (kwot'rān) *n.* A stanza or poem of four lines. [< F < *quatre* four]

quat·re·foil (kat'ər·foil', kat'rə-) *n.* **1.** A leaf, etc., having four leaflets. **2.** *Archit.* An ornament with four foils or lobes. [< OF *quatre* four + *foil* leaf]



QUATREFOILS

quat·tro·cen·to (kwät'rō·chen'tō) *n.* The 15th century as connected with the revival of art and literature, esp. in Italy. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the quattrocento. [< Ital.]

qua·ver (kwā'vər) *v.i.* **1.** To tremble or shake: said usu. of the voice. **2.** To produce trills or quavers in singing or in playing a musical instrument. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter or sing in a tremulous voice. — *n.* **1.** A quivering or tremulous motion. **2.** A shake or trill, as in singing. **3.** *Music Chiefly Brit.* An eighth note. [Freq. of obs. *quave*, ME *cwafian* to tremble] — **qua'ver·y** *adj.*

quay (kē) *n.* A wharf or artificial landing place where vessels may load or unload. [< OF *cai* hedge, wall]

quean (kwēn) *n.* A brazen or ill-behaved woman; harlot; prostitute. [OE *cwene* prostitute]

quea·sy (kwē'zē) *adj.* **quea·si·er, quea·si·est** **1.** Sick at the stomach. **2.** Nauseating; also, caused by nausea. **3.** Easily nauseated. **4.** Fastidious; squeamish. **5.** Requiring to be carefully treated; delicate. **6.** Hazardous. [ME *coisy*; origin unknown] — **quea'si·ly** *adv.* — **quea'si·ness** *n.*

Quech·ua (kech'wä) *n.* **1.** One of a tribe of South American Indians. **2.** The language of the Quechuas: also called *Incan.* Also spelled *Kechua.* — **Quech·uan** (kech'wən) *adj. & n.*

queen (kwēn) *n.* **1.** The wife of a king. **2.** A female sovereign or monarch. **3.** A woman preeminent in a given sphere. **4.** In chess, the most powerful piece, capable of moving any number of squares in a straight or diagonal line. **5.** A playing card bearing a conventional picture of a queen. **6.** *Entomol.* The single fully developed female in a colony of social insects, as bees, ants, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a queen of. **2.** In chess, to make a queen of (a pawn) by moving it to the eighth row. — *v.i.* **3.** To reign as or play the part of a queen. — **to queen it** To act in a domineering, queenly manner. [OE *cwēn* woman, queen]

Queen Anne's lace The wild carrot.

Queen Anne's War See WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION in table for WAR.

queen consort The wife of a reigning king, who does not share his sovereignty.

queen dowager The widow of a king.

queen·ly (kwēn'lē) *adj.* **queen·li·er, queen·li·est** **1.** Of or like a queen. **2.** Fit for a queen. — *adv.* In the manner of a queen. — **queen'li·ness** *n.*

queen mother A queen dowager who is mother of a reigning sovereign.

queen's English King's English.

queer (kwir) *adj.* **1.** Unusual; singular; odd. **2.** Of questionable character. **3.** *Slang* Counterfeit. **4.** *Slang* Homosexual. — *n. Slang* **1.** Counterfeit money. **2.** *Slang* A homosexual person. — *v.t. U.S. Slang* To jeopardize or spoil. [Origin unknown] — **queer'ly** *adv.* — **queer'ness** *n.*

quell (kwel) *v.t.* **1.** To put down or suppress by force; ex-

tinguish. **2.** To quiet; allay, as pain. [OE *cwellan* to kill] — **Syn. 1.** subdue, crush. **2.** soothe, still.

quel·que chose (kel′kə shōz′) *French* A trifle; something.

quench (kwench) *v.t.* **1.** To put out or extinguish, as a fire. **2.** To put an end to. **3.** To slake or satisfy (thirst). **4.** To suppress or repress, as emotions. **5.** To cool, as heated iron or steel, by thrusting into water or other liquid. [OE *cwincan* to grow less, disappear] — **quench′a·ble** *adj.* — **quench′er** *n.* — **quench′less** *adj.*

quer·u·lous (kwer′ə·ləs, -yə·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Disposed to complain or be fretful; captious. **2.** Indicating or expressing a complaining or whining disposition. [< LL < *queri* to complain] — **quer′u·lous·ly** *adv.* — **quer′u·lous·ness** *n.*

que·ry (kwir′ē) *v.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To inquire into; ask about. **2.** To ask questions of; interrogate. **3.** To express doubt concerning the correctness or truth of. — *v.i.* **4.** To have or express doubt; question. — **Syn.** See ASK. — *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** An inquiry or question. **2.** A doubt; interrogation. [< L < *quaerere* to ask]

quest (kwest) *n.* **1.** The act of seeking or looking for something; a search. **2.** An adventure or expedition, as in medieval romance. **3.** The person or persons engaged in a quest. — *v.t. & v.i.* To go on a quest or to search for (something). [< OF < L < *quaerere* to ask, seek] — **quest′er** *n.*

ques·tion (kwes′chən) *n.* **1.** An interrogative sentence calling for an answer; an inquiry. **2.** A subject of inquiry or debate; a matter to be decided; problem. **3.** A subject of dispute; a controversy. **4.** A proposition under discussion in a deliberative assembly. **5.** Possibility of disagreement or dispute; doubt: no *question* about it. **6.** The act of asking or inquiring. — **beside the question** Irrelevant; not pertinent. — **beyond (all) question** Not open to dispute; settled. — **out of the question** Not to be thought of; impossible. — *v.t.* **1.** To put a question or questions to; interrogate. **2.** To be uncertain of; doubt. **3.** To make objection to; challenge; dispute. — *v.i.* **4.** To ask a question or questions. — **Syn.** See ASK. [< OF < L < *quaerere* to ask] — **ques′tion·er** *n.*

ques·tion·a·ble (kwes′chən·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by doubtful integrity, honesty, respectability, etc. **2.** Liable to be called in question; debatable. **3.** Uncertain; difficult to decide. — **ques′tion·a·bil′i·ty, ques′tion·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **ques′tion·a·bly** *adv.*

question mark A mark of punctuation (?) indicating that the sentence it closes is a direct question: also called *interrogation point*.

ques·tion·naire (kwes′chə·nâr′) *n.* A written or printed form comprising a series of questions submitted to a number of persons to obtain data for a survey or report. [< F]

quet·zal (ket·säl′) *n.* *pl.* **·zal·es** (-sä′läs) **1.** A bird of long, brilliant plumage, the national symbol of Guatemala, regarded as a deity by the Mayas. **2.** The standard monetary unit of Guatemala: in 1962 worth about one U.S. dollar. Also **que·zal** (kä·säl′). [< Sp.]

queue (kyōō) *n.* **1.** A pigtail. **2.** A line of persons or vehicles. — *v.i.* **queued, queu·ing** *Brit.* To form a line: usu. with *up*. Also *cue*. [< MF < L *cauda* a tail]

quib·ble (kwib′əl) *n.* **1.** An evasion of a point or question. **2.** A trivial distinction or objection; cavil. — *v.i.* **·bled, ·bling** To evade the truth or the point in question, as by raising trivial objections. [< obs. *quib* < L *quibus*, ablative pl. of *qui* who, which] — **quib′bler** *n.*

quick (kwik) *adj.* **1.** Done or occurring in a short time; rapid; swift. **2.** Responding readily or eagerly to impressions or instruction: a *quick* mind. **3.** Alert; sensitive; perceptive: a *quick* ear. **4.** Easily aroused or excited; hasty: a *quick* temper. **5.** Nimble: *quick* fingers. **6.** Pregnant; with child. **7.** Refreshing; bracing. **8.** Burning briskly. — *n.* **1.** Those who are alive: chiefly in the phrase **the quick and the dead.** **2.** The living flesh, esp. the tender flesh under a fingernail. **3.** The feelings: cut to the *quick*. **4.** A plant suitable for hedges. — *adv.* Quickly; rapidly. [OE *cwic* alive] — **quick′ness** *n.*

quick bread Any bread, biscuits, etc., whose leavening agent makes immediate baking possible.

quick·en (kwik′ən) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move more rapidly; hasten or accelerate. **2.** To give or restore life to. **3.** To excite or arouse; stimulate: to *quicken* the appetite. — *v.i.* **4.** To move or act more quickly; become more rapid. **5.** To come or return to life; revive. **6.** To begin to manifest signs of life: said of the fetus. — **quick′en·er** *n.*

quick-freeze (kwik′frēz′) *v.t.* **·froze, ·fro·zen, ·freez·ing** To subject (food) to rapid refrigeration for storing at or below freezing temperatures.

quick·ie (kwik′ē) *n.* *U.S. Slang* Anything done hastily, as by short cuts or makeshift methods.

quick·lime (kwik′līm′) *n.* See under LIME[1].

quick·ly (kwik′lē) *adv.* In a quick manner; rapidly; soon.

quick march A march in quick time; quickstep.

quick·sand (kwik′sand′) *n.* A bed of sand, often of considerable depth, so water-soaked as to engulf any object, person, or animal resting or moving upon it.

quick·set (kwik′set′) *n.* **1.** A plant suitable for hedges, esp. hawthorn. **2.** A hedge made of it.

quick·sil·ver (kwik′sil′vər) *n.* **1.** Mercury in its liquid form. **2.** An amalgam of tin, used for the backs of mirrors. [OE *cwicseolfor*. Trans. of L *argentum vivum*.]

quick·step (kwik′step′) *n.* A march or dance written in a rapid tempo; also, a quick march.

quick-tem·pered (kwik′tem′pərd) *adj.* Easily angered.

quick time A marching step of 120 paces a minute, each pace of 30 inches, used in military drills and ceremonies.

quick-wit·ted (kwik′wit′id) *adj.* Having a ready wit or quick discernment; keen; alert. — **quick′-wit′ted·ly** *adv.* — **quick′-wit′ted·ness** *n.*

quid[1] (kwid) *n.* **1.** A small portion of chewing tobacco. **2.** A cud, as of a cow. [OE *cwudu*. Var. of CUD.]

quid[2] (kwid) *n.* *pl.* **quid** *Brit. Slang* A pound sterling, or a sovereign. [? Suggested by L QUID PRO QUO]

quid·di·ty (kwid′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The essence of a thing. **2.** A quibble; cavil. [< LL < L *quid* which, what]

quid·nunc (kwid′nungk′) *n.* One who seeks to know all that is going on; a busybody. [< L *quid nunc* what now]

quid pro quo (kwid′ prō kwō′) *Latin* **1.** Something for something; an equivalent in return. **2.** A substitution.

qui·es·cent (kwī·es′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Being in a state of repose or inaction; quiet; still. **2.** Resting free from anxiety, emotion, or agitation. [< L *quiescere* to be quiet] — **qui·es′cence** *n.* — **qui·es′cent·ly** *adv.*

qui·et (kwī′ət) *adj.* **1.** Making little or no noise. **2.** Having little or no motion; still; calm. **3.** Characterized by silence; also, retired or secluded: a *quiet* nook. **4.** Free from excessive activity, turmoil, or vexation: a *quiet* day at the office. **5.** Gentle; mild: a *quiet* temperament. **6.** Restful to the eye; reposeful: a *quiet* scene. **7.** Not showy or pretentious; modest: *quiet* decorations. **8.** Not loud or brash; reserved: a *quiet* sense of humor. **9.** In commerce, not busy or active. — **Syn.** See CALM. — *n.* **1.** The quality or condition of being quiet. **2.** Peace; tranquillity; calmness. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become quiet: often with *down*. — *adv.* In a quiet or peaceful manner. [< OF < L *quies, quietis* rest, repose] — **qui′et·ly** *adv.* — **qui′et·ness** *n.*

qui·et·ism (kwī′ə·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** A form of religious mysticism in which the will and the intellect fix themselves in a passive contemplation of God. **2.** A state of quiet.

qui·et·ist (kwī′ə·tist) *n.* **1.** An advocate or practicer of quietism. **2.** One who seeks or enjoys quiet.

qui·e·tude (kwī′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* A state or condition of calm or tranquillity; repose; rest.

qui·e·tus (kwī·ē′təs) *n.* **1.** A silencing or suppressing, as of a rumor. **2.** Anything that kills, as a blow. **3.** A final discharge, as of a debt. [< L *quietus est* he is quit]

quill (kwil) *n.* **1.** *Ornithol.* One of the large, strong flight feathers or tail feathers of a bird. **2.** Something made from a quill, as a pen or plectrum. **3.** *Zool.* One of the large, sharp spines of a porcupine or hedgehog. [ME *quil*]

quilt (kwilt) *n.* **1.** A bedcover made by stitching together firmly two layers of cloth or patchwork with some soft and warm substance (as wool or cotton) between them. **2.** Any bedcover, esp. if thick. **3.** A quilted skirt or other quilted article. — *v.t.* **1.** To stitch together (two pieces of material) with a soft substance between. **2.** To stitch in ornamental patterns or crossing lines. **3.** To pad or line with something soft. — *v.i.* **4.** To make a quilt or quilted work. [< OF < L *culcita* bed, cushion]

quilt·ing (kwil′ting) *n.* **1.** The act or process of making a quilt, or of stitching as in making a quilt. **2.** Material for quiltwork. **3.** A quilting bee or party.

quilting bee A social gathering of women for working on a quilt or quilts. Also **quilting frolic, quilting party.**

quince (kwins) *n.* **1.** The hard, acid, applelike fruit of a small tree of the rose family, used for preserves. **2.** The tree. [< MF < OF *cooin* < L < Gk. *kydōnion*]

qui·nine (kwī′nīn, *esp. Brit.* kwi·nēn′) *n.* *Chem.* A white, amorphous or slightly crystalline, very bitter alkaloid, $C_{20}H_{24}N_2O_2$, contained in cinchona barks, the salts of which are used in medicine for their tonic and antipyretic qualities and in the treatment of malaria. Also **quin·in** (kwin′in). [< Sp. *quina* cinchona bark and its extract]

quinine water A carbonated beverage flavored with quinine: also called *tonic*.

quin·qua·ge·nar·i·an (kwin′kwə·jə·nâr′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the age of 50 years, or to the decade between 50 and 60 years of age. — *n.* One who is of this age.

Quin·qua·ges·i·ma Sunday (kwin′kwə·jes′ə·mə) The Sunday before Ash Wednesday: also called *Shrove Sunday*. [< L *quinquagesima* (*dies*) fiftieth (day)]

quinque- *combining form* Five: *quinquennial*. Also, before vowels, **quinqu-**. [< L *quinque* five]

quin·quen·ni·al (kwin·kwen′ē·əl) *adj.* Occurring every five years, or once in five years; also, lasting five years. — *n.* A quinquennial anniversary. [< L *quinque* five + *annus* year]

quin·sy (kwin′zē) *n. Pathol.* A suppurative inflammation of the tonsils. [< Med.L < Gk. *kynanchē* dog's collar]

quint (kwint) *n.* **1.** A fifth. **2.** A set of five. **3.** *Informal* A quintuplet. [< L *quintus* fifth]

quin·tal (kwin′təl) *n.* **1.** A measure of weight, a hundredweight. **2.** In the metric system, 100 kilograms. [< MF < Med.L *quintale* < Arabic *quintar* < LL *centarium* one hundred pieces of gold]

quin·tes·sence (kwin·tes′əns) *n.* **1.** An extract from anything, containing in concentrated form its most essential principle. **2.** The purest and most essential part of anything. [< F < Med.L *quinta essentia* fifth essence] — **quin·tes·sen·tial** (kwin′tə·sen′shəl) *adj.*

quin·tet (kwin·tet′) *n.* **1.** A musical composition for five voices or instruments; also, the five persons performing it. **2.** Any group of five persons or things. Also **quin·tette′**. [< F < Ital. *quintetto*, dim. of *quinto* fifth]

quin·til·lion (kwin·til′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand quadrillions, written as 1 followed by 18 zeros: a cardinal number. **2.** *Brit.* A million quadrillions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by 30 zeros: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a quintillion in number. [< *quinti-* five + (*mi*)*llion*] — **quin·til′lionth** *adj. & n.*

quin·tu·ple (kwin′tōō·pəl, -tyōō-, kwin·tōō′pəl, -tyōō′-) *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To multiply by five; make or become five times as much or as large. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of five things united or of five parts. **2.** Multiplied by five. — *n.* A number or a sum five times as great as another. [< F < LL *quintuplex* fivefold]

quin·tu·plet ((kwin′tōō·plit, -tyōō-, kwin·tōō′plit, -tyōō′-, -tup′lit) *n.* **1.** Five things of a kind used or occurring together. **2.** One of five born of the same mother at one birth.

quin·tu·pli·cate (*adj.* kwin·tōō′plə·kit, -tyōō′-; *v.* kwin·tōō′plə·kāt, -tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Fivefold. **2.** Raised to the fifth power. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To multiply by five; quintuple. — *n.* One of five identical things. — **in quintuplicate** So as to have five identical copies. — **quin·tu′pli·cate·ly** *adv.* — **quin·tu′pli·ca′tion** *n.*

quip (kwip) *n.* **1.** A sarcastic or witty jest or retort. **2.** A quibble. **3.** An odd, fantastic action or object. — *v.i.* **quipped, quip·ping** To make a witty remark; jest. [Prob. < L *quippe* indeed] — **quip′pish** *adj.*

quip·ster (kwip′stər) *n.* One who makes quips.

quire (kwīr) *n.* **1.** The twentieth part of a ream of paper; 24 (or 25) sheets. **2.** A set of all the sheets necessary to make a book. — *v.t.* **quired, quir·ing** To fold or separate into quires. [< OF *quaer*, ult. < L *quaterni* a set of four]

Quir·i·nal (kwir′ə·nəl) *n.* **1.** One of the Seven Hills of Rome, containing the **Quirinal palace**, after 1870 the official residence of the kings of Italy. **2.** The monarchical or civil government of Italy: distinguished from the *Vatican*. — *adj.* Pertaining to or situated on the Quirinal.

quirk (kwûrk) *n.* **1.** A personal peculiarity, mannerism, or caprice. **2.** A quibble. **3.** A sharp turn or twist. **4.** A sudden curve or flourish, as in writing. **5.** A bright retort; quip. [Origin uncertain] — **quirk′y** *adj.*

quirt (kwûrt) *n.* A short-handled riding whip with a braided lash. — *v.t.* To strike with a quirt. [< Am. Sp. *cuarta*]

quis·ling (kwiz′ling) *n.* One who betrays his country to the enemy and is then given political power by the conquerors. [after Vidkun *Quisling*, 1887–1945, Norwegian Nazi party leader and traitor] — **quis′ling·ism** *n.*

quit (kwit) *v.* **quit** or **quit·ted, quit·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To cease or desist from; discontinue. **2.** To give up; renounce. **3.** To go away from; leave. **4.** To let go of (something held). — *v.i.* **5.** To stop; cease; discontinue. **6.** To leave; depart. **7.** *Informal* To resign from a position, etc. — *adj.* Released, relieved, or absolved from something; clear; free; rid. — *n.* The act of quitting. — **to be quits** To be even (with another). — **to cry quits** To declare (oneself) willing to stop competing. [< OF < Med.L < L *quietus* at rest]

quit·claim (kwit′klām′) *n. Law* A full release and acquittance given by one to another in regard to a certain demand, suit, or right of action. Also **quit′claim′ance** (-əns). — *v.t.* To relinquish or give up claim or title to; release from a claim. [< MF *quite clamer* to declare quit or free]

quite (kwit) *adv.* **1.** To the fullest extent; totally: *quite* dead. **2.** Really; truly. **3.** *Informal* To a great or considerable extent; noticeably; very; *quite* ill. ◆ The phrase *quite a* is used in many idioms to indicate considerable but indefinite number, size, quantity, etc., as in *quite a lot* (a good deal), *quite a few* (many), *quite a while* (a long while). It is also used in informal expressions with the sense of "wonderful, great, etc.," as in *quite a guy*. [ME; var. of QUIT, adj.]

quit·rent (kwit′rent′) *n.* A fixed rent formerly paid by a freeholder, whereby he was released from feudal services.

quit·tance (kwit′ns) *n.* **1.** Discharge or release, as from a debt or obligation. **2.** A document or receipt certifying this. **3.** A recompense or repayment. [< OF < *quitter* to quit]

quit·ter (kwit′ər) *n.* One who quits needlessly; a shirker.

quiv·er[1] (kwiv′ər) *v.i.* To shake with a slight, tremulous motion; vibrate; tremble. — *n.* The act or fact of quivering; a trembling or shaking. [Var. of QUAVER]

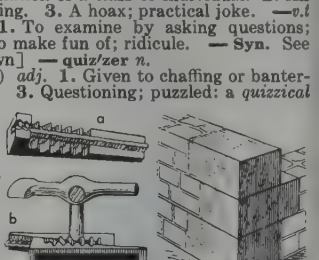
quiv·er[2] (kwiv′ər) *n.* A portable case for arrows; also, its contents. [< AF *quivier*, OF *cuivre* < OHG *kochar*]

quix·ot·ic (kwik·sot′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like Don Quixote. **2.** Ridiculously chivalrous or romantic; having high but impractical sentiments, aims, etc. — **quix·ot′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **quix·ot·ism** (kwik′sə·tiz′əm) *n.*

quiz (kwiz) *n.* **1.** The act of questioning; esp., an informal oral or written examination of a class or individual. **2.** An eccentric person or thing. **3.** A hoax; practical joke. —*v.t.* **quizzed, quiz·zing** **1.** To examine by asking questions; question. **2.** *Brit.* To make fun of; ridicule. — **Syn.** See ASK. [Origin unknown] — **quiz′zer** *n.*

quiz·zi·cal (kwiz′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Given to chaffing or bantering. **2.** Queer; odd. **3.** Questioning; puzzled: a *quizzical* smile. — **quiz′zi·cal·ly** *adv.*

quoin (koin, kwoin) *n.* **1.** An external angle or corner of a building. **2.** A stone or stones forming such an angle. **3.** A wedge or wedgelike piece, as one of the stones in an arch. **4.** *Printing* A wedge or pair of wedges for locking type in a chase or galley. — *v.t.* To provide, secure, or support with a quoin or quoins. [Var. of COIN]



QUOINS
A Printer's: *a* Single quoin, *b* Pair ready for locking with key. *B* Quoins of dressed stone.

quoit (kwoit, *esp. Brit.* koit) *n.* **1.** A ring of metal, rope, etc., thrown in a game at a short stake, either encircling it or coming as close to it as possible. **2.** *pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The game so played. — *v.t.* To pitch as a quoit. [< MF *coite*, ? flat stone < OF *cuille*. See QUILT.]

quon·dam (kwon′dəm) *adj.* Having been formerly; former. [< L]

Quon·set hut (kwon′sit) A prefabricated, metal structure the roof of which is half of a cylinder cut lengthwise and resting on the ground: a trade name. [after *Quonset*, Rhode Island, where first made]

quo·rum (kwôr′əm, kwō′rəm) *n.* The number of members of any deliberative or corporate body as is necessary for the legal transaction of business, commonly, a majority. [< L, genitive plural of *qui* who]

quo·ta (kwō′tə) *n.* A proportional part or share required from each person, group, state, etc., for making up a certain number or quantity. [< Med.L < L *quotus* how many]

quot·a·ble (kwō′tə·bəl) *adj.* Suitable for quotation. — **quot′a·bil′i·ty** *n.*

quo·ta·tion (kwō·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of quoting. **2.** The words quoted or cited. **3.** A price quoted or current, as of securities, etc.: the *quotations* for wheat. — **quo·ta′tion·al** *adj.* — **quo·ta′tion·al·ly** *adv.* — **quo·ta′tion·ist** *n.*

quotation mark Either of the marks placed at the beginning and end of a word or passage that is an exact quotation of the original. In English usage, one or two inverted commas (‘ ”) mark the beginning of a quotation, and correspondingly, one or two apostrophes (’ ”) the close, the single marks being used to set off a quotation within a quotation.

quote (kwōt) *v.* **quot·ed, quot·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To reproduce the words of. **2.** To repeat or cite (a rule, author, etc.), as for authority or illustration. **3.** In commerce: **a** To state (a price). **b** To give the current or market price of. **4.** *Printing* To enclose within quotation marks. — *v.i.* **5.** To make a quotation, as from a book. — *n.* **1.** Loosely, a quotation. **2.** A quotation mark. [< Med.L *quotare* to distinguish by number < L *quot* how many] — **quot′a·ble** *adj.* — **quot′er** *n.* — **quote′wor′thy** (-wûr′thē) *adj.* — **quot′ing·ly** *adv.*

quoth (kwōth) *v.t.* Said or spoke; uttered: the imperfect tense of the obsolete verb *queth*, used only in the first and third persons, the subject always following the verb: *quoth* he. [OE *cwæth*, pt. of *cwethan* to say]

quo·tid·i·an (kwō·tid′ē·ən) *adj.* Recurring or occurring every day. — *n.* A fever that returns every day. [< OF, or < L *quotidianus* daily]

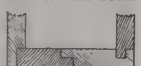
quo·tient (kwō′shənt) *n. Math.* The result obtained by division; a number indicating how many times one quantity is contained in another. [< L *quotiens* how often]

quo war·ran·to (kwō wô·ran′tō, wo-) *Law* A proceeding, usu. criminal in form but in substance civil, by which a government or sovereign seeks to recover an office or franchise. [< L, by what warrant]

R

r, R (är) *n.* *pl.* **r's** or **rs, R's** or **Rs, ars** (ärz) **1.** The 18th letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *r*. — *symbol* **1.** *Chem.* An alkyl group. **2.** *Math.* Ratio. **3.** *Electr.* Resistance. — **the three R's** Reading, writing, and arithmetic regarded as the essential elements of a primary education.

Ra (rä) The supreme Egyptian deity, the sun god, usu. represented as a hawk-headed man crowned with the solar disk and the sacred serpent: also *Re*.



RABBET JOINTS

rab·bet (rab′it) *n.* **1.** A recess or groove in or near the edge of one piece of wood, etc., cut so as to receive the edge of another piece. **2.** A joint so made. — *v.* **·bet·ed, ·bet·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cut a rabbet in. **2.** To unite in a rabbet. — *v.i.* **3.** To be jointed by a rabbet. [< OF < *rabattre* to beat down]

rab·bi (rab′ī) *n.* *pl.* **·bis** or **·bies** In Judaism: **a** The spiritual head of a Jewish community, authorized to perform religious duties. **b** Master; teacher: a title for one learned in the Law. Also **rab′bin** (-in). [< Hebrew *rabbī* my master]

rab·bin·ate (rab′in·āt) *n.* **1.** The office or term of office of a rabbi. **2.** Rabbis collectively.

Rab·bin·ic (rə·bin′ik) *n.* The Hebrew language as used in late ancient and early medieval periods.

rab·bin·i·cal (rə·bin′i·kəl) *adj.* Pertaining to the rabbis or to their opinions, languages, or writings. Also **rab·bin′ic.** — **rab·bin′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

rab·bit (rab′it) *n.* **1.** Any of a family of various small, long-eared mammals allied to but smaller than the hare, as the common American cottontail. **2.** The pelt of a rabbit or hare. **3.** Welsh rabbit. — *v.i.* To hunt rabbits. [Akin to Walloon *robett*, Flemish *robbe*] — **rab′bit·er** *n.*

rabbit fever Tularemia.

rabbit foot The left hind foot of a rabbit, carried as a good-luck charm. Also **rab·bit's foot.**

rabbit hutch A coop in which domestic rabbits are bred.

rabbit punch A short chopping blow at the base of the skull or back of the neck.

rab·ble (rab′əl) *n.* A disorderly crowd or mob. — **the rabble** The populace or lower classes: a contemptuous term. — *adj.* Of, suited to, or characteristic of a rabble; disorderly. — *v.t.* **·bled, ·bling** To mob. [? < RABBLE³]

rab·ble-rous·er (rab′əl·rou′zər) *n.* One who tries to incite mobs by arousing prejudices and passions.

Rab·e·lai·si·an (rab′ə·lā′zē·ən, -zhən) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resembling Rabelais or his works. **2.** Bawdy and boisterous. — *n.* A student or imitator of Rabelais. — **Rab′e·lai′si·an·ism, Rab′e·la′ism** *n.*

rab·id (rab′id) *adj.* **1.** Affected with, arising from, or pertaining to rabies; mad. **2.** Unreasonably zealous; fanatical; violent. **3.** Furious; raging. Also **rab′ic.** [< L *rabere* to be mad] — **rab′id·ly** *adv.* — **rab′id·ness** *n.*

ra·bies (rā′bēz, -bi·ēz) *n.* An acute, infectious, usu. fatal disease of certain animals, esp. of dogs, readily transmissible to man by the bite of an affected animal: also called *hydrophobia*. [< L, madness] — **ra′bi·et′ic** (-et′ik) *adj.*

rac·coon (ra·kōōn′) *n.* **1.** A North American nocturnal carnivore, grayish brown with a black cheek patch and a black-and-white-ringed bushy tail. **2.** The fur of this animal. Also spelled *racoon*. [Alter. of Algonquian *arakunem* hand-scratcher]

race[1] (rās) *n.* **1.** One of the major zoological subdivisions of mankind, regarded as having a common origin and exhibiting a relatively constant set of physical traits, such as pigmentation, hair form, and facial and bodily proportions. **2.** Any group of people or any grouping of peoples having, or assumed to have, common characteristics, habits, appearance, etc. **3.** A nation: the German *race*. **4.** A genealogical or family stock; clan: the *race* of MacGregor. **5.** Pedigree; lineage: a noble *race*. **6.** Any class of beings having characteristics uniting them, or differentiating them from others: the *race* of lawyers. **7.** *Biol.* A group of plants or animals, having distinct characteristics that are passed on to offspring. [< MF < Ital. *razza*; origin uncertain]

race[2] (rās) *n.* **1.** A contest to determine the relative speed of the contestants. **2.** Any contest. **3.** Movement or progression, esp. when regular or swift. **4.** Duration of life; course; career. **5.** A swift current of water or its channel. **6.** A sluice or channel by which to conduct water to or from a water wheel or around a dam. **7.** Any groove along which some part of a machine slides or is guided. — *v.* **raced, rac·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To take part in a contest of speed. **2.** To move at great or top speed. **3.** To move at an accelerated or too great speed: said of machinery. — *v.t.* **4.** To contend against in a race. **5.** To cause to race. [< ON *rās*]

race·course (rās′kôrs′, -kōrs′) *n.* A racetrack.

race·horse (rās′hôrs′) *n.* A horse bred and trained for contests of speed.

ra·ceme (rā·sēm′, rə-) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* An inflorescence in which the flowers are arranged singly at intervals on a common axis. **2.** *Chem.* A racemic compound. [< L *racemus* cluster]

ra·ce·mic (rā·sē′mik, -sem′ik, rə-) *adj.* **1.** *Bot.* Of, pertaining to, or contained in racemes. **2.** *Chem.* Indicating any compound that is optically inactive, but separable into two isomers, one dextrorotatory, the other levorotatory. Also **rac·e·moid** (ras′ə·moid).

rac·e·mose (ras′ə·mōs) *adj.* Like a raceme in form or nature. Also **rac′e·mous** (-məs). — **rac′e·mose·ly** *adv.*

rac·er (rā′sər) *n.* **1.** One who races. **2.** Anything designed or used for racing, as a car, yacht, etc. **3.** One of various colubrine snakes, as the blacksnake.

race riot A violent conflict between groups in the same community, based on differences of color or creed.

race suicide The slow reduction in numbers of a people through voluntary failure on the part of individuals to maintain the birth rate at or above the level of the death rate.

race·track (rās′trak′) *n.* A track or course over which a horse race, dog race, etc., is run: also called *racecourse*.

race·way (rās′wā′) *n.* **1.** A channel for conducting water. **2.** A tube for protecting wires, as in a subway. **3.** *U.S.* A racetrack for trotting horses.

Ra·chel (rā′chəl) The wife of Jacob; mother of Joseph and Benjamin. *Gen.* xxix 6. [< Hebrew, lit., ewe]

ra·chi·tis (rə·kī′tis) *n.* *Pathol.* Rickets. [< NL < Gk. < *rachis* spine] — **ra·chit′ic** (-kit′ik) *adj.*

ra·cial (rā′shəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a race, races, or descent. — **ra′cial·ly** *adv.*

ra·cial·ism (rā′shəl·iz′əm) *n.* Racism. — **ra′cial·ist** *n.*

ra·cism (rā′siz·əm) *n.* **1.** An irrational belief in or advocacy of the superiority of a given group, people, or nation, usu. one's own, on the basis of racial differences having no scientific validity. **2.** Social action or government policy based upon such assumed differences. — **ra′cist** *n.*

rack[1] (rak) *n.* **1.** An open grating, framework, or the like, in or on which articles may be placed. **2.** A triangular frame for arranging the balls on a billiard table. **3.** A container or framework in an airplane for carrying bombs. **4.** *Mech.* A bar or the like having teeth that engage with those of a gear-wheel, pinion, or worm gear. **5.** A machine for stretching or making tense; esp., an instrument of torture that stretches the limbs of victims. **6.** Torture or punishment as by the rack; also, intense mental or physical suffering. **7.** A wrenching or straining, as from a storm. — *v.t.* **1.** To place or arrange in or on a rack. **2.** To torture on the rack. **3.** To torment. **4.** To strain, as with the effort of thinking: to *rack* one's brains. **5.** To raise (rents) excessively. — **to rack up** *U.S. Informal* To achieve: to *rack up* a perfect score. [< MDu. < *recken* to stretch] — **rack′er** *n.*

rack[2] (rak) *n.* **1.** Thin, flying, or broken clouds. **2.** Any floating vapor. — *v.i.* To move rapidly; send, as clouds before the wind. Also spelled *wrack*. [< Scand.]

rack[3] (rak) *n.* Destruction; wreck; demolition: now usu. in the phrase **rack and ruin.** — **to rack up** *U.S. Slang* To wreck. [Var. of WRACK³]

rack·et[1] (rak′it) *n.* **1.** A nearly elliptical hoop of bent wood, usu. strung with catgut or nylon, and having a handle, used in striking a tennis ball, etc. **2.** A large wooden sole or shoe to support the weight of a man or horse on swampy ground.

3. A snowshoe. **4.** An organ stop. **5.** *Often pl.* A game resembling court tennis, played in a court with four walls. Often *racquet*. [< MF < Arabic *rāha* palm of the hand]

rack·et[2] (rak′it) *n.* **1.** A clattering, vociferous, or confused noise. **2.** *Informal* A scheme for getting money or other benefits by fraud, intimidation, or other illegitimate means. **3.** *Slang* Any business or occupation. **4.** Social activity or excitement. — *v.i.* **1.** To make a loud, clattering noise. **2.** To indulge in noisy sport or diversion. [Prob. imit.]

rack·et·eer (rak′ə·tir′) *n.* **1.** One engaged in a racket. **2.** Formerly, a bootlegger or rumrunner. — **rack′et·eer′ing** *n.*

rack·et·y (rak′it·ē) *adj.* Making a racket; noisy.

rac·on·teur (rak′on·tûr′, *Fr.* rȧ·kôn·tœr′) *n.* A skilled storyteller.

ra·coon (ra·kōōn′) See RACCOON.

rac·quet (rak′it) See RACKET[1].

rac·y (rā′sē) *adj.* **rac·i·er, rac·i·est** **1.** Having a spirited or pungent interest; spicy; piquant. **2.** Having a characteristic flavor assumed to be indicative of origin, as wine; rich, fresh, or fragrant. **3.** Suggestive; slightly immodest: a *racy* story. [< RACE] — **rac′i·ly** *adv.* — **rac′i·ness** *n.*

ra·dar (rā′där) *n. Telecom.* An electronic device that locates objects by beaming radio-frequency impulses that are reflected back from the object, and determines its distance by a measurement of the time elapsed between transmission and reception of the impulses. [< *ra*(*dio*) *d*(*etection*) *a*(*nd*) *r*(*anging*)]

radar beacon *Telecom.* The part of a radar that transmits radio-frequency waves. Also **ra·con** (rā′kon).

ra·dar·scope (rā′där·skōp) *n. Telecom.* The oscilloscope of a radar set.

rad·dle (rad′l) *v.t.* **·dled, ·dling** To intertwine or weave together. [< OF < MHG *reidel* stout stick]

ra·di·al (rā′dē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, consisting of, or resembling a ray or radius. **2.** Extending from a center like rays. **3.** Of or pertaining to the radius or a radiating part. **4.** *Anat.* Denoting the radius. **5.** Developing uniformly on all sides. — *n.* A radiating part. — **ra′di·al·ly** *adv.*

radial engine A multicylinder internal-combustion engine having its cylinders arranged like the spokes in a wheel.

ra·di·an (rā′dē·ən) *n. Math.* **1.** An arc equal in length to the radius of the circle of which it is a part. **2.** The angle subtended by such an arc, equal to 57° 17′ 44.80625″ +.

ra·di·ance (rā′dē·əns) *n.* The quality or state of being radiant; brightness; effulgence. Also **ra′di·an·cy, ra′di·ant·ness.**

ra·di·ant (rā′dē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Emitting rays of light or heat. **2.** Beaming with light or brightness, kindness, or love: a *radiant* smile. **3.** Resembling rays. **4.** Consisting of or transmitted by radiation: *radiant* heat. — *n.* **1.** A straight line proceeding from and conceived as revolving around a given point. **2.** *Astron.* That point in the heavens from which, during a meteoric shower, the meteors seem to shoot. **3.** The luminous point from which light proceeds or is made to radiate. **4.** That which radiates. [< L *radians, -antis*, ppr. of *radiare* to emit rays] — **ra′di·ant·ly** *adv.*

radiant energy *Physics* The energy associated with and transmitted in the form of waves, esp. those of electromagnetic frequencies, as heat, light, radio waves, X-rays, etc.

ra·di·ate (*v.* rā′dē·āt; *adj. & n.* rā′dē·it) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To emit rays or radiation; be radiant. **2.** To issue forth in rays, as light from the sun. **3.** To spread out from a center, as the spokes of a wheel. — *v.t.* **4.** To send out or emit in rays. **5.** To cause to spread as if from a center; diffuse. **6.** To show as if shining with. — *adj.* Divided or separated into rays; having rays; radiating. — **ra′di·a′tive** *adj.*

ra·di·a·tion (rā′dē·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of radiating, or the state of being radiated. **2.** *Physics* **a** The emission and propagation of radiant energy, esp. by radioactive substances capable of affecting living tissue. **b** The stages of emission, absorption, and transmission involved in this.

radiation sickness *Pathol.* A condition due to absorption of excess radiation and marked by fatigue, vomiting, internal hemorrhage, and progressive tissue breakdown.

ra·di·a·tor (rā′dē·ā′tər) *n.* **1.** That which radiates. **2.** A chamber, coil, or flat hollow vessel, through which is passed steam or hot water for warming a building or apartment. **3.** In engines, a nest of tubes for cooling water flowing through them. **4.** *Physics* Any source of radiant energy, whether in the form of particles or of electromagnetic waves. — **ra′di·a·to′ry** (-ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

rad·i·cal (rad′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, proceeding from, or pertaining to the root or foundation; fundamental. **2.** Thoroughgoing; extreme: *radical* measures. **3.** *Math.* Pertaining to the root or roots of a number. **4.** In etymology, belonging or referring to a root or a root syllable. **5.** *Chem.* Pertaining to a radical. **6.** Of or pertaining to political radicals. — *n.* **1.** One who carries his theories or convictions to their furthest application. **2.** In politics, one who advocates widespread governmental changes and reforms at the earliest opportunity. **3.** The primitive or underived part of a word; a root. **4.** *Math.* **a** A quantity that is the root of another quantity. **b** The radical sign. **5.** *Chem.* A group of atoms that acts as a unit in a compound and may pass unchanged through a series of reactions. [< LL *radicalis* having roots] — **rad′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **rad′i·cal·ness** *n.*

rad·i·cal·ism (rad′i·kəl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The state of being radical. **2.** Advocacy of radical measures.

radical sign *Math.* The symbol √ placed before a quantity to indicate that a designated root is to be taken.

rad·i·cle (rad′i·kəl) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* **a** The embryonic root below the cotyledon of a plant. **b** A small root or rootlet. **2.** *Anat.* A rootlike part, as the initial fiber of a nerve. [< L *radicula*, dim. of *radix, -icis* root]

ra·di·i (rā′dē·ī) Plural of RADIUS.

ra·di·o (rā′dē·ō) *n. pl.* **·os** **1.** The science and technique of communicating by means of radio waves that have been modulated to carry information either in the form of sound or of a code. **2.** A radio program or broadcast. **3.** A receiver, transmitter, or other radio apparatus. **4.** A radio message or radiogram. **5.** The radio business and industry. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, designating, employing, or produced by radiant energy, esp. in the form of electromagnetic waves. — *v.t. & v.i.* **ra·di·oed, ra·di·o·ing** To transmit (a message, etc.) or communicate with (someone) by radio. Also, *Brit.*, *wireless*. [< RADIO(TELEGRAPHY)]

radio- *combining form* **1.** Radial. **2.** Radio; produced or obtained by or related to radio. **3.** Radioactive. **4.** Radiation. [< L *radius* ray]

ra·di·o·ac·tive (rā′dē·ō·ak′tiv) *adj.* Pertaining to, exhibiting, caused by, or characteristic of radioactivity.

radioactive series *Physics* The sequence of disintegration products through which a radioactive element passes before reaching a stable form as an isotope of lead. The three principal series are those of uranium, thorium, and actinium.

ra·di·o·ac·tiv·i·ty (rā′dē·ō·ak·tiv′ə·tē) *n. Physics* The spontaneous nuclear disintegration of certain elements and isotopes, with the emission of nucleons or of electromagnetic radiation; also, a particular form of such disintegration.

radio astronomy The branch of astronomy and astrophysics that studies celestial objects by the analysis of radio waves intercepted by radio telescopes.

radio beacon A stationary radio transmitter that sends out characteristic signals for the guidance of ships and aircraft.

radio beam *Aeron.* A continuous radio signal along an airway to guide aircraft.

ra·di·o·bi·ol·o·gy (rā′dē·ō·bī·ol′ə·jē) *n.* The study of the effects of radiation upon living organisms.

ra·di·o·broad·cast (rā′dē·ō·brôd′kast′, -käst′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·cast** or **·cast·ed, ·cast·ing** To broadcast by radio. — *n.* A broadcast. — **ra′di·o·broad′cast′er** *n.*

ra·di·o·car·bon (rā′dē·ō·kär′bən) *n. Physics* The radioactive isotope of carbon of mass 14 with a half life of about 5570 years, much used in the dating of fossils, artifacts, and certain kinds of geological formations: also called *carbon 14*.

radio compass *Aeron.* A directional radio receiver that indicates the bearing of a radio transmitting station.

ra·di·o·dat·ing (rā′dē·ō·dā′ting) *n.* The technique of dating objects by measuring their radioactivity.

ra·di·o·el·e·ment (rā′dē·ō·el′ə·mənt) *n. Physics* Any isotope or element exhibiting radioactivity.

radio fix The position of an aircraft, ship, or radio transmitter, as determined by use of radio signals.

radio frequency Any wave frequency lying between about 10 kilocycles and 30,000 megacycles.

ra·di·o·gram (rā′dē·ō·gram′) *n.* **1.** A message sent by radio. **2.** A radiograph.

ra·di·o·graph (rā′dē·ō·graf′, -gräf′) *n.* A picture made by means of radioactivity; an X-ray photograph. — *v.t.* To make a radiograph of. — **ra′di·og′ra·pher** (-og′rə·fər) *n.* — **ra′di·o·graph′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **ra′di·og′ra·phy** *n.*

ra·di·o·i·so·tope (rā′dē·ō·ī′sə·tōp) *n. Physics* A radioactive isotope, usu. one produced artificially from a normally stable element, used in biological and physical research and in medicine for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

ra·di·ol·o·gy (rā′dē·ol′ə·jē) *n.* The branch of science that relates to radiant energy and its applications, especially in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. — **ra·di·o·log·i·cal** (rā′dē·ə·loj′i·kəl) or **ra′di·o·log′ic** *adj.* — **ra′di·ol′o·gist** *n.*

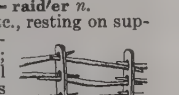
ra·di·om·e·ter (rā′dē·om′ə·tər) *n.* An instrument for detecting and measuring radiant energy by converting it into mechanical energy, as by the rotation of blackened vanes suspended in a vacuum and exposed to sunlight. — **ra′di·o·met′ric** (-ō·met′rik) *adj.* — **ra′di·om′e·try** *n.*

ra·di·o·phone (rā′dē·ō·fōn′) *n.* **1.** Any device for the production or transmission of sound by radiant energy. **2.** A radiotelephone. — **ra′di·o·phon′ic** (-fon′ik) *adj.* — **ra′di·oph′o·ny** (-of′ə·nē) *n.*

ra·di·o·pho·tog·ra·phy (rā′dē·ō·fə·tog′rə·fē) *n.* The transmission of a photograph by radio waves. — **ra′di·o·pho′to·graph** (-fō′tə·graf, -gräf) *n.*

radio pill *Med.* A tiny radio transmitter that can be introduced into the body to transmit physiological data.

ra·di·o·scope (rā′dē·ō·skōp′) *n.* An apparatus for detecting radioactivity or X-rays.
ra·di·os·co·py (rā′dē·os′kə·pē) *n.* Examination of opaque bodies with the aid of X-rays or some other form of radiant energy. — **ra′di·o·scop′ic** (-skop′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*
ra·di·o·sonde (rā′dē·ō·sond′) *n. Meteorol.* An airborne device, usu. attached to a balloon, that radios meteorological data to the ground. [< F < *radio* radio + *sonde* sounding]
radio spectrum The full range of frequencies pertaining to and associated with radiant energy; esp., the radio frequencies.
radio star Any of a large number of stars that may be identified and studied by means of the radio waves they emit.
radio station An installation of all the equipment needed for effective radio broadcasting, esp. when used for commercial or educational purposes and licensed to employ an assigned frequency and power.
ra·di·o·stron·tium (rā′dē·ō·stron′shəm, -tē·əm) *n. Physics* Strontium 90.
ra·di·o·tel·e·gram (rā′dē·ō·tel′ə·gram) *n.* A message sent by radiotelegraphy.
ra·di·o·te·leg·ra·phy (rā′dē·ō·tə·leg′rə·fē) *n.* Telegraphic communication using radio waves. — **ra′di·o·tel′e·graph′ic** (-tel′ə·graf′ik) *adj.* — **ra′di·o·tel′e·graph** (-graf, -gräf) *n.*
ra·di·o·tel·e·phone (rā′dē·ō·tel′ə·fōn) *n.* A telephone that operates by means of radio waves. — **ra′di·o·tel′e·phon′ic** (-tel′ə·fon′ik) *adj.* — **ra′di·o·te·leph′o·ny** (-tə·lef′ə·nē) *n.*
radio telescope *Astron.* A highly sensitive radio receiver, designed to receive radio waves from outer space.
ra·di·o·ther·a·py (rā′dē·ō·ther′ə·pē) *n. Med.* The treatment of disease by X-rays and other forms of radioactivity.
ra·di·o·ther·my (rā′dē·ō·thûr′mē) *n. Med.* Diathermy.
ra·di·o·tho·ri·um (rā′dē·ō·thôr′ē·əm, -thō′rē·əm) *n.* A radioactive isotope of thorium, with a half life of 1.9 years.
radio tube An electron tube.
radio wave Any electromagnetic wave having a radio frequency; a Hertzian wave.
rad·ish (rad′ish) *n.* **1.** The pungent, edible root of a tall, branching herb of the mustard family. **2.** The herb yielding this root. [OE *rædic* < L *radix, radicis* root]
ra·di·um (rā′dē·əm) *n.* A powerfully radioactive metallic element (symbol Ra), obtained principally as a disintegration product of uranium. It has a half life of about 1,600 years, emitting alpha and beta particles and gamma rays in a succession of stages beginning with radon and continuing to radium G, a stable isotope of lead. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L *radius* ray + -IUM]
radium therapy The treatment of diseases, esp. cancer, by means of radium.
ra·di·us (rā′dē·əs) *n. pl.* **·di·i** (-dē·ī) **1.** A straight line from the center of a circle or sphere to the circumference or surface. **2.** *Anat.* The thicker and shorter bone of the forearm, on the same side as the thumb. **3.** *Zool.* A similar bone in the forelimb of other vertebrates. **4.** *Bot.* A ray floret of a composite flower. **5.** A ray or radiating part. **6.** A circular area or boundary measured by the length of its radius. **7.** Sphere, scope, or limit, as of activity. **8.** A fixed limit of travel or operation under specified conditions: the cruising *radius* of a ship. [< L, orig. rod, hence spoke of a wheel]
radius vector *pl.* **radius vectors** or **ra·di·i vec·to·res** (rā′dē·ī vek·tôr′ēz, -tō′rēz) *Math.* The straight-line distance from a fixed origin to any point of a curve.
ra·dix (rā′diks) *n. pl.* **rad·i·ces** (rad′ə·sēz, rā′də-) or **ra·dix·es** **1.** *Math.* A number or symbol used as the basis of a scale of enumeration. **2.** *Bot.* The root of a plant. [< L, root]
ra·dome (rā′dōm) *n.* A protective housing for the antenna of a radar assembly. [< RA(DAR) + DOME]
ra·don (rā′don) *n.* A heavy, gaseous, radioactive element (symbol Rn), an emanation of radium with a half life of about 14 days: formerly called *niton*. See ELEMENT.
raff (raf) *n.* The rabble; riffraff. [< dial. *raff* to rake < OF *rafler* < *rafle*]
raf·fi·a (raf′ē·ə) *n.* **1.** A cultivated palm of Madagascar, the leafstalks of which furnish fiber for making hats, mats, baskets, etc. **2.** Its fiber. [< Malagasy]
raff·ish (raf′ish) *adj.* **1.** Tawdry; gaudy; flashy. **2.** Disreputable.
raf·fle (raf′əl) *n.* A form of lottery in which one buys a chance on an object. — *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.t.* **1.** To dispose of by a raffle: often with *off*. — *v.i.* **2.** To take part in a raffle. [< OF *rafle* a game of dice < Du. *rafelen*] — **raf′fler** *n.*
raft[1] (raft, räft) *n.* **1.** A float of logs, planks, etc., fastened together for transportation by water. **2.** A life raft. — *v.t.* **1.** To transport on a raft. **2.** To form into a raft. — *v.i.* **3.** To travel by, be employed on, or manage a raft. [< ON *raptr* rafter]
raft[2] (raft, räft) *n. Informal* A large number or indiscriminate collection of any kind. [< RAFT]
raft·er (raf′tər, räf′-) *n.* A beam giving form, slope, and support to a roof. For illus. see ROOF. [OE *ræfter*]
rafts·man (rafts′mən, räfts′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who manages or works on a raft.
rag[1] (rag) *v.t.* **ragged, rag·ging** *Slang* **1.** To tease or annoy. **2.** To scold. — *n. Brit.* A ragging. [Origin uncertain]
rag[2] (rag) *n.* **1.** A torn or discarded piece of cloth. **2.** A small cloth used for washing, cleaning, etc. **3.** A fragment of anything. **4.** *pl.* Cotton or linen textile remnants used in the making of rag paper. **5.** *pl.* Tattered or shabby clothing. **6.** Any clothing: a jocular usage. **7.** Anything resembling a rag in appearance or worth: used humorously or in disparagement. — **glad rags** *Slang* One's best clothes. — **to chew the rag** *Slang* To talk or argue at great length. [OE < ON *rögg* tuft]
rag[3] (rag) *v.t.* **ragged, rag·ging** To compose or play in ragtime. — *n.* Ragtime.
rag·a·muf·fin (rag′ə·muf′in) *n.* Anyone, esp. a child, wearing very ragged clothes. [after *Ragamoffyn*, demon in William Langland's *Piers Plowman*, 1393]
rage (rāj) *n.* **1.** Violent anger; wrath; fury. **2.** Any great violence or intensity, as of a fever or a storm. **3.** Extreme eagerness or emotion; great enthusiasm. **4.** Something popular or in demand; a fad. — *v.i.* **raged, rag·ing** **1.** To speak, act, or move with unrestrained anger. **2.** To act or proceed with great violence. **3.** To spread or prevail uncontrolled, as an epidemic. [< OF < LL < L *rabere* to rage] — **rag′ing·ly** *adv.*
rag·ged (rag′id) *adj.* **1.** Rent or worn into rags; frayed. **2.** Wearing worn, frayed, or shabby garments. **3.** Of rough or uneven character or aspect. **4.** Naturally of a rough or shaggy appearance. — **rag′ged·ly** *adv.* — **rag′ged·ness** *n.*
ragged edge *Informal* The extreme or precarious edge; the verge; the *ragged edge* of starvation. — **on the ragged edge** Dangerously near to losing one's self-control, sanity, etc.
rag·lan (rag′lən) *n.* An overcoat or topcoat, the sleeves of which extend in one piece up to the collar. — *adj.* Denoting a garment with such sleeves. [after Lord *Raglan*, 1788–1855, English field marshal]
rag·man (rag′man′, -mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-men′, -mən) One who buys and sells old rags and other waste; a ragpicker.
ra·gout (ra·gōō′) *n.* A highly seasoned dish of stewed meat and vegetables. — *v.t.* **ra·gouted** (-gōōd′), **ra·gout·ing** (-gōō′ing) To make into a ragout. [< F]
rag·pick·er (rag′pik′ər) *n.* One who picks up rags and other junk for a livelihood.
rag·time (rag′tīm′) *n.* **1.** A kind of American dance music, developed from about 1890 to 1920, characterized by highly syncopated rhythm in fast time. **2.** The rhythm of this music. Also called *rag*. [< *ragged time*]
rag·weed (rag′wēd′) *n.* A coarse, very common annual or perennial herb, the pollen of which induces hay fever.
rag·wort (rag′wûrt′) *n.* Any of several herbs of the composite family, with bright yellow flowers.
rah (rä) *interj.* Hurrah: a cheer used chiefly in college yells.
raid (rād) *n.* **1.** A hostile or predatory incursion by a rapidly moving body of troops or an armed vessel; a foray. **2.** An air raid. **3.** Any sudden invasion, capture, or seizure. **4.** An attempt by speculators to lower stock prices. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a raid on. — *v.i.* **2.** To participate in a raid. [< Scottish form of OE *rād* a riding] — **raid′er** *n.*
rail[1] (rāl) *n.* **1.** A bar of wood, metal, etc., resting on supports, as in a fence, at the side of a stairway, or capping the bulwarks of a ship; a railing. **2.** One of a series of parallel bars of iron or steel, resting upon crossties and forming a support and guide for wheels, as of a railroad. **3.** A railroad considered as a means of transportation: to ship by *rail*. — *v.t.* To furnish or shut in with rails; fence. [< OF < L *regula* wooden ruler]


RAIL FENCE

rail[2] (rāl) *n.* Any of numerous marsh birds having very short wings, moderately long legs and toes, and a short turned-up tail. [< OF *raale*]
rail[3] (rāl) *v.i.* **1.** To use scornful, insolent, or abusive language; scold: with *at* or *against*. — *v.t.* **2.** To drive or force by railing. [< MF < Provençal *ralhar* to jest at] — **rail′er** *n.*
rail·ing (rā′ling) *n.* **1.** A series of rails; a balustrade. **2.** Rails, or material from which rails are made.
rail·ler·y (rā′lər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ler·ies** Merry jesting or teasing; banter. [< F *raillerie* jesting]
rail·road (rāl′rōd′) *n.* **1.** A graded road having metal rails

RADIOSONDE
a Instrument box.

supported by ties or sleepers, for the passage of trains or rolling stock drawn by locomotives. **2.** The system of tracks, stations, etc., used in transportation by rail. **3.** The corporation or persons owning or operating such a system. — *v.t.* **1.** To transport by railroad. **2.** *U.S. Informal* To rush or force with great speed or without deliberation: to *railroad* a bill through Congress. **3.** *U.S. Slang* To cause to be imprisoned on false charges or without fair trial. — *v.i.* **4.** To work on a railroad. — **rail′road′er** *n.* — **rail′road′ing** *n.*

rail-split·ter (rāl′split′ər) *n.* One who splits logs into fence rails.

rail·way (rāl′wā′) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* A railroad. **2.** Rails similar to those of a railroad, as for streetcars. **3.** A track or set of rails, as in a factory, for handling heavy articles, etc.

rai·ment (rā′mənt) *n. Archaic* Wearing apparel; clothing; garb. [Aphetic var. of *arrayment* < ARRAY + -MENT]

rain (rān) *n.* **1.** The condensed water vapor of the atmosphere falling in drops. ◆ Collateral adjective: *pluvial*. **2.** The fall of such drops. **3.** A fall or shower of anything in the manner of rain. **4.** A rainstorm; shower. **5.** *pl.* The rainy season, as in a tropical country. — *v.i.* **1.** To fall from the clouds in drops of water: usu. with *it* as the subject. **2.** To fall like rain, as tears. **3.** To send or pour down rain, as clouds. — *v.t.* **4.** To send down like rain; shower. — **to rain out** To cause (a game, outdoor event, etc.) to be canceled or postponed because of rain. [OE *regn*]

rain·bow (rān′bō′) *n.* **1.** An arch of prismatic colors formed in the sky opposite the sun and caused by refraction, reflection, and dispersion of light in raindrops falling through the air. **2.** Any similar display of color. [OE *regnboga*]

rain check *U.S.* **1.** The stub of a ticket to an outdoor event, as a baseball game, entitling the holder to admission at a future date if for any reason the event is called off. **2.** A postponed invitation.

rain·coat (rān′kōt′) *n.* A coat, often waterproof, intended to be worn in rainy weather. Also, *Brit., waterproof*.

rain·fall (rān′fôl′) *n.* **1.** A fall of rain. **2.** *Meteorol.* The amount of water, measured in inches, precipitated in a given region over a stated time, as rain, hail, snow, or the like.

rain gauge An instrument for measuring the amount of rainfall at a given place or time. Also **rain gage**.

rain·mak·er (rān′mā′kər) *n.* One reputedly able to cause rain; esp., among certain American Indians, one who uses incantations to produce rain. — **rain′mak′ing** *n.*

rain·out (rān′out′) *n. Physics* Precipitation of radioactive water droplets following an underwater nuclear explosion.

rain·proof (rān′prōōf′) *adj.* Shedding rain, as garments.

rain·storm (rān′stôrm′) *n.* A storm accompanied by rain.

rain·wa·ter (rān′wô′tər, -wot′-) *n.* Water that falls or has fallen in the form of rain. Also **rain water**.

rain·y (rā′nē) *adj.* **rain·i·er, rain·i·est** Characterized by, abounding in, or bringing rain. — **rain′i·ness** *n.*

rainy day A time of need; hard times.

raise (rāz) *v.* **raised, rais·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move upward or to a higher level; elevate. **2.** To place erect; set up. **3.** To construct or build. **4.** To make greater in amount, size, or value: to *raise* prices. **5.** To advance or elevate in rank, estimation, etc. **6.** To increase the strength, intensity, or degree of. **7.** To breed; grow: to *raise* tomatoes. **8.** *U.S.* To rear (children, a family, etc.). **9.** To cause to be heard: to *raise* a hue and cry. **10.** To cause; occasion, as a smile or laugh. **11.** To stir to action or emotion. **12.** To waken; animate or reanimate. **13.** To gather together; obtain or collect, as an army, capital, etc. **14.** To bring up for consideration, as a question. **15.** To cause to swell or become lighter; leaven. **16.** To put an end to, as a siege. **17.** In poker, to bet more than. **18.** *Naut.* To cause to appear above the horizon, as land or a ship, by approaching nearer. — *v.i.* **19.** *Informal* To cough up phlegm. **20.** In poker, to make a raise. — **to raise the devil** (or **the dickens, hell, the roof, a rumpus,** etc.) *Informal* To make a great disturbance; stir up confusion. — *n.* **1.** The act of raising. **2.** An increase, as of wages or a bet. ◆ In British usage, a *rise* is an increase in wages. [< ON *risa* to rise] — **rais′er** *n.*

raised (rāzd) *adj.* **1.** Elevated in low relief. **2.** Made with yeast or leaven.

rai·sin (rā′zən) *n.* A grape of a special sort dried in the sun or in an oven. [< OF < L *racemus* bunch of grapes]

rai·son d'ê·tre (re·zôn′ de′tr′) *French* Reason or excuse for existing; literally, reason for being.

raj (räj) *n.* In India, sovereignty; rule. [< Hind. *rāj*]

ra·jah (rä′jə) *n.* A Hindu prince or chief of a tribal state in India; also, a Malay or Javanese ruler: often used as a courtesy title. Also **ra′ja**. [< Hind. < Skt. *rājan* king]

Raj·put (räj′pōōt) *n.* One of a powerful and warlike Hindu caste. Also **Raj′poot**. [< Hind. < Skt. < *rājan* king + *putra* son]

rake[1] (rāk) *n.* A toothed implement for drawing together loose material, loosening the surface of the soil, etc. — *v.* **raked, rak·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To scrape or gather together with or as with a rake. **2.** To smooth, clean, or prepare with a rake. **3.** To gather by diligent effort; scrape together. **4.** To search or examine carefully. **5.** To direct heavy gunfire along the length of, as a ship or column of troops; enfilade. — *v.i.* **6.** To use a rake. **7.** To scrape or pass roughly or violently: with *across, over*, etc. **8.** To make a search. — **to rake in** *Informal* To earn or acquire (money, etc.) in large quantities. [OE *raca*] — **rak′er** *n.*

rake[2] (rāk) *v.* **raked, rak·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To lean from the perpendicular, as a ship's masts. — *v.t.* **2.** To cause to lean; incline. — *n.* Inclination from the perpendicular or horizontal, as of the edge of a cutting tool. [Origin uncertain]

rake[3] (rāk) *n.* A dissolute, lewd man; a roué. [Earlier *rakehell* < ME *rakel* rash, wild]

rake-off (rāk′ôf′, -of′) *n. U.S. Slang* **1.** A share, as of profits; commission. **2.** A rebate, usu. illegitimate.

rak·ish[1] (rā′kish) *adj.* **1.** Dashing; jaunty; smart. **2.** *Naut.* Having the masts unusually inclined, so as to suggest speed. [< RAKE[2]] — **rak′ish·ly** *adv.* — **rak′ish·ness** *n.*

rak·ish[2] (rā′kish) *adj.* Characteristic of a rake; dissolute; profligate. — **rak′ish·ly** *adv.* — **rak′ish·ness** *n.*

râle (räl) *n. Pathol.* A sound additional to that of normal respiration, heard on auscultation of the chest and indicative of the presence, nature, or stage of a disease. [< F, rattle]

ral·len·tan·do (ral′ən·tan′dō, *Ital.* räl′len·tän′dō) *Music* *adj. & adv.* Gradually slower. [< Ital.]

ral·ly[1] (ral′ē) *n. pl.* **·lies** **1.** A meeting or assembly of persons for a common purpose. **2.** A rapid recovery of a normal condition as after exhaustion, depression, etc. **3.** A return, as of scattered troops, to order or action. **4.** In tennis, the interchange of several strokes before one side wins the point. **5.** A driving competition or procession over a fixed, often extensive course, as for sports cars, antique automobiles, etc. — *v.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To bring together and restore to effective discipline: to *rally* fleeing troops. **2.** To summon up or revive: to *rally* one's spirits. **3.** To bring together for common action. — *v.i.* **4.** To return to effective discipline or action: The enemy *rallied*. **5.** To unite for common action. **6.** To make a partial or complete return to a normal condition; improve. **7.** In tennis, to engage in a rally. [< F < *re-* again + *allier* to join] — **ral′li·er** *n.*

ral·ly[2] (ral′ē) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** To mock or tease with raillery; banter. [< F *railler* to banter] — **ral′li·er** *n.*

ram (ram) *n.* **1.** A male sheep. **2.** A device for driving, forcing, or crushing by heavy blows or thrusts. **3.** A hydraulic ram. — *v.t.* **rammed, ram·ming** **1.** To strike with or as with a ram; dash against. **2.** To drive or force down or into something. **3.** To cram; stuff. [OE *ramm*] — **ram′mer** *n.* — **ram′mish** *adj.*

ram·ble (ram′bəl) *v.i.* **·bled, ·bling** **1.** To walk about freely and aimlessly; roam. **2.** To write or talk aimlessly or without sequence of ideas. **3.** To proceed with turns and twists; meander. — **Syn.** See WANDER. — *n.* **1.** The act of rambling; an aimless or leisurely stroll. **2.** A meandering path; maze. [? ME *romblen*, freq. of *romen* to roam]

ram·bler (ram′blər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rambles. **2.** Any of several varieties of climbing roses, with clusters of deep red flowers.

ram·bunc·tious (ram·bungk′shəs) *adj. U.S. Informal* Boisterous; rough. [Prob. var. of *robustious* < ROBUST]

ram·e·kin (ram′ə·kin) *n.* **1.** A seasoned dish of bread crumbs with eggs and cheese, baked and served in a shallow dish. **2.** A dish, usu. with a handle, in which ramekins are baked. **3.** Any dish used both for baking and serving. Also **ram′e·quin**. [< F *ramequin* < Du.]

ram·ie (ram′ē) *n.* The fiber yielded by a shrubby Chinese and East Indian perennial of the nettle family, used for cordage and certain textiles. Also **ram′ee**. [< Malay *rami*]

ram·i·fi·ca·tion (ram′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of ramifying. **2.** An offshoot or subdivision. **3.** A result, consequence, etc., stemming from a main source.

ram·i·form (ram′ə·fôrm) *adj.* **1.** Branch-shaped. **2.** Branched. [< L *ramus* branch + -FORM]

ram·i·fy (ram′ə·fī) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To divide or spread out into or as into branches; branch out. [< F < Med.L < L *ramus* branch + *facere* to make]

ram jet (ram′jet′) *n.* A type of jet engine that provides continuous jet propulsion.

ra·mose (rā′mōs, rə·mōs′) *adj.* **1.** Branching. **2.** Consisting of or having branches. [< L < *ramus* branch]

ra·mous (rā′məs) *adj.* **1.** Of or like branches. **2.** Ramose. [See RAMOSE]

ramp[1] (ramp) *n.* **1.** An inclined passageway or roadway, as between floors of a building. **2.** A movable stairway by which passengers enter or leave an airplane. [< F < OF *ramper* to climb]

ramp[2] (ramp) *v.i.* **1.** To rear up on the hind legs and stretch out the forelegs, as a horse. **2.** To act in a violent or threatening manner; rampage. — *n.* The act of ramping. [< OF *ramper* to climb]

ram·page (*n.* ram′pāj; *v.* ram·pāj′) *n.* Boisterous agitation or excitement. — *v.i.* **·paged, ·pag·ing** **1.** To rush or act vi-

olently. **2.** To storm; rage. [Orig. Scot., ? < RAMP²] — **ram·pag′er** *n.* — **ram·pa′geous** *adj.*

ram·pant (ram′pənt) *adj.* **1.** Exceeding all bounds; wild. **2.** Widespread or unchecked, as an erroneous belief. **3.** Standing on the hind legs; rearing: said of a quadruped. **4.** *Heraldry* Standing on the hind legs, with both forelegs elevated. [< OF, ppr. of *ramper*. See RAMP².] — **ram′pan·cy** *n.* — **ram′pant·ly** *adv.*

ram·part (ram′pärt, -pərt) *n.* **1.** The embankment surrounding a fort, on which the parapet is raised. **2.** A bulwark or defense. — *v.t.* To supply with or as with ramparts; fortify. [< F *remparer* to fortify]

ram·rod (ram′rod′) *n.* **1.** A rod used to drive home the charge of a muzzleloading gun or pistol. **2.** A similar rod used for cleaning the barrel of a rifle, etc.

ram·shack·le (ram′shak′əl) *adj.* Likely to go to pieces, as from age or neglect. [< *ransackle*, freq. of RANSACK]

ran (ran) Past tense of RUN.

ranch (ranch) *n.* **1.** An establishment for raising or grazing cattle, sheep, horses, etc., in large herds. **2.** The buildings, personnel, and lands connected with it. **3.** A large farm. — *v.i.* To manage or work on a ranch. [< Sp. *rancho* soldiers' mess] — **ranch′er, ranch′man** *n.*

ranch house **1.** The main building of a ranch **2.** *U.S.* A one-story house usu. having a low roof with a wide overhang.

ran·cid (ran′sid) *adj.* Having the unpleasant taste or smell of oily substances that have begun to spoil; rank; sour. [< L < *rancere* to be rank] — **ran·cid′i·ty, ran′cid·ness** *n.*

ran·cor (rang′kər) *n.* Bitter enmity; spitefulness. Also *Brit.* **ran′cour.** [< OF < LL < L *rancere* to be rank] — **ran′cor·ous** *adj.* — **ran′cor·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ran′cor·ous·ness** *n.*

rand (rand, ränd) *n.* The monetary unit of South Africa.

ran·dom (ran′dəm) *n.* Lack of definite aim or intention: now chiefly in the phrase **at random**, without definite purpose or aim; haphazardly. — *adj.* Done at random. [< OF *random* rapidity, impetuosity] — **ran′dom·ly** *adv.*

rang (rang) Past tense of RING².

range (rānj) *n.* **1.** The area over which anything moves, operates, or is distributed. **2.** *U.S.* An extensive tract of land over which cattle, sheep, etc., roam and graze. **3.** Extent or scope: the whole *range* of politics. **4.** The extent to which any power can be made effective: *range* of influence. **5.** The extent of variation of anything: the temperature *range*. **6.** A line, row, or series, as of mountains. **7.** The maximum distance that an aircraft, ship, vehicle, etc., can travel before its fuel is exhausted; also, the maximum distance at which a weapon, transmitter, etc., is effective. **8.** A place for shooting at a mark: a rifle *range*. **9.** A large cooking stove. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to a range. — *v.* **ranged, rang·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To arrange in definite order, as in rows. **2.** To assign to a class, division, or category. **3.** To move about or over (a region, etc.). **4.** To put (cattle) to graze on a range. **5.** To adjust or train, as a telescope or gun. — *v.i.* **6.** To move over an area in a thorough, systematic manner. **7.** To rove; roam. **8.** To extend or proceed: The shot *ranged* to the right. **9.** To exhibit variation within specified limits. **10.** To lie in the same direction, line, etc. [< OF < *ranc* row]

range finder An instrument for determining the distance of an object from a given point.

rang·er (rān′jər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which ranges; a rover. **2.** One of an armed band designed to protect large tracts of country. **3.** One of a herd of cattle that feeds on a range. **4.** *U.S.* A warden employed in patrolling forest tracts. — **rang′er·ship** *n.*

Rang·er (rān′jər) *n.* One of a select group of U.S. soldiers trained for raiding action on enemy territory.

rang·y (rān′jē) *adj.* **rang·i·er, rang·i·est** **1.** Disposed to roam, or adapted for roving, as cattle. **2.** Having long, slender limbs, as a person. **3.** Affording wide range; roomy. **4.** Resembling a mountain range.

ra·ni (rä′nē) *n.* **1.** The wife of a raja or prince. **2.** A reigning Hindu queen or princess. Also spelled **ra′nee.** [< Hind. < Skt. *rājnī*, fem. of *rajan* king]

rank¹ (rangk) *n.* **1.** A series of objects ranged in a line or row; a range. **2.** Degree of official standing, esp. in the armed forces. See table for GRADE. **3.** A line of soldiers drawn up side by side in close order. **4.** *pl.* An army; also, the mass of soldiery. **5.** Relative position or status; degree; grade. **6.** High degree or position: a lady of *rank*. — **Syn.** See CLASS. — *v.t.* **1.** To arrange in a rank or ranks. **2.** To place in a class, order, etc. **3.** To outrank: Sergeants *rank* corporals. — *v.i.* **4.** To hold a specified place or rank. **5.** To have the highest rank or grade. [< OF *ranc*]

rank² (rangk) *adj.* **1.** Very vigorous and flourishing in growth, as vegetation. **2.** Strong and disagreeable to the taste or smell. **3.** Utter; complete: *rank* injustice. **4.** Producing a luxuriant growth; fertile. [OE *ranc* strong] — **rank′ly** *adv.* — **rank′ness** *n.*

rank and file **1.** The common soldiers of an army, including all from the corporals downward. **2.** Those who form the bulk of any organization, as distinct from officers or leaders.

rank·ing (rangk′ing) *adj.* Superior in rank; taking precedence over others in the same category: a *ranking* senator.

ran·kle (rang′kəl) *v.* **·kled, ·kling** *v.i.* **1.** To cause continued resentment: The defeat *rankles* in his breast. **2.** To become irritated or inflamed; fester. — *v.t.* **3.** To irritate; embitter. [< OF *rancler* to fester]

ran·sack (ran′sak) *v.t.* **1.** To search through every part of. **2.** To search throughout for plunder; pillage. [< ON *rannsaka* to search a house] — **ran′sack·er** *n.*

ran·som (ran′səm) *v.t.* **1.** To secure the release of (a person, property, etc.) for a required price, as from captivity or detention. **2.** To set free on payment of ransom. — *n.* **1.** The payment for the release of a person or property detained. **2.** Release purchased. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *emere* to buy] — **ran′som·er** *n.*

rant (rant) *v.i.* **1.** To speak in loud, violent, or extravagant language; rave. — *v.t.* **2.** To utter in a ranting manner. — *n.* Bombastic talk. [< MDu. *ranten* rave] — **rant′er** *n.*

rap¹ (rap) *v.* **rapped, rap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To strike sharply and quickly; hit. **2.** To utter in a sharp manner: with *out*. **3.** *Slang* To criticize severely. — *v.i.* **4.** To strike sharp, quick blows. **5.** *Slang* To have a frank discussion; talk. — *n.* **1.** A sharp blow. **2.** A sound caused by or as by knocking. **3.** *Slang* A charge of wrongdoing; blame. **4.** *Slang* A talk; discussion. [ME, prob. imit.] — **rap′per** *n.*

rap² (rap) *n.* The least bit: I don't care a *rap*. [< RAPT]

ra·pa·cious (rə·pā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Given to plunder or rapine. **2.** Grasping; greedy. **3.** Subsisting on prey seized alive, as hawks, etc. [< L *rapere* to seize] — **ra·pa′cious·ly** *adv.* — **ra·pa′cious·ness** *n.* — **ra·pac′i·ty** (-pas′ə·tē) *n.*

rape¹ (rāp) *v.* **raped, rap·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To commit rape upon; ravish. **2.** *Archaic* To carry off by force. — *n.* **1.** The forcible and unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman against her will. **2.** *Archaic* A capturing or snatching away by force. [< AF < L *rapere* to seize] — **rap′ist** *n.*

rape² (rāp) *n.* A plant related to the cabbage, grown as a forage crop for sheep and hogs, and having seeds that yield rape oil. [< L *rapum* turnip]

rape oil An oil obtained from rapeseed, and used as a lubricant, etc.: also called *colza oil*.

rape·seed (rāp′sēd′) *n.* The seed of the rape.

Raph·a·el (raf′ē·əl, rā′fē-) One of the archangels.

rap·id (rap′id) *adj.* **1.** Having or moving with great speed; swift. **2.** Characterized by rapidity: a *rapid* style. **3.** Done or completed in a short time: *rapid* growth. — **Syn.** See SWIFT¹. — *n. Usu. pl.* A swift-running descent in a river. [< L *rapere* to seize, rush] — **ra·pid′i·ty** (rə·pid′ə·tē) *n.* — **rap′id·ly** *adv.* — **rap′id·ness** *n.*

rapid eye movement Rapid movement of the closed eyes during sleep, associated with dreaming and a characteristic pattern of electrical activity of the brain. Also *REM*.

rap·id-fire (rap′id·fīr′) *adj.* **1.** Firing or designed for firing shots in rapid succession. **2.** Characterized by speed.

ra·pi·er (rā′pē·ər, rāp′yər) *n.* **1.** A long, straight, two-edged sword with a large cup hilt, used for dueling, chiefly for thrusting. **2.** A shorter straight sword without cutting edge and therefore used for thrusting only. [< MF *rapière*]

rap·ine (rap′in) *n.* The taking of property by force, as in war; spoliation; pillage. [< OF < L *rapere* to seize]

rap·port (rə·pôr′, -pōr′) *n.* Harmony or sympathy of relation; agreement; accord. — **en rapport** (äṅ rà·pôr′) *French* In close accord. [< F *rapporter* to bring back]

rap·proche·ment (rà·prōsh·mäṅ′) *n. French* A state of harmony or reconciliation; restoration of cordial relations.

rap·scal·lion (rap·skal′yən) *n.* A rogue; scamp; rascal. [< earlier *rascallion*, extension of RASCAL]

rapt (rapt) *adj.* **1.** Carried away with lofty emotion; enraptured; transported. **2.** Engrossed; intent; deeply engaged. [< L < *rapere* to seize]

rap·to·ri·al (rap·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Seizing and devouring living prey; predatory. **2.** Having talons adapted for seizing prey: said esp. of hawks, vultures, eagles, and other carnivorous birds. [< L < *rapere* to seize]

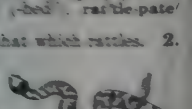
rap·ture (rap′chər) *n.* **1.** The state of being rapt or transported; ecstatic joy; ecstasy. **2.** *Often pl.* An act or expression of excessive delight. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** *Poetic* To enrapture. [< RAPT] — **rap′tur·ous** *adj.* — **rap′tur·ous·ly** *adv.* — **rap′tur·ous·ness** *n.*

rare¹ (rār) *adj.* **rar·er, rar·est** **1.** Infrequent in occurrence, distribution, etc. **2.** Highly esteemed because of infrequency or uncommonness. **3.** Rarefied: now said chiefly of the atmosphere, etc. [< L *rarus* rare] — **rare′ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** scarce, unusual, exceptional. See OBSOLETE.

rare² (rār) *adj.* Not thoroughly cooked, as roasted or broiled meat retaining its redness and juices. [OE *hrēre*]

rare·bit (rãr'bit) *n.* Welsh rabbit.
rare earth *Chem.* Any of the metallic oxides of the lanthanide series of elements.
rare-earth element (rãr'ûrth') *Chem.* Any of a group of metallic elements constituting the lanthanide series. Also **rare-earth metals.**
rar·e·fy (rãr'ə-fī) *v.t.* **-fied, -fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make rare, thin, less solid, or less dense. **2.** To refine or purify. — *v.i.* **3.** To become rare, thin, or less solid. **4.** To become pure. [< F < L < *rarus* rare + *facere* to make] — **rar'e·fac'tion** (-fak'shən) *n.* — **rar'e·fac'tive** *adj.* — **rar'e·fi'a·ble** *adj.*
rare·ly (rãr'lē) *adv.* **1.** Not often; infrequently. **2.** With unusual excellence or effect; finely. **3.** Exceptionally.
rar·ing (rãr'ing) *adj. U.S. Informal* Extremely eager or enthusiastic. [< Pres. part. of *rare*, dial. of REAR²]
rar·i·ty (rãr'ə-tē) *n.* *pl.* **-ties** **1.** That which is exceptionally valued because of scarceness. **2.** The state of being rare.
ras·cal (ras'kəl) *n.* An unprincipled fellow; rogue; knave; sometimes used playfully. — *adj.* Obs. Base; mean. [< OF, ult. < L *radere* to scratch] — **ras·cal'i·ty** (-kal'ə-tē) *n.* — **ras'cal·ly** *adj. & adv.*
rase (rāz) *v.t.* **rased, ras·ing** To raze.
rash¹ (rash) *adj.* **1.** Acting without due caution or regard of consequences; reckless. **2.** Exhibiting recklessness or precipitancy. [Prob. < MLG < OHG *rasc* lively] — **rash'ly** *adv.* — **rash'ness** *n.*
rash² (rash) *n.* A superficial eruption of the skin, often localized. [< OF, ult. < L *radere* to scratch]
rash·er (rash'ər) *n.* A thin slice of meat, esp. bacon.
rasp (rasp, räsp) *n.* **1.** A file having coarse pyramidal projections for abrasion. **2.** The act or sound of rasping. — *v.t.* **1.** To scrape or rub with or as with a rasp. **2.** To affect unpleasantly; irritate. **3.** To utter in a rough voice. — *v.i.* **4.** To grate; scrape. **5.** To make a rough, harsh sound. [< OF *rasper* to scrape] — **rasp'er** *n.* — **ras'py** *adj.*
rasp·ber·ry (raz'ber'ē, -bər·ē, räz'-) *n.* *pl.* **-ries** **1.** The round fruit of certain brambles of the rose family, composed of drupes clustered around a fleshy receptable. **2.** Any plant yielding this fruit. **3.** *Slang* A Bronx cheer: also spelled *razzberry.* [< earlier *raspis* (*berry*)]
rat (rat) *n.* **1.** A destructive and injurious rodent of worldwide distribution, larger and more aggressive than the mouse. **2.** *Slang* A cowardly or selfish person who deserts or betrays his associates. **3.** A pad over which a woman's hair is combed to give a coiffure body. — **to smell a rat** To suspect that something is wrong. — *v.i.* **rat·ted, rat·ting** **1.** To hunt rats. **2.** *Slang* To desert one's party, etc. **3.** *Slang* To inform; betray: with *on.* [OE *ræt*]
rat·a·ble (rā'tə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** *Brit.* Legally liable to taxation. **2.** Estimated proportionally; pro rata: a *ratable* distribution. **3.** That may be rated or valued. Also **rate'a·ble.** — **rat'a·bil'i·ty, rat'a·ble·ness** *n.* — **rat'a·bly** *adv.*
ra·tan (ra·tan') See RATTAN.
ratch·et (rach'it) *n.* **1.** A mechanism consisting of a notched wheel, the teeth of which engage with a pawl, permitting motion of the wheel in one direction only. **2.** The pawl or the wheel thus used. Also **ratchet wheel.** [< F *rochet* bobbin]
rate¹ (rāt) *n.* **1.** The measure of a variable in relation to some fixed unit: a *rate* of 5 miles per hour. **2.** Degree of value; price; also, the unit cost of a commodity or service. **3.** Comparative rank or class. **4.** *Brit.* A local tax on property. **5.** Proportion, as of an incidence, to some fixed number of cases: the death *rate* per 100,000 adults. **6.** A fixed allowance, amount, or ratio. — **at any rate** In any case; anyhow. — *v.t.* **rat·ed, rat·ing** *n.t.* **1.** To estimate the value or worth of; appraise. **2.** To place in a certain rank or grade. **3.** To consider; regard. **4.** To fix the rate for the transportation of (goods), as by rail. **5.** *Informal* To deserve. — *v.i.* **6.** To have rank, rating, or value. **7.** *Informal* To stand in comparison with others. [< OF < L < *reri* to calculate] — **rat'er** *n.*
rate² (rāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **rat·ed, rat·ing** To reprove with vehemence; rail at.
rath·er (rath'ər, rä'thər) *adv.* **1.** More willingly. **2.** With more reason, justice, wisdom, etc. **3.** More precisely, strictly, or accurately. **4.** Somewhat: in a greater or less degree: *rather* cold. **5.** On the contrary. **6.** *Brit.* Yes indeed! ◆ Both *had rather* and *would rather* are acceptable forms. [OE *hrathor*, compar. of *hrathe* soon, quickly]
raths·kel·ler (rath'skel'ər, rats'kel'ər) *n.* A beer hall or similar restaurant, usu. located in a cellar. [< G *rat* council, town hall + *keller* cellar]
rat·i·fy (rat'ə·fī) *v.t.* **-fied, -fy·ing** To give sanction to, esp. official sanction; confirm. [< OF < Med.L < L *ratus* fixed, calculated + *facere* to make] — **rat'i·fi·ca'tion** (-fə·kā'shən) *n.* — **rat'i·fi'er** *n.*
— **Syn.** The U.S. Senate *ratifies* a proposed treaty; Congress *confirms* Presidential appointments; notarization *validates* a bill of sale. These words are chiefly used of governmental process.
rat·i·né (rat·ə·nā') *n.* A heavy, loosely woven fabric with a nubby surface. [< F < *ratiner* to make nubby]
rat·ing (rā'ting) *n.* **1.** Classification according to a standard; grade; rank; status. **2.** An evaluation of the financial standing of a business firm or an individual. **3.** Any specialist grade held by an enlisted man or officer: the rating of pilot in the Air Force.
ra·tio (rā'shō, -shē·ō) *n.* *pl.* **-tios** **1.** Relation of degree, number, etc.; proportion; rate. **2.** The relation of two quantities, esp. the quotient of the first divided by the second. A ratio of 3 to 5 is expressed as 3 : 5 or ⅗. [< L *reri* to think]
ra·ti·oc·i·nate (rash'ē·os'ə·nāt') *v.i.* **-nat·ed, -nat·ing** To make a deduction from premises; reason. [< L *reri* to think] — **ra'ti·oc'i·na'tion** *n.* — **ra'ti·oc'i·na'tive** *adj.* — **ra'ti·oc'i·na'tor** *n.*
ra·tion (rash'ən, rā'shən) *n.* **1.** A portion; share. **2.** A fixed allowance or portion of food, etc., allotted in time of scarcity. **3.** *Mil.* Food for one person for one day. — *v.t.* **1.** To issue rations to, as an army. **2.** To give out or allot in rations. **3.** To restrict to limited rations. [< F < L *ratio* -*onis*] — **ra'tion·ing** *n.*
ra·tion·al (rash'ən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Possessing the faculty of reasoning. **2.** Having full possession of one's mental faculties; sane. **3.** Conformable to reason; judicious; sensible. **4.** Attained by reasoning. **5.** *Math.* Denoting an algebraic expression containing no variables within irreducible radicals. See RATIO. — **ra·tion·al'i·ty** (rash'ən·al'ə·tē) *n.* — **ra'tion·al·ly** *adv.* — **ra'tion·al·ness** *n.*
ra·tion·ale (rash'ən·al', -ä'lē, -ā'lē) *n.* **1.** The rational or logical basis of something. **2.** A rational explanation of principles.
ra·tion·al·ism (rash'ən·əl·iz'əm) *n.* **1.** The formation of opinions by reason alone, independently of authority or of revelation. **2.** *Philos.* The theory that truth and knowledge are attainable through reason rather than by empirical means. — **ra'tion·al·ist** *n.* — **ra'tion·al·is'tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **ra'tion·al·is'ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
ra·tion·al·ize (rash'ən·əl·īz') *v.* **-ized, -iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** *Psychol.* To explain or base one's behavior on grounds ostensibly rational but not in accord with the actual, or unconscious motives. **2.** To explain or treat from a rationalistic point of view. **3.** To make rational or reasonable. — *v.i.* **4.** To think in a rational or rationalistic manner. Also *Brit.* **ra'tion·al·ise'.** — **ra·tion·al·i·za·tion** (rash'ən·əl·ə·zā'shən) *n.* — **ra'tion·al·iz'er** *n.*
rat·ite (rat'īt) *adj.* Designating a group of flightless birds including ostriches, cassowaries, kiwis, emus, etc. — *n.* A ratite bird. [< L *ratis* raft + -ITE¹]
rat·line (rat'lin) *n.* Naut. **1.** One of the small ropes fastened across the shrouds of a ship, used as a ladder for going aloft or descending. **2.** The rope so used. Also **rat'lin** (-lin). [Origin unknown]
RA·TO (rā'tō) *n.* An airplane takeoff assisted by an auxiliary rocket motor or unit; also, the rocket motor or unit used. Also **ra'to.** [< *rocket* + *assisted* + *takeoff*]
rat race *Slang* A frantic, usu. fruitless, struggle.
rats·bane (rats'bān') *n.* Rat poison.
rat's nest *Informal* A cluttered and messy place.
rat·tan (ra·tan') *n.* **1.** The long tough, flexible stem of various tropical palms, used in making wickerwork, light furniture, etc. **2.** The palm itself. Also spelled *ratan.* [< Malay *rotan*]
rat·ter (rat'ər) *n.* **1.** A dog or cat that catches rats. **2.** *Slang* A deserter; traitor.
rat·tle (rat'əl) *v.* **-tled, -tling** *v.t.* **1.** To make a series of sharp noises in rapid succession, as of hard objects striking one another. **2.** To move or act with such noises: also, to make a gurgling sound in the throat. **3.** To talk rapidly and foolishly; chatter. — *v.i.* **4.** To cause to rattle: to *rattle* pennies in a tin cup. **5.** To utter or perform rapidly or noisily. **6.** *Informal* To confuse, disconcert; agitate. — *n.* **1.** A series of short, sharp sounds in rapid succession. **2.** A plaything, implement, etc., made to produce a rattling noise. **3.** Any of the jointed horny rings in the tail of a rattlesnake. **4.** Rapid and noisy talk; chatter. [Imit.]
rat·tle-brain (rat'əl·brān') *n.* A talkative, flighty person; foolish chatterer. Also **rat'tle·head** (-hed'), **rat'tle-pate'** (-pāt'). — **rat'tle-brained** *adj.*
rat·tler (rat'lər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rattles. **2.** A rattlesnake.
rat·tle·snake (rat'əl·snāk') *n.* Any of several venomous American snakes with a tail ending in a series of horny, loosely connected, modified joints, that make a rattling noise when the tail is vibrated.


RATTLESNAKE (To 8 feet long)

rat·tle·trap (rat'əl·trap') *n.* Any rickety, clattering, or worn-out vehicle or article.
rat·trap (rat'trap') *n.* **1.** A trap for catching rats. **2.** Any hopeless or involved predicament.
rat·ty (rat'ē) *adj.* **-ti·er, -ti·est** **1.** Ratlike. **2.** Abounding in rats. **3.** *Slang* Disreputable; shabby.

au·cous (rô′kəs) *adj.* **1.** Rough in sound; hoarse; harsh. **2.** Boisterous; unruly; disorderly. [< L *raucus*] — **rau′·cit·y** (-sə·tē), **rau′cous·ness** *n.* — **rau′cous·ly** *adv.*

au·wol·fi·a (rou·wōōl′fē·ə) *n.* Any of a genus of tropical trees or shrubs, several of which contain alkaloids having valuable medicinal properties. [after Leonard *Rauwolf*, 17th c. German botanist]

av·age (rav′ij) *v.* **·aged, ·ag·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To lay waste, as by pillaging or burning; despoil. — *v.i.* **2.** To wreak havoc; be destructive. — *n.* Violent and destructive action, or its result; ruin. [See RAVISH.] — **rav′ag·er** *n.*

ave (rāv) *v.* **raved, rav·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To speak wildly or incoherently. **2.** To speak with extravagant enthusiasm. **3.** To make a wild, roaring sound; rage. — *v.t.* **4.** To utter wildly or incoherently. — *n.* The act or state of raving; a frenzy. — *adj. Informal* Extravagantly enthusiastic: *rave* reviews. [< OF *raver* to wander, to be delirious]

av·el (rav′əl) *v.* **rav·eled** or **·elled, rav·el·ing** or **·el·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To separate the threads or fibers of; unravel. **2.** To make clear or plain; explain: often with *out*. — *v.i.* **3.** To become separated, as threads or fibers; unravel; fray. — *n.* **1.** A broken or rejected thread. **2.** A raveling. [< MDu. *ravelen* to tangle] — **rav′el·er** or **rav′el·ler** *n.*

av·el·ing (rav′əl·ing) *n.* A thread or threads raveled from a fabric. Also **rav′el·ling.**

a·ven[1] (rā′vən) *n.* A large, omnivorous, widely distributed corvine bird, having lustrous black plumage. — *adj.* Black and shining, like a raven. [OE *hræfn*]

av·en[2] (rav′ən) *v.t.* **1.** To devour hungrily or greedily. **2.** To take by force; ravage. — *v.i.* **3.** To search for prey or plunder. **4.** To eat voraciously. — *n.* The act of plundering; spoliation; pillage. [< OF *raviner* < L *rapina* < *rapere* to seize] — **rav′en·er** *n.*

a·ven (rā′vən) *n.* The constellation Corvus.

av·en·ing (rav′ən·ing) *adj.* **1.** Seeking eagerly for prey; rapacious. **2.** Devouring; voracious. **3.** Mad.

av·en·ous (rav′ən·əs) *adj.* **1.** Violently voracious or hungry. **2.** Extremely eager for gratification. [See RAVEN[2].] — **rav′en·ous·ly** *adv.* — **rav′en·ous·ness** *n.*

a·vine (rə·vēn′) *n.* A deep gorge or gully, esp. one worn by a flow of water. [< F]

av·ing (rā′ving) *adj.* **1.** Furious; delirious; frenzied. **2.** *Informal* Outstandingly attractive: a *raving* beauty. — *n.* A furious, incoherent, or irrational utterance.

a·vio·li (rä·vyō′lē, rä′vē·ō′lē, rav′ē-) *n.pl.* Little envelopes of dough for encasing meat or cheese, boiled, and often served in a tomato sauce. [< Ital. pl. of *raviolo* little turnip]

av·ish (rav′ish) *v.t.* **1.** To fill with strong emotion, esp. delight; enrapture. **2.** To commit a rape upon. **3.** *Archaic* To seize and carry off by force. [< OF < L *rapere* to seize] — **rav′ish·er** *n.* — **rav′ish·ment** *n.*

av·ish·ing (rav′ish·ing) *adj.* Filling with delight; enchanting. — **rav′ish·ing·ly** *adv.*

aw (rô) *adj.* **1.** Not changed or prepared by cooking; uncooked. **2.** Having the skin irritated or abraded. **3.** Bleak; chilling: a *raw* wind. **4.** In a natural state; crude. **5.** Newly done; fresh: *raw* paint, *raw* work. **6.** Inexperienced; undisciplined. **7.** Obscene; coarse; off-color. **8.** Harshly unfair; ruthless. — *n.* A sore or abraded spot: with *the*. — **in the raw** **1.** In a raw, unrefined, or untempered state. **2.** *U.S. Informal* Naked; nude. [OE *hrēaw.*] — **raw′ly** *adv.* — **raw′ness** *n.*

raw·boned (rô′bōnd′) *adj.* Bony; gaunt.

raw·hide (rô′hīd′) *n.* **1.** A hide dressed without tanning. **2.** A whip made of such hide.

ray[1] (rā) *n.* **1.** A narrow beam of light. **2.** Anything representing or suggesting this. **3.** A slight manifestation; glimmer; hint. **4.** *Geom.* One of several straight lines emerging from a point and unlimited in one direction. **5.** *Zool.* **a** One of the rods supporting the membrane of a fish's fin. **b** One of the radiating parts of a radiate animal, as a starfish. **6.** *Bot.* A ray flower. **7.** *Physics* **a** A line of propagation of any form of radiant energy. **b** A stream of particles spontaneously emitted by a radioactive substance. — *v.i.* **1.** To emit rays; shine. **2.** To issue forth as rays; radiate. — *v.t.* **3.** To send forth as rays. **4.** To mark with rays or radiating lines. **5.** To treat with X-rays, etc. [< OF < L *radius* rod]

ray[2] (rā) *n.* Any of various fishes having a flattened body with expanded pectoral fins and gill openings on the lower surface. [< OF < L *raia*]

ray flower *Bot.* Any of the flat marginal flowers surrounding the disk, as the daisy or sunflower. Also **ray floret.**

ray·on (rā′on) *n.* **1.** A synthetic fiber produced from cellulose, the material being forced through fine jets to produce threadlike filaments. **2.** A fabric made from such fibers. [Coined from RAY[1]; prob. infl. by F *rayon* ray]

raze (rāz) *v.t.* **razed, raz·ing** **1.** To demolish, as a building. **2.** *Rare* To scrape or shave off. Also spelled *rase*. — **Syn.** See DEMOLISH. [< OF < L *radere* to scrape]

ra·zor (rā′zər) *n.* A sharp cutting implement used for shaving off the beard or hair, etc. [< OF < LL *rasorium* scraper]

ra·zor·back (rā′zər·bak′) *n.* **1.** The rorqual, a whale. **2.** A lean, long-legged, half-wild hog, common in the southeastern U.S. **3.** A hill with a sharp, narrow ridge.

razor blade A thin, metal blade, having either one or two sharpened edges, inserted in a safety razor.

razz (saz) *Slang* *n.* A Bronx cheer. — *v.t.* To heckle; deride. [< RAZZBERRY]

razz·ber·ry (raz′ber′ē, -bər·ē, räz′-) *n. pl.* **·ries** *U.S. Slang* A Bronx cheer. [< RASPBERRY]

raz·zle-daz·zle (raz′əl·daz′əl) *n. U.S. Slang* Bewildering, exciting, or dazzling activity or performance. Also **razz·ma·tazz** (raz′mə·taz′). [Varied reduplication of DAZZLE]

re[1] (rā) *n. Music* The second of the syllables used in solmization; the second degree of a major scale; also, the tone D. [< L *re*(*sonare*). See GAMUT.]

re[2] (rē) *prep.* Concerning; about; in the matter of: used in business letters, law, etc. [< L, ablative of *res* thing]

re- *prefix* **1.** Back: *rebound, remit.* **2.** Again; anew; again and again. [< L *re-, red-* back, again]

◆ Sense 2 of *re-* is freely used in forming words, particularly verbs or words derived from verbs. Some words thus formed are hyphenated to prevent confusion with similarly spelled words, as *recoil*, to spring back, and *re-coil*, to coil again, but in current usage most other words using *re-* as a prefix are written solid. However, many writers still prefer to hyphenate some combinations of *re-* and a word beginning with a vowel, especially *e*.

A list of self-explanatory words containing the prefix *re-* (def. 2) appears below.

abandon	**reappointment**	**reblossom**	**recondense**	**rediscover**	**reengage**
absorb	**reapportion**	**reboil**	**reconduct**	**rediscovery**	**reengagement**
absorption	**reapportionment**	**reborn**	**reconfirm**	**redissolve**	**reengrave**
accept	**reargue**	**rebuild**	**reconquer**	**redistill**	**reenjoy**
accommodate	**reargument**	**rebuilt**	**reconquest**	**redistribute**	**reenjoyment**
accompany	**reascend**	**rebury**	**reconsecrate**	**redivide**	**reenkindle**
accuse	**reascension**	**recapitalize**	**reconsolidate**	**redivision**	**reenlist**
acquire	**reascent**	**recarry**	**reconvene**	**redo**	**reenlistment**
adapt	**reassemble**	**recelebrate**	**recopy**	**redraw**	**reenslave**
address	**reassembly**	**rechallenge**	**recoronation**	**redrive**	**reenter**
adjourn	**reassert**	**rechange**	**recross**	**redry**	**reentrance**
adjournment	**reassertion**	**recharge**	**recrown**	**redye**	**reerect**
adjust	**reassign**	**recharter**	**recrystallization**	**reecho**	**reestablish**
adjustment	**reassimilate**	**recheck**	**recrystallize**	**reedit**	**reestablishment**
admission	**reassimilation**	**rechoose**	**recultivate**	**reelect**	**reexamination**
admit	**reassociate**	**rechristen**	**recultivation**	**reelection**	**reexamine**
adopt	**reassume**	**recircle**	**rededicate**	**reelevate**	**reexchange**
adorn	**reassumption**	**recirculate**	**rededication**	**reembark**	**reexhibit**
advance	**reattach**	**reclasp**	**redefeat**	**reembody**	**reexpel**
affirm	**reattack**	**reclean**	**redefine**	**reembrace**	**reexperience**
affirmation	**reattain**	**reclothe**	**redemand**	**reemerge**	**reexport**
align	**reattempt**	**recoin**	**redemonstrate**	**reemergence**	**reexpulsion**
alignment	**reavow**	**recoinage**	**redeny**	**reemigrate**	**reface**
annex	**reawake**	**recolonize**	**redeposit**	**reenact**	**refashion**
annoint	**reawaken**	**recolor**	**redescend**	**reenaction**	**refasten**
appear	**rebaptism**	**recombine**	**redescent**	**reenactment**	**refertilize**
appearance	**rebaptize**	**recombination**	**redescribe**	**reencourage**	**refire**
apply	**rebind**	**recommence**	**redetermine**	**reencouragement**	**reflow**
appoint	**rebloom**	**recommission**	**redigest**	**reendow**	**reflower**

reach (rēch) *v.t.* **1.** To stretch out or forth, as the hand; extend. **2.** To present or hand over. **3.** To be able to touch or grasp: Can you *reach* the top shelf? **4.** To arrive at or come to by motion or progress. **5.** To achieve communication with; gain access to. **6.** To amount to; total. **7.** To strike or hit, as with a blow or missile. — *v.i.* **8.** To stretch the hand, foot, etc., out or forth. **9.** To attempt to touch or grasp something: He *reached* for his wallet. **10.** To have extent in space, time, etc.: The ladder *reached* to the ceiling. **11.** *Naut.* To sail on a tack with the wind on or forward of the beam. — *n.* **1.** The act or power of reaching. **2.** The distance one is able to reach, as with the hand, an instrument, or missile. **3.** Extent of thought, influence, etc.; scope; range. **4.** An unbroken stretch, as of a stream; a vista or expanse. **5.** *Naut.* The sailing, or the distance sailed, by a vessel on one tack. [OE *rǣcan*] — **reach'er** *n.*

re·act (rē·akt') *v.i.* **1.** To act in response, as to a stimulus. **2.** To act in a manner contrary to some preceding act. **3.** *Physics* To exert an opposite and equal force on an acting or impinging body. **4.** *Chem.* To undergo a reaction.

re-act (rē·akt') *v.t.* To act again.

re·ac·tance (rē·ak'təns) *n. Electr.* In a circuit, the opposition to an alternating current caused by inductance and capacitance.

re·ac·tion (rē·ak'shən) *n.* **1.** Responsive action, attitude, etc. **2.** Tendency toward a former state of things; esp., a trend toward an earlier social, political, or economic policy or condition. **3.** The action of a muscle, nerve, organ, etc., in response to a stimulus; reflex action. **4.** *Psychol.* A response to an experience, situation, influence, etc. **5.** *Physics* **a** The equal and opposite force exerted on an agent by the body acted upon. **b** A nuclear reaction. **6.** *Chem.* The reciprocal action of substances subjected to chemical change. **7.** *Med.* The effect upon an organism of any foreign substance introduced for therapeutic purposes, or for testing, immunizing, etc.

re·ac·tion·ar·y (rē·ak'shən·er'ē) *adj.* Pertaining to, favoring, or characterized by reaction (def. 2). — *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** One who favors political or social reaction; one hostile toward change or progress. Also **re·ac'tion·ist.**

re·ac·ti·vate (rē·ak'tə·vāt) *v.t.* **·vat·ed, ·vat·ing** To make active or effective again. — **re·ac'ti·va'tion** *n.*

re·ac·tive (rē·ak'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Reacting or tending to react. **2.** Resulting from reaction. **3.** Responsive to a stimulus.

re·ac·tiv·i·ty (rē'ak·tiv'ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being reactive. **2.** *Chem.* The relative tendency of an element to enter into chemical reactions.

re·ac·tor (rē·ak'tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which reacts. **2.** *Electr.* A device for introducing reactance into a circuit, as for starting motors, controlling current, etc. **3.** *Physics* Any of various assemblies for the generation and control of atomic energy: formerly called *pile.*

read (*v.* & *n.* rēd; *adj.* red) *v.* **read** (red), **read·ing** (rē'ding) *v.t.* **1.** To apprehend the meaning of (a book, writing, etc.) by perceiving the form and relation of the printed or written characters. **2.** To utter aloud (something printed or written). **3.** To understand the significance, intent, etc., of as if by reading: to *read* the sky. **4.** To apprehend the meaning of something written in (a foreign language). **5.** To make a study of: to *read* law. **6.** To discover the true nature of (a person, character, etc.) by observation or scrutiny. **7.** To interpret (something read) in a specified manner. **8.** To take as the meaning of something read. **9.** To have as its wording: The passage *reads* "principal," not "principle." **10.** To indicate or register, as an instrument or device. **11.** To bring into a specified condition by reading: I *read* her to sleep. — *v.i.* **12.** To apprehend written or printed characters, as of words, music, etc. **13.** To utter aloud the words or contents of a book, etc. **14.** To gain information by reading: with *of* or *about.* **15.** To learn by means of books; study. **16.** To have a specified wording: How does the contract *read*? **17.** To admit of being read in a specified manner: The first verse *reads* well. **18.** To have the quality of a specified style or manner of writing: His work *reads* like poetry. **19.** To give a public reading or recital. **— to read between the lines** To perceive or infer what is not expressed or obvious. **— to read out 1.** To read aloud. **2.** To expel from a religious body, political party, etc., by proclamation or concerted action. **— to read up** (or **up on**) To learn by reading. — *adj.* Informed by books: well *read.* [OE *rǣdan* to read]

read·a·ble (rē'də·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Legible. **2.** Interesting or enjoyable to read. **— read'a·bil'i·ty, read'a·ble·ness** *n.* — **read'a·bly** *adv.*

read·er (rē'dər) *n.* **1.** One who reads. **2.** A professional reciter. **3.** One who reads and criticizes manuscripts offered to publishers. **4.** A textbook containing exercises in reading. **5.** *Eccl.* A church functionary authorized to read in church services.

read·ing (rē'ding) *n.* **1.** The act or practice of one who reads. **2.** A public or formal recital of something written. **3.** Literary research; study; scholarship. **4.** Matter that is read or is designed to be read. **5.** The indication of a meter, dial, graduated instrument, etc. **6.** The form in which any passage or word appears in any copy of a work. **7.** A specific interpretation. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or suitable for reading. **2.** Of or pertaining to a reader or readers.

read·y (red'ē) *adj.* **read·i·er, read·i·est** **1.** Prepared for use or action. **2.** Prepared in mind; willing. **3.** Likely or liable: with *to*: *ready* to sink. **4.** Quick to act, follow, occur, or appear; prompt. **5.** Immediately available or at hand; convenient; handy. **6.** Designating the standard position in which a rifle is held just before aiming. **7.** Quick to perceive or understand; alert; facile: a *ready* wit. — *n.* The position in which a rifle is held before aiming. — *v.t.* **read·ied, read·y·ing** To make ready; prepare. [ME < OE *rǣde, gerǣde* + *ig,* suffix of adverbs] — **read'i·ly** *adv.* — **read'i·ness** *n.*

read·y-made (red'ē·mād') *adj.* **1.** Not made to order; prepared or kept on hand for general demand: said especially of clothing. **2.** Prepared beforehand; not impromptu.

read·y-mix (red'ē·miks) *adj. U.S.* Ready to use after adding liquid, etc.: *ready-mix* pancake flour.

ready money Money on hand; cash.

read·y-to-wear (red'ē·tə·wâr') *adj.* Ready-made: said of clothing.

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refold	**reinaugurate**	**reinvite**	**renavigate**	**repurify**	**restrive**
reforge	**reincite**	**reinvolve**	**renominate**	**repursue**	**restudy**
reformulate	**reincorporate**	**rejudge**	**renomination**	**requicken**	**resubject**
refortification	**reincur**	**rekindle**	**renotify**	**reradiate**	**resubjection**
refortify	**reinduce**	**relabel**	**renumber**	**reread**	**resummon**
reframe	**reinfect**	**relace**	**reobtain**	**rerecord**	**resummons**
refreeze	**reinfection**	**relaunch**	**reobtainable**	**rerise**	**resupply**
refuel	**reinflame**	**relaunder**	**reoccupation**	**reroll**	**resurvey**
refurnish	**reinform**	**relearn**	**reoccupy**	**reroute**	**reteach**
regather	**reinfuse**	**relight**	**reoccur**	**resaddle**	**retell**
regear	**reinhabit**	**reline**	**reoccurrence**	**resail**	**retest**
regerminate	**reinoculate**	**reliquidate**	**reopen**	**resalute**	**retie**
regermination	**reinoculation**	**reliquidation**	**reoppose**	**reseal**	**retranslate**
regild	**reinscribe**	**relive**	**reordain**	**reseed**	**retraverse**
reglaze	**reinsert**	**reload**	**reordination**	**reseek**	**retrim**
reglorify	**reinsertion**	**reloan**	**repacify**	**resegregate**	**retype**
reglue	**reinspect**	**relocate**	**repack**	**reseize**	**reuse**
regrade	**reinspection**	**relocation**	**repaint**	**reseizure**	**reutilize**
regraft	**reinspire**	**remade**	**repaper**	**resell**	**reutter**
regrant	**reinstall**	**remake**	**repass**	**resend**	**revaluate**
regroup	**reinstruct**	**remanufacture**	**repave**	**resettle**	**revalue**
rehandle	**reintegrate**	**remarriage**	**repenalize**	**resettlement**	**revarnish**
rehear	**reintegration**	**remarry**	**replant**	**reshape**	**reverification**
rehearing	**reinter**	**rematch**	**replantation**	**resharpen**	**reverify**
reheat	**reinterment**	**remeasure**	**replay**	**reshuffle**	**revictual**
reheel	**reinterrogate**	**remelt**	**repledge**	**resift**	**revictualment**
rehire	**reintrench**	**remerge**	**replunge**	**resolder**	**revindicate**
reignite	**reintroduce**	**remigrate**	**repolish**	**resolidify**	**revindication**
reimplant	**reintroduction**	**remigration**	**repopulate**	**resow**	**revisit**
reimpose	**reinundate**	**remilitarization**	**repopulation**	**respread**	**revitalize**
reimposition	**reinvent**	**remilitarize**	**repour**	**restack**	**rewarm**
reimpregnate	**reinvest**	**remix**	**reprocess**	**restipulate**	**rewash**
reimpress	**reinvestigate**	**remodification**	**reproclaim**	**restipulation**	**reweigh**
reimprint	**reinvestigation**	**remodify**	**republication**	**restrengthen**	**rewin**
reimprison	**reinvigorate**	**remold**	**republish**	**restrike**	**rewind**
reimprisonment	**reinvigoration**	**rename**	**repurchase**	**restring**	**rework**

re·a·gent (rē·ā′jənt) *n. Chem.* Any substance used to ascertain the nature or composition of another by means of their reciprocal chemical action. [< RE- + AGENT]

real[1] (rēl, rē′əl) *adj.* **1.** Having existence or actuality as a thing or state; not imaginary: a *real* event. **2.** Not artificial or counterfeit; genuine. **3.** Representing the true or actual, as opposed to the apparent or ostensible: the *real* reason. **4.** Unaffected; unpretentious: a *real* person. **5.** *Philos.* Having actual existence. **6.** *Law* Pertaining to property regarded as immovable or permanent, as land or tenements: distinguished from *personal.* — *adv. Informal* Very; extremely: to be *real* glad. [< OF < LL *realis* < L *res* thing] — **real′·ness** *n.*

re·al[2] (rē′əl, *Sp.* rä·äl′) *n. pl.* **re·als** or **re·a·les** (rä·ä′läs) *for def. 1,* **reis** (räs) *for def. 2* **1.** A former small silver coin of Spain and various Latin-American countries. **2.** A former Portuguese and Brazilian coin. [< Sp., lit., royal]

real estate Land, including whatever is made part of or attached to it by man or nature, as trees, houses, etc. — **real·es·tate** (rēl′ə·stāt′, rē′əl-) *adj.*

re·al·ism (rē′əl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The tendency to be concerned with and act in accordance with actual facts rather than ideals, feelings, etc. **2.** In literature and art, the treatment of subject matter in conformance with nature or real life and without idealization: opposed to *idealism.* **3.** *Philos.* **a** The doctrine that abstract concepts have objective existence and are more real than concrete objects: opposed to *nominalism.* **b** The doctrine that things have reality apart from the conscious perception of them. — **re′al·ist** *n.* — **re′al·is′tic** *adj.* — **re·al·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

re·al·i·ty (rē·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The fact, state, or quality of being real or genuine. **2.** That which is real; an actual thing, situation, or event. **3.** The sum or totality of real things. **4.** *Philos.* The absolute or ultimate, as contrasted with the apparent. [< Med.L < L *realis* real]

re·al·ize (rē′əl·īz, rē′līz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To understand or appreciate fully. **2.** To make real or concrete. **3.** To cause to appear real. **4.** To obtain as a profit or return. **5.** To obtain money in return for: He *realized* his holdings for a profit. — *v.i.* **6.** To sell property for cash. Also *Brit.* **re′al·ise.** — **re′al·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **re′al·i·za′tion** *n.*

re·al-life (rē′əl·līf′, rēl′-) *adj. U.S. Informal* Actual; true.

real·ly (rē′ə·lē, rē′lē) *adv.* **1.** In reality; as a matter of fact; actually; indeed. **2.** Honestly; truly: used for emphasis: *Really,* the situation is impossible.

re·al·ly (rē′ə·lī′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·al·lied, ·al·ly·ing** To ally again.

realm (relm) *n.* **1.** A kingdom or domain. **2.** The scope or range of any power or influence: the *realm* of imagination. **3.** A primary zoogeographical division of the globe: also called *region.* [< OF *realme*]

Re·al·tor (rē′əl·tər, -tôr) *n. U.S.* A realty broker who is a member of the National Association of Real Estate Boards: a trade name. Also **re′al·tor.** [< REALTY + -OR[1]]

re·al·ty (rē′əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** *U.S. Law* Real estate or real property in any form. [< REAL[1] (def. 6) + -TY[1]]

real wages Wages evaluated in terms of purchasing power.

ream[1] (rēm) *n.* **1.** A unit of quantity for sheets of paper consisting of twenty quires or 480 sheets (**short ream**), 500 sheets (**long ream**), or 516 sheets (**printer's** or **perfect ream**). **2.** *pl. Informal* A prodigious amount of printed, written, or spoken material: *reams* of footnotes. [< OF < Sp. < Arabic *rizmah* bundle]

ream[2] (rēm) *v.t.* **1.** To increase the size of (a hole). **2.** To enlarge or taper (a hole) with a rotating cutter or reamer. **3.** To get rid of (a defect) by reaming. [? OE *ryman* to enlarge]

ream·er (rē′mər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which reams. **2.** A finishing tool with a rotating cutting edge for reaming: sometimes called *rimmer.* **3.** A device with a ridged cone for extracting juice from citrus fruits.

re·an·i·mate (rē·an′ə·māt) *v.t.* **·mat·ed, ·mat·ing** **1.** To bring back to life; resuscitate. **2.** To give renewed strength or vigor to; revive. — **re′an·i·ma′tion** *n.*

reap (rēp) *v.t.* **1.** To harvest or gather (a crop) with a scythe, reaper, etc. **2.** To cut the growth from or gather the fruit of, as a field. **3.** To obtain as the result of action or effort; receive as a return or result. — *v.i.* **4.** To harvest grain, etc. **5.** To receive a return or result. [OE *rēopan, ripan*] — **reap′a·ble** *adj.*

reap·er (rē′pər) *n.* **1.** One who reaps. **2.** A reaping machine.

reaping machine (rē′ping) A machine for harvesting standing grain, often equipped with appliances for pressing, bundling, and binding the cut grain: also called *harvester.*

rear[1] (rir) *n.* **1.** The back or hind part. **2.** A place or position behind any person or thing. **3.** The portion of a military force that is last or farthest from the front: opposed to *van.* — *adj.* Being in the rear. [Var. of ARREAR]

rear[2] (rir) *v.t.* **1.** To place upright; raise. **2.** To build; erect. **3.** To care for and bring to maturity. **4.** To breed or grow. — *v.i.* **5.** To rise upon the hind legs, as a horse. **6.** To rise high; tower, as a mountain. [OE *rǣran,* causative of *rīsan* to rise] — **rear′er** *n.*

rear admiral *Naval* A commissioned officer ranking next below a vice admiral. Also *Brit. & Canadian* **rear-ad·mi·ral** (rir′ad′mər·əl). See tables at GRADE.

rear guard A body of troops to protect the rear of an army.

re·arm (rē·ärm′) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To arm again. **2.** To arm with more modern weapons. — **re·ar′ma·ment** *n.*

rear·most (rir′mōst′) *adj.* Coming or stationed last.

re·ar·range (rē′ə·rānj′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ranged, ·rang·ing** To arrange again or in some new way. — **re′ar·range′ment** *n.*

rear·ward (rir′wərd) *adj.* Coming last or toward the rear; hindward. — *adv.* Toward or at the rear; backward: also **rear′wards.** — *n.* Hindward position; the rear; end.

rea·son (rē′zən) *n.* **1.** A motive or cause for an action, belief, thought, etc. **2.** An explanation for or defense of an action, belief, etc.; justification. **3.** The faculty of thinking logically. **4.** Good judgment; common sense. **5.** A normal state of mind; sanity. — **by reason of** Because of. — **in reason** In accordance with reason or good sense. — **it stands to reason** It is logical or reasonable. — **with reason** Justifiably; properly. — *v.i.* **1.** To think logically; obtain inferences or conclusions from known or presumed facts. **2.** To talk or argue logically. — *v.t.* **3.** To think out carefully and logically; analyze: with *out.* **4.** To influence by means of reason; persuade or dissuade. **5.** To argue; debate. [< OF *raison* < L < *reri* to think, reckon] — **rea′son·er** *n.* — **rea′son·less** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) A *reason* seeks to explain or justify an action by citing facts, circumstances, inducement, and the like, together with the workings of the mind upon them. The *purpose* of an action is the effect that it is intended to produce; its *motive* is the inner impulse that sets it in motion and guides it. *Grounds* are the facts, data, etc., that the mind weighs in reaching a decision; and *argument* is the logical demonstration of how these facts and data determine the decision. **3.** See INTELLECT.

rea·son·a·ble (rē′zən·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Conformable to reason; sensible. **2.** Having the faculty of reason; rational. **3.** Governed by reason. **4.** Moderate, as in price; fair. — **rea′·son·a·bil′i·ty, rea′son·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **rea′son·a·bly** *adv.*

rea·son·ing (rē′zən·ing) *n.* **1.** The mental process of drawing conclusions from known or presumed facts. **2.** The proofs, data, etc., employed in or resulting from this process.

re·as·sure (rē′ə·shoŏr′) *v.t.* **·sured, ·sur·ing** **1.** To restore to courage or confidence. **2.** To assure again. **3.** To reinsure. — **re′as·sur′ance** *n.* — **re′as·sur′ing·ly** *adv.*

re·bate (rē′bāt, ri·bāt′) *v.t.* **·bat·ed, ·bat·ing** **1.** To allow as a deduction. **2.** To make a deduction from. **3.** *Obs.* To blunt, as an edge. — *n.* A deduction from a gross amount; discount: also **re·bate′ment.** [< OF *rabattre* to beat down < *re-* again + *abattre.* See ABATE.] — **re′bat·er** *n.*

re·bec (rē′bek) *n.* An early violinlike instrument. Also **re′·beck.** [< F, alter. of OF *rebebe* < Arabic *rabāb*]

Re·bec·ca (ri·bek′ə) In the Bible, the wife of Isaac, and mother of Esau and Jacob. *Gen.* xxiv 15.

re·bel (*v.* ri·bel′; *n. & adj.* reb′əl) *v.i.* **·belled, ·bel·ling** **1.** To rise in armed resistance against the established government or ruler of one's land. **2.** To resist any authority or established usage. **3.** To react with violent aversion: usu. with *at.* — *n.* One who rebels. — *adj.* Rebellious; refractory. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *bellare* to make war]

re·bel·lion (ri·bel′yən) *n.* **1.** The act of rebelling. **2.** Organized resistance to a lawful government or authority.

re·bel·lious (ri·bel′yəs) *adj.* **1.** Being in a state of rebellion; insubordinate. **2.** Of or pertaining to a rebel or rebellion. **3.** Resisting control; refractory: *rebellious* curls. — **re·bel′lious·ly** *adv.* — **re·bel′lious·ness** *n.*

re·birth (rē·bûrth′, rē′bûrth′) *n.* **1.** A new birth. **2.** A revival or renaissance.

re·bound (ri·bound′; *for n., also* rē′bound′) *v.i.* **1.** To bound back; recoil. — *v.t.* **2.** To cause to rebound. — *n.* **1.** Recoil. **2.** Something that rebounds or resounds. **3.** *Informal* Reaction of feeling after a disappointment: to fall in love on the *rebound.* [< F < *re-* back + *bondir* to bound]

re·broad·cast (rē·brôd′kast′, -käst′) *v.t.* **·cast** or **·cast·ed, ·cast·ing** **1.** To broadcast (the same program) more than once. **2.** To broadcast (a program received from another station). — *n.* A program so transmitted.

re·buff (ri·buf′) *v.t.* **1.** To reject or refuse abruptly or rudely. **2.** To drive or beat back; repel. — *n.* **1.** A sudden repulse; curt denial. **2.** A sudden check; defeat. **3.** A beating back. [< MF < Ital. *ribuffare* to reprimand]

re·buke (ri·byōōk′) *v.t.* **·buked, ·buk·ing** To reprove sharply; reprimand. — *n.* A strong expression of disapproval. [< AF < OF < *re-* back + *buchier* to beat] — **re·buk′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·buk′er** *n.*

re·bus (rē′bəs) *n. pl.* **·bus·es** A puzzle representing a word,

phrase, sentence, etc., by letters, numerals, pictures, etc., whose names have the same sounds as the words represented. [< L, ablative pl. of *res* thing]

re·but (ri·but′) *v.t.* **·but·ted, ·but·ting** To refute by contrary evidence or proof, as in formal argument; disprove. — **Syn.** See REFUTE. [< OF < *re-* back + *bouter* to strike, push] — **re·but′ter** *n.*

re·but·tal (ri·but′l) *n.* The act of rebutting; refutation.

re·cal·ci·trant (ri·kal′sə·trənt) *adj.* Not complying; obstinate; rebellious; refractory. — *n.* One who is recalcitrant. [< L < *re-* back + *calcitrare* to kick < *calx* heel] — **re·cal′ci·trance, re·cal′ci·tran·cy** *n.*

re·call (ri·kôl′; *for n., also* rē′kôl) *v.t.* **1.** To call back; order or summon to return. **2.** To summon back in awareness or attention. **3.** To recollect; remember. **4.** To take back; revoke. — *n.* **1.** A calling back or to mind. **2.** Revocation. **3.** A system whereby officials may be removed from office by popular vote.

re·cant (ri·kant′) *v.t.* **1.** To withdraw formally one's belief in (something previously believed or maintained). — *v.i.* **2.** To disavow an opinion or belief previously held. [< L < *re-* back + *cantare* to sing] — **re·can·ta·tion** (rē′kan·tā′shən) *n.* — **re·cant′er** *n.*

re·cap (*v.* rē′kap′, rē·kap′; *n.* rē′kap′) *v.t.* **·capped, ·cap·ping** To recondition (an automobile tire) by vulcanizing new rubber onto the surface that comes in contact with the road. — *n.* A tire that has been recapped.

re·ca·pit·u·late (rē′kə·pich′ōō·lāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To review briefly; sum up. **2.** *Zool.* To reproduce (typical ancestral forms) in the course of embryonic development. [< LL < *re-* again + *capitulare* to draw up in chapters] — **re′ca·pit′u·la′tion** *n.* — **re′ca·pit′u·la′tive** (-lā′tiv), **re′ca·pit′u·la·to′ry** (-lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

re·cap·ture (rē·kap′chər) *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** **1.** To capture again; obtain by recapture. **2.** To recall; remember. — *n.* **1.** The act of retaking. **2.** Anything recaptured.

re·cast (*v.* rē·kast′, -käst′; *n.* rē′kast′, -käst′) *v.t.* **·cast, ·cast·ing** **1.** To form anew; cast again. **2.** To fashion anew by changing style, arrangement, etc., as a discourse. **3.** To calculate anew. — *n.* Something that has been recast.

re·cede (ri·sēd′) *v.i.* **·ced·ed, ·ced·ing** **1.** To move back, as flood waters. **2.** To withdraw, as from an agreement, etc. **3.** To slope backward: a *receding* forehead. **4.** To become more distant. [< L < *re-* back + *cedere* to go]

re·cede (rē·sēd′) *v.t.* **·ced·ed, ·ced·ing** To cede back.

re·ceipt (ri·sēt′) *n.* **1.** The act or state of receiving anything. **2.** *Usu. pl.* That which is received: cash *receipts*. **3.** A written acknowledgment of the payment of money, of the delivery of goods, etc. **4.** A recipe. — *v.t.* **1.** To give a receipt for the payment of. **2.** To write acknowledgment of payment on, as a bill. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *capere* to take]

re·ceiv·a·ble (ri·sē′və·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being received; fit to be received, as legal tender. **2.** Maturing for payment: said of a bill. — *n. pl.* Outstanding accounts listed among the assets of a business.

re·ceive (ri·sēv′) *v.* **·ceived, ·ceiv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take into one's hand or possession (something given, delivered, etc.); acquire. **2.** To gain knowledge of: He *received* the news at breakfast. **3.** To take from another by hearing or listening: The king *received* his oath of fealty. **4.** To bear; support: These columns *receive* the weight of the building. **5.** To experience; meet with: to *receive* abuse. **6.** To undergo; suffer: He *received* a wound. **7.** To contain; hold. **8.** To allow entrance to; admit; greet. **9.** To accept as true, proven, etc. — *v.i.* **10.** To be a recipient. **11.** To welcome visitors or callers. **12.** *Telecom.* To convert radio waves into some useful form by means of a receiver. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *capere* to take]

— **Syn. 1.** *Receive* has no close synonym; he who *receives* takes what is given or what comes entirely passively. *Acquire* implies an active role, or some effort to obtain; the same is true of *get*, for the most part, but this word is broad enough to include some of the sense of *receive*.

re·ceiv·er (ri·sē′vər) *n.* **1.** One who receives; a recipient. **2.** An official assigned to receive money due. **3.** *Law* A person appointed by a court to take into his custody, control, and management the property or funds of another pending judicial action concerning them. **4.** Something that receives; a receptacle. **5.** *Telecom.* **a** An instrument serving to receive and reproduce signals transmitted from another part of a circuit: a telephone *receiver*. **b** Any of various electronic devices that convert radio waves into audio signals, video signals, etc., or into forms useful as a basis for observation, as in radio telescopes or radar: also **receiving set**.

re·ceiv·er·ship (ri·sē′vər·ship) *n.* **1.** The office and functions pertaining to a receiver under appointment of a court. **2.** The state of being in the hands of a receiver.

re·cent (rē′sənt) *adj.* Pertaining to, or formed, developed, or created in time not long past; modern. [< MF < L *recens*] — **re′cent·ly** *adv.* — **re′cen·cy, re′cent·ness** *n.*

Re·cent (rē′sənt) *adj. Geol.* Pertaining to or designating the present geological epoch, succeeding the Pleistocene. See chart for GEOLOGY.

re·cep·ta·cle (ri·sep′tə·kəl) *n.* **1.** Anything that serves to contain or hold something else. **2.** *Bot.* The base to which the parts of the flower, fruit, or seeds are fixed. For illus. see FLOWER. [< L < *re-* back + *capere* to take] — **re·cep·tac·u·lar** (rē′sep·tak′yə·lər) *adj.*

— **Syn. 1.** container, repository.

re·cep·tion (ri·sep′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of receiving, or the state of being received. **2.** A formal social entertainment of guests: a wedding *reception*. **3.** The manner of receiving a person or persons: a warm *reception*. **4.** *Telecom.* The act or process of receiving, or the quality of reproduction achieved. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *capere* to take]

re·cep·tion·ist (ri·sep′shən·ist) *n.* One employed to receive callers at the entrance to an office.

re·cep·tive (ri·sep′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Able or inclined to receive, as truths or impressions. **2.** Able to take in or hold. — **re·cep′tive·ly** *adv.* — **re·cep·tiv·i·ty** (rē′sep·tiv′ə·tē), **re·cep′tive·ness** *n.*

re·cep·tor (ri·sep′tər) *n. Anat.* The terminal structure of a neuron, specialized to receive stimuli and transmit them to the spinal cord and brain. [< OF or L, receiver]

re·cess (*n.* ri·ses′, rē′ses; *for def. 2. usu.* rē′ses; *v.* ri·ses′) *n.* **1.** A depression or indentation in any otherwise continuous line or surface, esp. in a wall; niche. **2.** A time of cessation from employment or occupation: The school took a *recess*. **3.** *Usu. pl.* A secluded spot; withdrawn or inner place: the *recesses* of the mind. — *v.t.* **1.** To place in or as in a recess. **2.** To make a recess in. — *v.i.* **3.** To take a recess. [< L < *re-* back + *cedere* to go]

re·ces·sion (ri·sesh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of receding; a withdrawal. **2.** The procession of the clergy, choir, etc., as they leave the chancel after a church service. **3.** An economic setback in commercial and industrial activity, esp. one occurring as a downward turn during a period of generally rising prosperity.

re·ces·sion (rē·sesh′ən) *n.* The act of ceding again; a giving back.

re·ces·sion·al (ri·sesh′ən·əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to recession. — *n.* A hymn sung as the choir or clergy leave the chancel after service.

re·ces·sive (ri·ses′iv) *adj.* **1.** Having a tendency to recede or go back; receding. **2.** *Genetics* Designating one of a pair of hereditary characters that, appearing in a hybrid offspring, is masked by a contrasting character. — *n. Genetics* A recessive character. — **re·ces′sive·ly** *adv.*

re·cher·ché (rə·sher·shā′) *adj. French* **1.** Rare and exquisite; choice. **2.** Elegant and refined; also, overrefined.

rec·i·pe (res′ə·pē) · *n.* **1.** A formula or list of ingredients of a mixture, giving proper directions for compounding, cooking, etc. **2.** A medical prescription: usu. abbreviated to ℞. **3.** A method prescribed for attaining a desired result. [< L < *re-* back + *capere* to take]

re·cip·i·ent (ri·sip′ē·ənt) *adj.* Receiving or ready to receive; receptive. — *n.* One who or that which receives. [< L < *re-* back + *capere* to take] — **re·cip′i·ence, re·cip′i·en·cy** *n.*

re·cip·ro·cal (ri·sip′rə·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Done or given by each of two to the other; mutual. **2.** Mutually interchangeable. **3.** Alternating; moving to and fro. **4.** Expressive of mutual relationship or action: used in connection with certain pronouns and verbs or their meaning. **5.** *Math.* Of or pertaining to various types of mutual relations between two quantities. — *n.* **1.** That which is reciprocal. **2.** *Math.* The quotient obtained by dividing unity by a number or expression, as ½ is the *reciprocal* of x. In a fraction, this reverses the numerator and denominator, as ⅔ is the *reciprocal* of ⅗. [< L *reciprocus*] — **re·cip′ro·cal′i·ty** (-kal′ə·tē), **re·cip′ro·cal·ness** *n.* — **re·cip′ro·cal·ly** *adv.*

reciprocal pronouns *Gram.* Pronouns or phrases denoting reciprocal action or relation, as *each other, one another*.

re·cip·ro·cate (ri·sip′rə·kāt) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move backward and forward alternately. **2.** To give and receive mutually; interchange. **3.** To give, feel, do, etc., in return; requite, as an emotion. — *v.i.* **4.** To move backward and forward. **5.** To make a return in kind. **6.** To give and receive favors, gifts, etc., mutually. [< L < *reciprocus* reciprocal] — **re·cip′ro·ca′tion** *n.* — **re·cip′ro·ca′tive** *adj.* — **re·cip′ro·ca′tor** *n.* — **re·cip′ro·ca·to′ry** (-kə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

rec·i·proc·i·ty (res′ə·pros′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** Reciprocal obligation, action, or relation. **2.** A trade relation between two countries by which each makes concessions favoring the importation of the other's products. [< F *réciprocité*]

re·cit·al (ri·sīt′l) *n.* **1.** A telling over in detail, or that which is thus told. **2.** A public delivery of something previously memorized. **3.** A musical program performed usu. by one person or several appearing as soloists.

rec·i·ta·tion (res′ə·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of repeating from memory. **2.** The reciting of a lesson, or the meeting of a

class for that purpose. **3.** That which is allotted for recital or actually recited. [< L < *re-* again + CITE]

rec·i·ta·tive (res/ə·tə·tēv′, rə·sit′ə·tiv) *n. Music* **1.** Language uttered in the phrasing of ordinary speech, but set to music. **2.** This style of singing, or a passage so rendered. Also *Italian* **re·ci·ta·ti·vo** (rä′chē·tä·tē′vō). [< Ital. *recitativo*]

re·cite (ri·sīt′) *v.* **·cit·ed, ·cit·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To declaim or say from memory, esp. formally, as a lesson in class. **2.** To tell in particular detail; relate. **3.** To enumerate. — *v.i.* **4.** To declaim or speak something from memory. **5.** To repeat or be examined in a lesson or part of a lesson in class. [< OF < L < *re-* again + CITE] — **re·cit′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** repeat. **2.** recount, narrate, recapitulate.

reck (rek) *v.t. & v.i. Archaic* **1.** To have a care (for); heed; mind. **2.** To be of concern (to). [OE *reccan*]

reck·less (rek′lis) *adj.* **1.** Foolishly heedless of danger; rash. **2.** Proceeding from carelessness or rashness. [OE *receléas*] — **reck′less·ly** *adv.* — **reck′less·ness** *n.*

reck·on (rek′ən) *v.t.* **1.** To count; compute; calculate. **2.** To look upon as being; regard: They *reckon* him a fool. — *v.i.* **3.** To make computation; count up. **4.** To rely or depend: with *on* or *upon*: to *reckon* on help. — **to reckon with 1.** To settle accounts with. **2.** To take into consideration. [OE *recenian* to explain] — **reck′on·er** *n.*

reck·on·ing (rek′ən·ing) *n.* **1.** The act of counting; computation; a settlement of accounts. **2.** Account; score; bill, as at a hotel. **3.** *Naut.* Dead reckoning (which see).

re·claim (ri·klām′) *v.t.* **1.** To bring (swamp, desert, etc.) into a condition to support cultivation or life, as by draining or irrigating. **2.** To obtain (a substance) from used or waste products. **3.** To cause to return from wrong or sinful ways of life. — *n.* The act of reclaiming, or state of being reclaimed. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *clamare* to cry out] — **re·claim′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·claim′ant, re·claim′er** *n.*

re-claim (rē·klām′) *v.t.* To claim again.

rec·la·ma·tion (rek/lə·mā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of reclaiming. **2.** Restoration, as to usefulness or a moral life.

re·cline (ri·klīn′) *v.* **·clined, ·clin·ing** *v.i. & v.t.* To assume or cause to assume a recumbent position; lie or lay down or back. [< L < *re-* back + *clinare* to lean] — **rec·li·na·tion** (rek/lə·nā′shən) *n.* — **re·clin′er** *n.*

rec·luse (ri·klōōs′; *for n., also* rek′lōōs) *n.* **1.** One who lives in retirement or seclusion. **2.** A religious devotee who lives voluntarily shut up in a cell. — *adj.* Secluded or retired from the world. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *claudere* to shut] — **re·clu′sion** *n.* — **re·clu′sive** *adj.*

rec·og·ni·tion (rek′əg·nish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of recognizing, or the state of being recognized. **2.** Acknowledgment of a fact or claim. **3.** Friendly notice; salutation; attention. **4.** Acknowledgment and acceptance on the part of one government of the independence of another. [< L < *re-* again + *cognoscere* to know] — **re·cog·ni·to·ry** (ri·kog′nə·tôr′ē, ·tō′rē) **re·cog′ni·tive** *adj.*

re·cog·ni·zance (ri·kog′nə·zəns, ·kon′ə·) *n. Law* **1.** An obligation of record, with condition to do some particular act, as to appear and answer. **2.** A sum of money deposited as surety for fulfillment of such act or obligation, and forfeited by its nonperformance. [< OF < L. See RECOGNITION] — **re·cog′ni·zant** *adj.*

rec·og·nize (rek′əg·nīz) *v.t.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** **1.** To perceive as identical with someone or something previously known. **2.** To identify, as by previous experience: I *recognize* poor poetry when I see it. **3.** To perceive as true; realize: to *recognize* the facts in a case. **4.** To acknowledge the independence and validity of, as a newly constituted government. **5.** To indicate appreciation or approval of. **6.** To regard as valid or genuine: to *recognize* a claim. **7.** To give (someone) permission to speak, as in a legislative body. **8.** To admit the acquaintance of; greet. [Back formation < RECOGNIZANCE] — **rec·og·niz·a·ble** (rek′əg·nī′zə·bəl) *adj.* — **rec′·og·niz′a·bly** *adv.* — **rec′og·niz′er** *n.*

re·coil (*v.* ri·koil′; *n.* rē′koil′) *v.i.* **1.** To start back, as in fear or loathing; shrink. **2.** To spring back, as from force of discharge or impact. **3.** To return to the source; react: with *on* or *upon*: Crime *recoils* upon its perpetrator. — *n.* A backward movement, as of a gun at the moment of firing; also, a shrinking. [< OF < *re-* backwards + *cul* backside < L *culus*] — **re·coil′er** *n.*

re-coil (rē/koil′) *v.t. & v.i.* To coil again.

rec·ol·lect (rek′ə·lekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To call back to the mind. — *v.i.* **2.** To have a recollection of something. [< L < *re-* again + COLLECT]

re-col·lect (rē′kə·lekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To collect again, as things scattered. **2.** To collect or compose (one's thoughts or nerves); compose or recover (oneself). — **re′·col·lec′tion** *n.*

rec·ol·lec·tion (rek′ə·lek′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or power of remembering. **2.** Something remembered. — **rec′ol·lec′·tive** *adj.* — **rec′ol·lec′tive·ly** *adv.*

rec·om·mend (rek′ə·mend′) *v.t.* **1.** To commend with favorable representations. **2.** To make attractive or acceptable. **3.** To advise; urge. **4.** To give in charge; commend. [< Med.L < L *re-* again + COMMEND] — **rec′om·mend′er** *n.*

rec·om·men·da·tion (rek′ə·men·dā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of recommending, or of being recommended. **2.** A letter recommending a person.

re·com·mit (rē′kə·mit′) *v.t.* **·mit·ted, ·mit·ting** **1.** To commit again. **2.** To refer back to a committee, as a bill. — **re′com·mit′tal** *n.*

rec·om·pense (rek′əm·pens) *v.t.* **·pensed, ·pens·ing** **1.** To give compensation to; pay or repay; reward. **2.** To compensate for, as a loss. — *n.* **1.** An equivalent for anything given or done; payment. **2.** Compensation or reward. [< OF < LL < L *re-* again + *compensare*. See COMPENSATE.]

— **Syn.** (verb) **1.** reimburse. **2.** indemnify.

rec·on·cil·a·ble (rek′ən·sī′lə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being reconciled, adjusted, or harmonized. — **rec′on·cil′a·bil′i·ty, rec′on·cil′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **rec′on·cil′a·bly** *adv.*

rec·on·cile (rek′ən·sīl) *v.t.* **·ciled, ·cil·ing** **1.** To bring back to friendship after estrangement. **2.** To settle or adjust, as a quarrel. **3.** To bring to acquiescence, content, or submission. **4.** To make or show to be consistent or congruous; harmonize: often with *to* or *with*: Can he *reconcile* his statement with his conduct? [< OF < L < *re-* again + *conciliare* to unite] — **rec′on·cile′ment** *n.* — **rec′on·cil′er** *n.* — **rec·on·cil·i·a·tion** (rek′ən·sil′ē·ā′shən) *n.*

rec·on·dite (rek′ən·dīt, ri·kon′dīt) *adj.* **1.** Remote from ordinary or easy perception; abstruse; secret. **2.** Dealing in abstruse matters. **3.** Hidden. [< L < *recondere* to hide] — **rec′on·dite′ly** *adv.* — **rec′on·dite′ness** *n.*

re·con·di·tion (rē′kən·dish′ən) *v.t.* To put into good or working condition, as by making repairs; overhaul.

re·con·nais·sance (ri·kon′ə·səns, ·sāns) *n.* **1.** A reconnoitering; a preliminary examination or survey, as of the territory and resources of a country. **2.** *Mil.* The act of obtaining information of military value, especially regarding the position, strength, and movement of enemy forces. Also **re·con′nois·sance.** [< F]

re·con·noi·ter (rē′kə·noi′tər, rek′ə·) *v.t.* To examine or survey, as for military, engineering, or geological purposes. — *v.i.* To make a reconnaissance. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *cognoscere* to know] — **re′con·noi′ter·er** *n.*

re·con·sid·er (rē′kən·sid′ər) *v.t. & v.i.* To consider again, esp. with a view to a reversal of previous action. — **re′con·sid′er·a′tion** *n.*

re·con·sti·tute (rē·kon′stə·tōōt, ·tyōōt) *v.t.* **·tut·ed, ·tut·ing** To constitute again; make over. — **re·con′sti·tu′tion** *n.*

re·con·struct (rē′kən·strukt′) *v.t.* To build again; rebuild.

re·con·struc·tion (rē′kən·struk′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of reconstructing, or the state of being reconstructed. **2.** *Often cap.* The restoration of the seceded States as members of the Union under the **Reconstruction Acts** of March 2 and 23, 1867. — **re′con·struc′tive** *adj.*

Reconstruction period *U.S.* The period following the Civil War during which the seceded Southern States were reorganized in accordance with the Congressional program.

re·con·vert (rē′kən·vûrt′) *v.t.* **1.** To change back to a state or form previously possessed. **2.** To convert back to a previously held religious belief. — **re′con·ver′sion** *n.*

rec·ord (*n. & adj.* rek′ərd; *v.* ri·kôrd′) *n.* **1.** An account in written or other permanent form serving as a memorial or authentic evidence of a fact or event. **2.** Something on which such an account is made, as a document or monument. **3.** Information preserved and handed down: the heaviest rainfall on *record*. **4.** The known career or performance of a person, animal, organization, etc. **5.** The best listed achievement, as in a competitive sport. **6.** *Law* **a** A written account of an act, statement, or transaction made by an officer acting under authority of law, and intended as permanent evidence thereon. **b** An official written account of a judicial or legislative proceeding. **7.** A phonograph record. — **off the record** **1.** Unofficial or unofficially. **2.** Not for quotation or publication, or not from a source to be identified. — *adj.* Surpassing any previously recorded achievement or performance of its kind. — *v.t.* **1.** To write down or otherwise inscribe, as for preserving a record. **2.** To indicate; register, esp. in permanent form, as a cardiograph does. **3.** To make a tape or phonograph record of. — *v.i.* **4.** To record something. [< OF < L *recordari* to remember]

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** note, memorandum, register, roll, catalogue.

record changer A device on some record players that automatically feeds successive records onto the turntable.

re·cord·er (ri·kôr′dər) *n.* **1.** One who records. **2.** A magistrate having criminal jurisdiction in a city or borough. **3.** A registering apparatus. **4.** Any of a group of fipple flutes having eight finger holes, and various ranges. **5.** A tape or wire recorder. — **re·cord′er·ship** *n.*

re·cord·ing (ri·kôr′ding) *n.* **1.** *Telecom.* The process of registering a relatively permanent physical record of sounds or other communicable signals. **2.** A phonograph record.
record player A motor-driven turntable with a pickup attachment and auxiliary equipment for the playing of phonograph records: also called *gramophone, phonograph.*
re·count (ri·kount′) *v.t.* **1.** To relate the particulars of; narrate in detail. **2.** To enumerate; recite. [< OF *reconter* to relate]
re-count (rē·kount′; *for n., also* rē′kount′) *v.t.* To count again. — *n.* A repetition of a count; esp., a second count of votes cast. — **re·count′al** *n.*
re·coup (ri·kōōp′) *v.t.* **1.** To recover or obtain an equivalent for; make up, as a loss. **2.** To reimburse for a loss; indemnify. — *n.* The act or process of recouping. [< OF < *re-* back + *couper* to cut] — **re·coup′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·coup′ment** *n.*
re·course (rē′kôrs, -kōrs, ri·kôrs′, -kōrs′) *n.* **1.** Resort to or application for help or security. **2.** One who or that which is resorted to for help or supply. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *currere* to run]
re·cov·er (ri·kuv′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To regain after losing. **2.** To make up for; retrieve, as a loss. **3.** To restore (oneself) to natural balance, health, etc. **4.** To reclaim, as land. **5.** *Law* To gain or regain in legal proceedings. — *v.i.* **6.** To regain health, composure, etc. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *capere* to take] — **re·cov′er·a·ble** *adj.* — **re·cov′er·er** *n.*
re-cov·er (rē·kuv′ər) *v.t.* To cover again.
re·cov·er·y (ri·kuv′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** The act of recovering. **2.** The state of being or having recovered. **3.** Restoration from sickness or from a condition of evil. **4.** The extraction of valuable substances from original sources, by-products, waste, etc.
rec·re·ant (rek′rē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Unfaithful to a cause or pledge; false. **2.** Craven; cowardly. — *n.* A cowardly or faithless person; also, a deserter. [< OF < Med.L < L *re-* back + *credere* to believe] — **rec′re·ance, rec′re·an·cy** *n.* — **rec′re·ant·ly** *adv.*
rec·re·ate (rek′rē·āt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To impart fresh vigor to; refresh. — *v.i.* **2.** To take recreation. [< L < *re-* again + *creare* to create] — **rec′re·a′tive** *adj.*
re-cre·ate (rē′krē·āt′) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To create anew. — **re′-cre·a′tion** *n.*
rec·re·a·tion (rek′rē·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** Refreshment of body or mind; diversion; amusement. **2.** Any pleasurable exercise or occupation. — **rec′re·a′tion·al** *adj.*
re·crim·i·nate (ri·krim′ə·nāt) *v.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To accuse in return. — *v.i.* **2.** To repel one accusation by making another in return. [< Med.L < L *re-* again + *criminare* to accuse of crime] — **re·crim′i·na′tive, re·crim′i·na·to·ry** (ri·krim′ə·nə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **re·crim′i·na′tor** *n.*
re·crim·i·na·tion (ri·krim′ə·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of recriminating. **2.** A countercharge.
re·cru·desce (rē′krōō·des′) *v.i.* **·desced, ·desc·ing** To break out afresh. [< L < *re-* again + *crudescere* to become raw] — **re′cru·des′cence** *n.* — **re′cru·des′cent** *adj.*
re·cruit (ri·krōōt′) *v.t.* **1.** To enlist (men) for military or naval service. **2.** To muster; raise, as an army, by enlistment. **3.** To supply with recruits. **4.** To regain or revive (lost health, strength, etc.). — *v.i.* **5.** To enlist new men for military or naval service. **6.** To regain lost health or strength. **7.** To gain or raise new supplies of anything lost or needed. — *n.* A newly enlisted member of an organization, esp. of the armed forces. See tables at GRADE. [< F < OF < L < *re-* again + *crescere* to grow] — **re·cruit′er** *n.* — **re·cruit′ment** *n.*
rec·tal (rek′təl) *adj. Anat.* Of, for, or in the rectum.
rec·tan·gle (rek′tang′gəl) *n.* A parallelogram with all its angles right angles. [< F < LL < L *rectus* straight + *angulus* angle]
rec·tan·gu·lar (rek·tang′gyə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Having one or more right angles. **2.** Resembling a rectangle in shape. — **rec·tan′gu·lar′i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.* — **rec·tan′gu·lar·ly** *adv.*
recti- *combining form* Straight: *rectilinear.* Also, before vowels, **rect-.** [< L *rectus* straight < *regere* to guide]
rec·ti·fi·er (rek′tə·fī′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rectifies. **2.** *Electr.* A device used to convert an alternating current into a direct current.
rec·ti·fy (rek′tə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To make right: correct; amend. **2.** *Chem.* To refine and purify, as a liquid, by repeated distillations. **3.** *Electr.* To change (an alternating current) into a direct current. **4.** To allow for errors or inaccuracies in, as a compass reading. [< MF < LL < L *rectus* straight] — **rec′ti·fi′a·ble** *adj.* — **rec′ti·fi·ca′tion** (rek′tə·fə·kā′shən) *n.*
rec·ti·lin·e·ar (rek′tə·lin′ē·ər) *adj.* Pertaining to, consisting of, moving in, or bounded by a straight line or lines; straight. Also **rec′ti·lin′e·al** (-ē·əl). — **rec′ti·lin′e·ar·ly** *adv.*
rec·ti·tude (rek′tə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* **1.** Uprightness in principles and conduct. **2.** Correctness, as of judgment. [< F < LL < L *rectus* straight]
rec·to (rek′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** A right-hand page, as of a book: opposed to *verso.* [< L *recto* (*folio*) on the right (page)]
recto- *combining form Anat.* Rectal; pertaining to or located in the rectum. Also, before vowels **rect-.** [See RECTUM]
rec·tor (rek′tər) *n.* **1.** In the Church of England, a priest who has full charge of a parish, and receives the parochial tithes. **2.** In the Protestant Episcopal Church, a priest in charge of a parish. **3.** In the Roman Catholic Church: **a** A priest in charge of a congregation or church, esp. one not having parochial status. **b** The head of a seminary or religious house. **4.** In certain universities, colleges, and schools, the head or chief officer. [< L < *regere* to guide, rule] — **rec′tor·ate** (-it) *n.* — **rec·to·ri·al** (rek·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.*
rec·to·ry (rek′tər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A rector's dwelling. **2.** In England, a parish domain with its buildings, revenue, etc.
rec·tum (rek′təm) *n. pl.* **·ta** (-tə) *Anat.* The terminal portion of the large intestine, connecting the colon with the anus. [< NL *rectum* (*intestinum*) straight (intestine)]
re·cum·bent (ri·kum′bənt) *adj.* **1.** Lying down, wholly or partly. **2.** *Biol.* Tending to rest upon or extend from a surface, as certain plant or animal organs. [< L < *re-* back + *-cumbere* < *cubare* to lie down] — **re·cum′bence, re·cum′ben·cy** *n.* — **re·cum′bent·ly** *adv.*
re·cu·per·ate (ri·kōō′pə·rāt, -kyōō′-) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To regain health or strength. **2.** To recover from loss, as of money. — *v.t.* **3.** To obtain again after loss; recover. **4.** To restore to vigor and health. — **Syn.** See RECOVER. [< L < *re-* back + *capere* to take] — **re·cu′per·a′tion** *n.* — **re·cu′per·a′tive, re·cu′per·a·to′ry** (-pər·ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **re·cu′per·a′tor** *n.*
re·cur (ri·kûr′) *v.i.* **·curred, ·cur·ring** **1.** To happen again or repeatedly, esp. at regular intervals. **2.** To come back or return; esp., to return to the mind or in recollection. [< L < *re-* back + *currere* to run]
re·cur·rent (ri·kûr′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Happening or appearing again or repeatedly; recurring. **2.** *Anat.* Running back: said of arteries and nerves. — **re·cur′rence, re·cur′ren·cy** *n.* — **re·cur′rent·ly** *adv.*
re·cur·vate (ri·kûr′vit, -vāt) *adj.* Bent back. — **re·cur′va·ture** (-və·chər) *n.*
re·curve (ri·kûrv′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·curved, ·curv·ing** To curve or bend back or down. [< L < *re-* back + *curvus* curved] — **re·cur·va·tion** (rē′kûr·vā′shən) *n.*
red (red) *adj.* **red·der, red·dest** **1.** Being of or having a bright color resembling that of blood. **2.** Communistic. — *n.* **1.** One of the primary colors, occurring at the opposite end of the spectrum from violet; the color of blood. **2.** Any pigment or dye having or giving this color. **3.** An ultraradical in political views, esp. a communist. **4.** A red object considered with reference to its color. — **in the red** *Informal* Operating at a loss; owing money. — **to see red** *Informal* To be very angry. [OE *rēad*] — **red′dish** *adj.* — **red′ly** *adv.* — **red′ness** *n.*
Red (red) *n.* **1.** A member of the Communist party of Russia. **2.** A member of the Communist party of any country. **3.** Any person who supports or approves of the aims of the Communist party. **4.** An ultraradical; anarchist.
re·dact (ri·dakt′) *v.t.* **1.** To prepare, as for publication; edit; revise. **2.** To draw up or frame, as a message or edict. [< L < *re-* back + *agere* to drive] — **re·dac′tion** *n.* — **re·dac′tor** *n.*
red algae Any of a class of algae of a red, brownish red, or purplish color.
Red Army The army of the Soviet Union.
red-bait·ing (red′bā′ting) *n.* The practice of denouncing groups or individuals as communist or sympathetic to communism, often with little evidence. — **red′bait′er** *n.*
red-bird (red′bûrd′) *n.* **1.** The cardinal (def. 2). **2.** The scarlet tanager.
red-blood·ed (red′blud′id) *adj.* Having vitality and vigor.
red-breast (red′brest′) *n.* A bird having a red breast, as the American or European robin.
red-cap (red′kap′) *n. U.S.* A railroad porter.
red cedar **1.** An American juniper tree of the cypress family, having a fine-grained, durable wood of a bright or dark red color resembling cedar. **2.** The wood of this tree.
Red Chamber The chamber of the Canadian Senate at Ottawa.
Red China *Informal* The People's Republic of China.
red-coat (red′kōt′) *n.* A British soldier of the period when a red coat was part of the uniform, esp. during the American Revolution and the War of 1812.
Red Cross An international organization for the care of the sick and wounded in war, formed in accordance with the international convention signed at Geneva in 1864, the members wearing a red Geneva cross as a badge of neutrality. These societies are now national organizations, as the **American Red Cross,** and continue their activities in times of peace, as in fighting disease, etc.
red deer **1.** The common European and Asian stag. **2.** The white-tailed deer in its rufous summer coat.

red·den (red′n) *v.t.* **1.** To make red. — *v.i.* **2.** To grow red; flush; blush.
re·dec·o·rate (ri·dek′ə·rāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To renovate or remodel, as an apartment. — **re/dec/o·ra′tion** *n.*
re·deem (ri·dēm′) *v.t.* **1.** To regain possession of by paying a price; esp., to recover, as mortgaged property. **2.** To pay off; receive back and satisfy, as a promissory note. **3.** To set free; ransom. **4.** *Theol.* To rescue from sin and its penalties. **5.** To fulfill, as an oath or promise. **6.** To compensate for: The play was *redeemed* by its acting. [< MF < L < *re-* back + *emere* to buy] — **re·deem′a·ble, re·demp′ti·ble** (-demp′tə·bəl) *adj.*
re·deem·er (ri·dē′mər) *n.* One who redeems. — **The Redeemer** Jesus Christ.
re·deem·ing (ri·dē′ming) *adj.* Compensating for faults, lacks, poor quality, etc.: the *redeeming* feature.
re·de·liv·er (rē′di·liv′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To deliver again, as a message or a speech. **2.** To give back; return; restore. — **re′·de·liv′er·ance, re′de·liv′er·y** *n.*
re·demp·tion (ri·demp′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of redeeming, or the state of being redeemed. **2.** The recovery of what is mortgaged or pledged. **3.** The payment of a debt or obligation; esp., the paying of the value of its notes, warrants, etc., by a government. [< OF < L < *redimere* to redeem.]
re·demp·tive (ri·demp′tiv) *adj.* Serving to redeem, or connected with redemption. Also **re·demp′to·ry** (-tər·ē).
Red Ensign The Canadian flag, bearing both the Union Jack and the arms of Canada.
re·de·vel·op (rē′di·vel′əp) *v.t.* **1.** To develop again. **2.** *Photog.* To intensify with chemicals and put through a second developing process. — *v.i.* **3.** To develop again. Also **re′de·vel′ope.** — **re′de·vel′op·er** *n.* — **re′de·vel′op·ment** *n.*
red·eye (red′ī′) *n.* **1.** *U.S. Informal* The danger signal in a railroad semaphore system. **2.** *U.S. Slang* Inferior whisky.
red·fin (red′fin′) *n. pl.* **·fins** or **·fin** One of various cyprinoid fishes; esp., the common shiner of eastern North America.
red-hand·ed (red′han′did) *adj.* **1.** Having just committed any crime. **2.** Caught in the act of doing some particular thing. — **red′hand′ed·ly** *adv.* — **red′-hand′ed·ness** *n.*
red·head (red′hed′) *n.* **1.** A person with red hair. **2.** An American duck, sometimes mistaken for the canvasback.
red herring **1.** Herring dried and smoked to a reddish color. **2.** A diverting of attention from the main subject by introducing some irrelevant topic.
red-hot (red′hot′) *adj.* **1.** Heated to redness. **2.** New, as if just from the fire: *red-hot* news. **3.** Heated; excited.
red·in·gote (red′ing·gōt) *n.* An outer coat with long full skirts. [< F *rédingote*, alter. of E *riding coat*]
re·din·te·grate (ri·din′tə·grāt) *v.t.* **·grat·ed, ·grat·ing** To restore to a perfect state. — *adj.* Restored. [< L < *red-* again + *integrare* to make whole] — **re·din′te·gra′tion** *n.*
re·di·rect[1] (rē′di·rekt′) *v.t.* To direct again or anew: to *redirect* a letter. — **re′di·rec′tion** *n.*
re·di·rect[2] (rē′di·rekt′) *adj. Law* Designating the examination of a witness, after cross-examination, by the party who first examined him.
re·dis·trict (rē·dis′trikt) *v.t.* To district again; esp., to redraw the boundaries of the election districts of.
red lead (led) Minium.
red-let·ter day (red′let′ər) A memorable occasion: from the use on calendars of red letters to indicate holidays.
red light A red traffic or signal light meaning "stop."
red-light district (red′līt′) A part of a city or town in which brothels, often marked by a red light, are numerous.
red man An American Indian.
red·neck (red′nek′) *n.* In the rural South, a poor, uneducated white person: a disparaging term.
red oak **1.** Any of several oaks having a dense, cross-grained wood. **2.** The wood of any of these oaks.
red·o·lent (red′ə·lənt) *adj.* Full of or diffusing a pleasant fragrance. [< OF < L < *red-* thoroughly + *olere* to smell] — **red′o·lence, red′o·len·cy** *n.* — **red′o·lent·ly** *adv.*
re·doub·le (rē·dub′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·led, ·ling** **1.** To make or become double. **2.** To increase greatly. **3.** To echo or re-echo. **4.** To fold or turn back. **5.** In bridge, to double (an opponent's double). — *n.* In bridge, the doubling of an opponent's double.
re·doubt (ri·dout′) *n.* **1.** An enclosed fortification, esp. a temporary one of any form. **2.** An earthwork or simple fortification placed within the main rampart line of a permanent fortification. [< F < Ital. < Med.L < L *reductus* secret place, pp. of *reducere* to reduce]
re·doubt·a·ble (ri·dou′tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Inspiring fear; formidable. **2.** Deserving respect or deference. Also **re·doubt′·ed** (-dou′tid). [< F, ult. < L *re-* thoroughly + *dubitare* to doubt] — **re·doubt′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·doubt′a·bly** *adv.*
re·dound (ri·dound′) *v.i.* To have an effect, as by reaction, to the credit, discredit, advantage, etc., of the original agent; accrue. — *n.* A return by way of consequence; requital. [< F < L < *red-* back + *undare* to surge]
red pepper A species of capsicum cultivated in many varieties and used as a condiment: also called *cayenne pepper.*
red·poll (red′pōl′) *n.* Any of various small finches of northern regions, having a reddish crown.
re·draft (*n.* rē′draft′, -dräft′; *v.* rē·draft′, -dräft′) *n.* **1.** A second draft or copy. **2.** A bill of exchange drawn by the holder of a protested bill on the drawer or endorsers for the reimbursement of the amount of the original bill with costs and charges. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make a redraft (of).
re·dress (ri·dres′; *for n., also* rē′dres) *v.t.* **1.** To set right, as a wrong, by compensation or by punishment of the wrongdoer; make reparation for. **2.** To make reparation to; compensate. **3.** To remedy; correct. **4.** To adjust, as balances. — *n.* **1.** Satisfaction for wrong done; reparation; amends. **2.** A restoration; correction. [< F < *re-* again + *dresser* to arrange] — **re·dress′er** or **re·dres′sor** *n.*
re-dress (rē·dres′) *v.t. & v.i.* To dress again.
red salmon The sockeye.
red·skin (red′skin′) *n.* A North American Indian.
red snapper A reddish fish found in Atlantic waters and esteemed as a food fish.
red·start (red′stärt′) *n.* **1.** A small European singing bird allied to the warblers; having a black throat, white forehead, and rust-red breast, sides, and tail. **2.** A small fly-catching warbler of eastern North America, with bright orange-red patches against black and white.
red tape Rigid official procedure involving delay or inaction: from the tying of public documents with red tape.
re·duce (ri·dōōs′, -dyōōs′) *v.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make less in size, amount, number, intensity, etc.; diminish. **2.** To bring to a lower condition; degrade. **3.** To bring to submission; conquer. **4.** To bring to a specified condition or state: with *to*: to *reduce* a person to desperation. **5.** To thin (paint, etc.) with oil or turpentine. **6.** *Math.* To change (an expression) to a more elementary form. **7.** *Surg.* To restore (displaced parts) to normal position. **8.** *Chem.* **a** To decrease the valence of (an atom or group of atoms) by adding electrons. **b** To remove oxygen from (a compound). **9.** *Metall.* To extract (a metal) from a combined state, as in an ore. — *v.i.* **10.** To become less in any way. **11.** To decrease one's weight, as by dieting. — **Syn.** See DECREASE. [< L < *re-* back + *ducere* to lead] — **re·duc′er** *n.* — **re·duc′i·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·duc′i·ble** *adj.* — **re·duc′i·bly** *adv.*
reducing agent *Chem.* A substance that effects reduction, while increasing its valence and becoming oxidized.
re·duc·ti·o ad ab·sur·dum (ri·duk′shē·ō ad ab·sûr′dəm) *Latin* Reduction to an absurdity; disposal of a proposition by showing that its logical conclusion is absurd.
re·duc·tion (ri·duk′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of reducing, or its results. **2.** *Chem.* **a** The process of depriving a compound of oxygen. **b** The process by which atoms gain valence electrons or cease to share them with a more electronegative element. — **re·duc′tion·al** *adj.* — **re·duc′tive** (-tiv) *adj.*
re·dun·dance (ri·dun′dəns) *n.* **1.** The condition or quality of being redundant. **2.** That which is redundant.
re·dun·dan·cy (ri·dun′dən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** Redundance. **2.** In information theory, the extent to which a signal repeats the same message, reducing the probability of error and reducing the effective capacity of the channel.
re·dun·dant (ri·dun′dənt) *adj.* **1.** Being more than is required; constituting an excess. **2.** Unnecessarily verbose; tautological. [< L *redundans, -antis*, ppr. of *redundare* to overflow] — **re·dun′dant·ly** *adv.*
re·du·pli·cate (*v.* ri·dōō′plə·kāt, -dyōō′-; *adj.* ri·dōō′plə·kit, -dyōō′-) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To repeat again and again; redouble; iterate. **2.** *Ling.* To affix a reduplication to. — *v.i.* **3.** To undergo reduplication. — *adj.* **1.** Repeated again and again; duplicated. **2.** *Bot.* Valvate with the margins reflexed. [< L < *re-* again + *duplicare* to double] — **re·du′pli·ca·tive** *adj.*
re·du·pli·ca·tion (ri·dōō′plə·kā′shən, -dyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The act of reduplicating, or the state of being reduplicated; a redoubling. **2.** *Ling.* **a** The repetition of an initial element or elements in a word. **b** The doubling of all or part of a word, often with vowel or consonant change, as in *razzle-dazzle.*
red-wing (red′wing′) *n.* **1.** An American blackbird with bright scarlet patches on the wings of the male. Also **red′-winged′ blackbird.** **2.** An Old World red-winged thrush, with bright reddish orange on the sides and underwings.
red·wood (red′wōōd′) *n.* **1.** A sequoia. **2.** Its durable reddish wood. **3.** Any of various similar trees.
re·ech·o (ri·ek′ō) *v.t.* **1.** To echo back, as a sound. **2.** To echo again; repeat, as an opinion. — *v.i.* **3.** To echo again; reverberate. — *n.* That which is reechoed.
reed (rēd) *n.* **1.** The slender, frequently jointed stem of

certain tall grasses growing in wet places, or the grasses themselves. **2.** A thin, elastic plate of reed, wood, or metal nearly closing an opening, as in a pipe, used in reed organs, oboes, clarinets, etc., to produce a musical tone. **3.** A musical pipe made of the hollow stem of a plant. **4.** *Archit.* A semicylindrical ornamental molding or bead. **5.** An arrow. **6.** The abomasum. — *v.t.* **1.** To fashion into or decorate with reeds. **2.** To thatch with reeds. [OE *hrēod*]

reed·ing (rē′ding) *n.* **1.** Beading or semicylindrical moldings collectively. **2.** Ornamentation by such moldings. **3.** A molding of this kind. **4.** The knurling on the edge of a coin, as distinguished from milling.

reed organ A keyboard musical instrument sounding by means of free reeds vibrated by air currents.

reed pipe An organ pipe that acts as a resonator for a tuned reed. Compare FLUE PIPE.

re·ed·u·cate (rē·ej′o͞o·kāt) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** **1.** To educate again. **2.** To rehabilitate, as a criminal, by education.

reed·y (rē′dē) *adj.* **reed·i·er, reed·i·est** **1.** Full of reeds. **2.** Like a reed. **3.** Having a thin, sharp tone, like a reed instrument. — **reed′i·ness** *n.*

reef[1] (rēf) *n.* **1.** A ridge of sand or rocks, or esp. of coral, at or near the surface of the water. **2.** A lode, vein, or ledge. Compare SHOAL[1]. [< ON *rif*] — **reef′y** *adj.*

reef[2] (rēf) *Naut.* *n.* **1.** The part of a sail that is folded and secured or untied and let out in regulating its size on the mast. **2.** The tuck taken in a sail when reefed. — *v.t.* **1.** To reduce (a sail) by folding a part and fastening it to a yard or boom. **2.** To shorten or lower, as a topmast by taking part of it in. [< ON *rif* rib]

reef·er[1] (rē′fər) *n.* **1.** One who reefs. **2.** A close-fitting, often double-breasted coat or jacket of heavy material.

reef·er[2] (rē′fər) *n.* *U.S. Slang* A marihuana cigarette. [? from its resemblance to the reef of a sail]

reef knot A square knot.

reek (rēk) *v.i.* **1.** To give off smoke, vapor, etc. **2.** To give off a strong, offensive smell. **3.** To be pervaded with anything offensive. — *v.t.* **4.** To expose to smoke or its action. **5.** To give off or emit (fumes, an odor, etc.) [OE *rēocan* to smoke] — **reek′er** *n.* — **reek′y** *adv.*

reel[1] (rēl) *n.* **1.** A rotary device or frame for winding rope, film, or other flexible substance. **2.** Motion picture film wound on one reel, used as a unit of length. **3.** A wooden spool for wire, thread, etc. **4.** Material, as thread, paper, etc., wound on a reel. — *v.t.* **1.** To wind on a reel or bobbin, as a line. **2.** To pull by reeling a line: with *in*: to *reel* a fish in. **3.** To say, do, etc., easily and fluently: with *off*. [OE *hrēol*] — **reel′a·ble** *adj.* — **reel′er** *n.*

reel[2] (rēl) *v.i.* **1.** To stagger, sway, or lurch, as when giddy or drunk. **2.** To whirl round and round. **3.** To have a sensation of giddiness or whirling. **4.** To waver or fall back, as attacking troops. — *v.t.* **5.** To cause to reel. — *n.* A staggering motion; giddiness. [< REEL[1]] — **reel′er** *n.*

reel[3] (rēl) *n.* A lively dance, chiefly Scottish or Irish; also, the music for this dance. [? < REEL[1]]

re·en·force (rē′en·fôrs′, -fōrs′), **re·en·force·ment** (rē′en·fôrs′mənt, -fōrs′-), etc. See REINFORCE, etc.

re·en·try (rē·en′trē) *n.* *pl.* **·tries** **1.** The act of entering again. **2.** In whist and bridge, an entry. **3.** *Aerospace* The return of a rocket or other object to the atmosphere of the earth after travel to very high altitudes.

re·e·val·u·ate (rē′i·val′yo͞o·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To evaluate or consider anew. — **re′e·val′u·a′tion** *n.*

reeve[1] (rēv) *v.t.* **reeved** or **rove, reev·ing** *Naut.* **1.** To pass, as a rope or rod, through a hole, block, or aperture. **2.** To fasten in such manner. **3.** To pass a rope, etc., through (a block or pulley). [Origin uncertain]

reeve[2] (rēv) *n.* **1.** In Canada, the elected head of a rural municipal council. **2.** In medieval England: **a** A high administrative officer. **b** A bailiff; steward. [OE *gerēfa*]

reeve[3] (rēv) *n.* The female of the ruff, a sandpiper.

re·fec·tion (ri·fek′shən) *n.* **1.** Refreshment with food and drink. **2.** A light meal. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *facere* to make]

re·fec·to·ry (ri·fek′tə·rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** A room or hall for eating, esp. in a religious house or college.

re·fer (ri·fûr′) *v.* **·ferred, ·fer·ring** *v.t.* **1.** To direct or send for information, assistance, etc. **2.** To hand over or submit for consideration, settlement, etc. **3.** To assign or attribute to a source, cause, class, period, etc. — *v.i.* **4.** To make reference; allude. **5.** To turn, as for information, help, or authority. — **Syn.** See ATTRIBUTE. [< OF < L < *re-* back *ferre* to carry] — **ref·er·a·ble** (ref′ər·ə·bəl), **re·fer′ra·ble** or **re·fer′ri·ble** *adj.* — **re·fer′ral** *n.* — **re·fer′rer** *n.*

ref·e·ree (ref′ə·rē′) *n.* **1.** A person to whom something is referred, esp. for settlement or arbitration. **2.** In certain sports, as football, a supervisory official. — **Syn.** See JUDGE. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·reed, ·ree·ing** To judge as a referee.

ref·er·ence (ref′ər·əns, ref′rəns) *n.* **1.** The act of referring. **2.** An incidental allusion or direction of the attention: *reference* to a recent event. **3.** A note or other indication in a book, referring to some other book or passage. Compare CROSS-REFERENCE. **4.** One who or that which is or may be referred to. **5.** The state of being referred or related: used in the phrases **with** (or **in**) **reference to.** **6.** The person or persons to whom one seeking employment may refer for recommendation. — **ref′er·enc·er** *n.*

ref·er·en·dum (ref′ə·ren′dəm) *n.* *pl.* **·dums** or **·da** (-də) **1.** The submission of a proposed public measure or law that has been passed upon by a legislature or convention to a vote of the people for ratification or rejection. **2.** The vote in such a procedure. [< L, gerund of *referre* to refer]

ref·er·ent (ref′ər·ənt) *n.* The object, concept, etc., to which reference is made in a statement or its symbolic equivalent.

re·fill (*v.* rē·fil′; *n.* rē′fil′) *v.t.* To fill again. — *n.* Any commodity packaged to fit and fill a container originally containing that commodity: a *refill* for a lipstick case.

re·fine (ri·fīn′) *v.* **·fined, ·fin·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make fine or pure; free from impurities or extraneous matter. **2.** To make polished or cultured. **3.** To improve or change by subtle or precise alterations. — *v.i.* **4.** To become fine or pure. **5.** To become more polished or cultured. **6.** To make fine distinctions. [< RE- + FINE[1], v.] — **re·fin′er** *n.*

re·fined (ri·fīnd′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by refinement; cultivated; polished. **2.** Free from impurity; purified. **3.** Exceedingly precise or exact; subtle.

re·fine·ment (ri·fīn′mənt) *n.* **1.** Fineness of thought, taste, language, etc.; freedom from coarseness or vulgarity; delicacy; culture. **2.** The act, effect, or process of refining. **3.** A nice distinction; subtlety. **4.** Fastidiousness.

— **Syn.** **1.** *Refinement* implies not only the elimination of vulgarity and grossness but also the development of delicate perception and understanding. *Cultivation* is the self-discipline, study, and exercise that bring urbanity, learning, esthetic taste, etc. *Culture* primarily contrasts the enlightenment of the civilized man with that of a savage or a child; *breeding* suggests the training that manifests itself in good manners, tact, and consideration for others. — **Ant.** coarseness, grossness, vulgarity.

re·fin·er·y (ri·fī′nər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·er·ies** A place where some crude material, as sugar or petroleum, is purified.

re·fit (rē·fit′) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·fit·ted, ·fit·ting** To make or be made fit or ready again, as by repairs, replacing equipment, etc. — *n.* The repair of damages or wear, esp. of a ship.

re·flect (ri·flekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To turn or throw back, as waves of light, heat, or sound. **2.** To give back an image of; mirror. **3.** To cause as a result of one's actions, character, etc.; cast: He *reflects* credit on his teacher. **4.** To manifest as a result of influence, imitation, etc. — *v.i.* **5.** To send back rays, as of light or heat. **6.** To shine back. **7.** To give back an image; be mirrored. **8.** To think carefully; ponder. **9.** To bring blame, discredit, etc.: with *on* or *upon*. **10.** *Anat.* To fold back upon itself, as a membrane or tissue. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *flectere* to bend]

re·flec·tion (ri·flek′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of reflecting, or the state of being reflected. **2.** *Physics* The throwing off or back from a surface of impinging light, heat, sound, or any form of radiant energy. **3.** The result of reflecting; reflected rays or an image thrown by reflection. **4.** Meditation; careful consideration. **5.** An imputation of blame or censure. **6.** *Anat.* The folding of a part upon itself. Also **re·flex′ion.** — **re·flec′tion·al** or **re·flex′ion·al** *adj.*

— **Syn.** **4.** rumination, reverie, thought. **5.** aspersion, animadversion.

re·flec·tive (ri·flek′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Given to reflection or thought; meditative. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or caused by reflection. **3.** Having the quality of throwing back light, heat, etc. — **re·flec′tive·ly** *adv.* — **re·flec′tive·ness** *n.* — **re′flec·tiv′i·ty** *n.*

re·flec·tor (ri·flek′tər) *n.* **1.** That which reflects. **2.** A polished surface for reflecting light, heat, sound, etc. **3.** A telescope that transmits an image from a reflecting surface to the eyepiece. **4.** *Physics* A substance placed around the core of a nuclear reactor for the purpose of maintaining the level of the chain reaction.

re·flex (*adj.* & *n.* rē′fleks; *v.* ri·fleks′) *adj.* **1.** *Physiol.* Of, pertaining to, or produced by involuntary response to a stimulus. **2.** Turned, thrown, or directed backward or in the opposite direction. **3.** Bent back; reflexed. — *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* An involuntary movement or response to a stimulus, as in winking, sneezing, shivering, etc.: also **reflex action.** **2.** Reflection, or an image produced by reflection, as from a mirror or like surface. **3.** Light reflected from an illuminated surface to a shady one. — *v.t.* To bend back; turn back or reflect. [See REFLECT.]

reflex angle *Geom.* An angle greater than 180 degrees.

reflex arc *Physiol.* The entire path of a nerve impulse from the receptors to the nerve center, and thence to the effectors.

re·flex·ive (ri·flek′siv) *adj.* **1.** *Gram.* **a** Of verbs, having an object that is identical with the subject, as "dresses" in "He dresses himself." **b** Of pronouns in the objective case, being identical with the subject, as "herself" in "She hurt herself." **2.** Of or pertaining to a reflex or reflection. — *n.* *Gram.* A

reflexive verb or pronoun. — **re·flex′ive·ly** *adv.* — **re·flex′ive·ness, re·flex·iv·i·ty** (rē′flek·siv′ə·tē) *n.*

ref·lu·ent (ref′lōō·ənt) *adj.* Flowing back; ebbing, as the tide. [< L < *re-* back + *fluere* to flow] — **ref′lu·ence** *n.*

re·flux (rē′fluks′) *n.* A flowing back; ebb: the flux and *reflux* of fortune. [< L *refluxus*, pp. of *refluere*. See REFLUENT.]

re·for·est (rē·fôr′ist, -for′-) *v.t. & v.i.* To replant (an area) with trees. — **re′for·es·ta′tion** *n.*

re·form (ri·fôrm′) *v.t.* **1.** To make better by removing abuses, altering, etc. **2.** To improve morally; persuade or educate to a better life. **3.** To put an end to (an abuse, malpractice, etc.). — *v.i.* **4.** To give up sin or error; become better. — *n.* **1.** An act or result of reformation; change for the better, esp. in administration. **2.** Improvement in one's personal life, esp. by abandonment of bad habits. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *formare* to form] — **re·form′a·tive** *adj.* — **re·form′er, re·form′ist** *n.*

re-form (rē′fôrm′) *v.t. & v.i.* To form again. — **re′-for·ma′tion** *n.*

ref·or·ma·tion (ref′ər·mā′shən) *n.* The act of reforming, or the state of being reformed; esp., moral improvement.

Ref·or·ma·tion (ref′ər·mā′shən) *n.* The 16th-century religious revolution that aimed at reforming Catholicism and ended with the establishment of Protestantism.

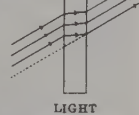
re·for·ma·to·ry (ri·fôr′mə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** An institution for the reformation and instruction of juvenile offenders. Also **reform school.** — *adj.* Tending to reform.

re·formed (ri·fôrmd′) *adj.* **1.** Restored to a better state; corrected or amended. **2.** Improved in conduct, habits, etc.

Reform Judaism The branch of Judaism that does not accept in entirety the Mosaic Laws, the Talmud, and rabbinical interpretations as binding in modern times.

re·fract (ri·frakt′) *v.t.* **1.** To deflect (a ray) by refraction. **2.** *Optics* To determine the degree of refraction of (an eye or lens). [< L < *refringere* to turn aside]

re·frac·tion (ri·frak′shən) *n.* **1.** *Physics* The change of direction of a ray, as of light or heat, in passage from one medium to another of different density. **2.** *Optics* The refracting of light rays by the eye so as to form an image upon the retina. — **re·frac′tive** *adj.* — **re·frac′tive·ly** *adv.* — **re·frac′tive·ness, re·frac·tiv·i·ty** (rē′frak·tiv′ə·tē) *n.*



LIGHT REFRACTION

refractive index *Optics* The ratio of the velocity of a specific radiation in a vacuum to its velocity in a given medium.

re·frac·tor (ri·frak′tər) *n.* **1.** That which refracts. **2.** A refracting telescope. See under TELESCOPE.

re·frac·to·ry (ri·frak′tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Not amenable to control; unmanageable; obstinate. **2.** Resisting heat or ordinary methods of reduction, as an ore. **3.** Resisting treatment, as a disease. — *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** One who or that which is refractory. **2.** Any of various materials highly resistant to the action of great heat, as fire clay. [See REFRACT.] — **re·frac′to·ri·ly** *adv.* — **re·frac′to·ri·ness** *n.*

re·frain[1] (ri·frān′) *v.i.* To keep oneself back; abstain from action. [< OF < L *refrenare* to curb] — **re·frain′er** *n.*

re·frain[2] (ri·frān′) *n.* **1.** A phrase or strain in a poem or song repeated at the end of each stanza. **2.** Any saying repeated over and over. [< OF < L *refringere* to turn aside]

re·fran·gi·ble (ri·fran′jə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being refracted, as light. [< RE- + L *frangere* to break + -IBLE] — **re·fran′gi·bil′i·ty, re·fran′gi·ble·ness** *n.*

re·fresh (ri·fresh′) *v.t.* **1.** To make fresh or vigorous again, as by food or rest; reinvigorate; revive. **2.** To make fresh, clean, cool, etc. **3.** To stimulate, as the memory. **4.** To renew or replenish with or as with new supplies. — *v.i.* **5.** To become fresh again; revive. **6.** To take refreshment. [< OF < *re-* again + *fres* fresh]

re·fresh·er (ri·fresh′ər) *adj.* Reviewing material previously studied. — *n.* One who or that which refreshes.

re·fresh·ing (ri·fresh′ing) *adj.* **1.** Serving to refresh. **2.** Enjoyably novel or unusual. — **re·fresh′ing·ly** *adv.*

re·fresh·ment (ri·fresh′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of refreshing, or the state of being refreshed. **2.** That which refreshes, as food or drink. **3.** *pl.* Food, or food and drink.

re·frig·er·ant (ri·frij′ər·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Cooling or freezing. **2.** Allaying bodily heat or fever. — *n.* **1.** Any medicine or material, as ice, that reduces abnormal heat of the body. **2.** A substance used for obtaining and maintaining a low temperature, as frozen carbon dioxide or ammonia.

re·frig·er·ate (ri·frij′ə·rāt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To keep or make cold. **2.** To freeze or chill (foodstuffs, etc.) for preservative purposes. [< L < *re-* thoroughly + *frigerare* to cool] — **re·frig′er·a′tion** *n.* — **re·frig′er·a′tive** *adj. & n.* — **re·frig′er·a·to′ry** (-tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

re·frig·er·a·tor (ri·frij′ə·rā′tər) *n.* A box, cabinet, room, railroad car, etc., equipped with a cooling apparatus for preserving perishable foods, etc.

reft (reft) Past tense and past participle of REAVE.

ref·uge (ref′yōōj) *n.* **1.** Shelter or protection, as from danger or distress. **2.** One who or that which shelters or protects. **3.** A safe place; asylum. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *fugere* to flee]

— **Syn.** (noun) **3.** sanctuary, retreat, haven.

ref·u·gee (ref′yōō·jē′, ref′yōō·jē′) *n.* One who flees from invasion, persecution, or political danger.

re·ful·gent (ri·ful′jənt) *adj.* Shining brilliantly; radiant. [< L < *re-* back + *fulgere* to shine] — **re·ful′gence, re·ful′gen·cy** *n.* — **re·ful′gent·ly** *adv.*

re·fund[1] (*v.* ri·fund′; *n.* rē′fund) *v.t.* **1.** To give or pay back (money, etc.). **2.** To repay; reimburse. — *v.i.* **3.** To make repayment. — *n.* A repayment; also, the amount repaid. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *fundere* to pour] — **re·fund′er** *n.*

re·fund[2] (rē·fund′) *v.t.* To fund anew; replace (an old loan) by issuing new securities.

re·fur·bish (re·fûr′bish) *v.t.* To furbish again; renovate or freshen; polish up; brighten.

re·fus·al (ri·fyōō′zəl) *n.* **1.** The act of refusing; declination. **2.** The privilege of accepting or rejecting; option.

re·fuse[1] (ri·fyōōz′) *v.* **·fused, ·fus·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To decline to do, permit, take, or yield. **2.** *Mil.* To turn back (the wing of a line of troops), so that it stands at an angle with the main body. **3.** To decline to jump over: said of a horse at a ditch, hedge, etc. — *v.i.* **4.** To decline to do, permit, take, or yield something. [< OF < L *refusus*, pp. of *refundere* to refund]

ref·use[2] (ref′yōōs) *n.* Anything worthless; rubbish. — *adj.* Rejected as worthless. [See REFUSE[1].]

re·fute (ri·fyōōt′) *v.t.* **·fut·ed, ·fut·ing** **1.** To prove the incorrectness or falsity of (a statement). **2.** To prove (a person) to be in error; confute. [< L *refutare* to repulse] — **re·fut′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·fut′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·fut′a·bly** *adv.* — **ref·u·ta·tion** (ref′yōō·tā′shən), **re·fu′tal** *n.* — **re·fut′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Refute, disprove, rebut,* and *confute* mean to show to be incorrect or fallacious. *Refute* emphasizes the fact of opposing a statement or argument; *disprove* emphasizes the result of such opposition. To *rebut* is to *refute* in formal debate, while to *confute* is to *disprove,* overthrow, or put to confusion; *confute* may include the use of ridicule, as well as of logical argument.

re·gain (ri·gān′) *v.t.* **1.** To get possession of again, as something lost; recover. **2.** To reach again; get back to: He *regained* the street. [< MF *regaigner*] — **re·gain′er** *n.*

re·gal (rē′gəl) *adj.* **1.** Of a king; royal. **2.** Stately. [< OF < L *regalis* < *rex, regis* king] — **re′gal·ly** *adv.*

re·gale (ri·gāl′) *v.* **·galed, ·gal·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give unusual pleasure to; delight. **2.** To entertain sumptuously; feast. — *v.i.* **3.** To feast. [< F < *ré-* again + OF *gale* pleasure] — **re·gale′ment** *n.*

re·ga·li·a (ri·gā′lē·ə, -gāl′yə) *n.pl.* **1.** The insignia and emblems of royalty, as the crown, scepter, etc. **2.** The distinctive symbols, insignia, etc., of any society, order, or rank. **3.** Fine clothes; fancy trappings. [See REGAL]

re·gard (ri·gärd′) *v.t.* **1.** To look at or observe closely or attentively. **2.** To look on or think of in a certain or specified manner; consider: I *regard* him as a friend. **3.** To take into account; consider. **4.** To have relation or pertinence to; concern. — *v.i.* **5.** To pay attention. **6.** To gaze or look. — *n.* **1.** Careful attention or notice; heed; consideration. **2.** Esteem; respect. **3.** Reference; relation: in *regard* to this matter. **4.** A look or aspect. **5.** *Usu. pl.* Good wishes; affection. [< OF < *re-* again + *garder* to guard, heed]

re·gard·ful (ri·gärd′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Having or showing regard; heedful. **2.** Respectful; deferential. — **re·gard′ful·ly** *adv.*

re·gard·ing (ri·gär′ding) *prep.* In reference to; concerning.

re·gard·less (ri·gärd′lis) *adj.* Having no regard or consideration; heedless; negligent: often with *of.* — *adv. Informal* In spite of everything. — **re·gard′less·ly** *adv.*

re·gat·ta (ri·gat′ə, -gä′tə) *n.* **1.** A boat race, or a series of such races. **2.** Originally, a gondola race. [< Ital.]

re·gen·cy (rē′jən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The government or office of a regent or body of regents. **2.** The period during which a regent governs. **3.** A body of regents. **4.** The district under the rule of a regent. Also **re′gent·ship.**

re·gen·er·ate (*v.* ri·jen′ə·rāt; *adj.* ri·jen′ər·it) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause complete moral and spiritual reformation or regeneration in. **2.** To produce or form anew; recreate; reproduce. **3.** To make use of (heat or other energy that might otherwise be wasted) by means of various devices. **4.** *Biol.* To grow or form by regeneration. **5.** *Telecom.* To return (part of the output of an amplifier) to the input in reinforcing phase to control gain, selectivity, etc. — *v.i.* **6.** To form anew; be reproduced. **7.** To become spiritually regenerate. **8.** To effect regeneration. — *adj.* **1.** Having new life; restored. **2.** Spiritually renewed; regenerated.

[< L < *re-* again + *generare* to generate] — **re·gen'er·a·cy, re·gen'er·a'tion** *n.* — **re·gen·er·a·tive** (ri·jen'ə·rā'tiv, -ər·ə·tiv) *adj.* — **re·gen'er·a'tive·ly** *adv.* — **regen'er·a'tor** *n.*

re·gent (rē'jənt) *n.* **1.** One who rules in the name and place of a sovereign. **2.** A resident master who takes part in the government of a university or college. **3.** One of various educational officers, as of a state. — *adj.* **1.** Exercising authority in another's place. **2.** Governing; ruling. [< OF < L < *regere* to rule]

reg·i·cide (rej'ə·sīd) *n.* **1.** The killing of a king or sovereign. **2.** One who has killed a king or sovereign. [< L *rex, regis* king + -CIDE] — **reg'i·ci'dal** *adj.*

re·gime (ri·zhēm') *n.* **1.** System of government or administration. **2.** A social system. **3.** Regimen. Also **ré·gime** (rā·zhēm'). [< F < L < *regere* to rule, guide]

reg·i·men (rej'ə·mən) *n.* A systematized course of living, as to food, clothing, etc.: also *regime*. [< L *regere* to rule]

reg·i·ment (rej'ə·mənt) *n.* **1.** *Mil.* An administrative and tactical unit of infantry, artillery, etc., larger than a battalion and smaller than a division, usu. commanded by a colonel. **2.** Any large body of persons. — *v.t.* **1.** To form into a regiment or regiments; organize. **2.** To assign to a regiment. **3.** To form into well-defined units or groups; systematize. **4.** To make uniform. [< OF < LL < L *regere* to rule] — **reg'i·men'tal** *adj.* — **reg'i·men·ta'tion** *n.*

reg·i·men·tals (rej'ə·men'təlz) *n.pl.* **1.** A military uniform. **2.** The uniform worn by a regiment.

re·gion (rē'jən) *n.* **1.** An indefinite portion of territory or space, usu. of considerable extent. **2.** A particular area or place: the delta *region* of the Nile. **3.** General area; scope; province: in the *region* of literature. **4.** A portion of the body. **5.** A realm (def. 3). [< AF < L < *regere* to rule]

re·gion·al (rē'jən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a particular region; sectional; local: *regional* planning. **2.** Of or pertaining to an entire region or section. — **re'gion·al·ly** *adv.*

reg·is·ter (rej'is·tər) *n.* **1.** A formal or official record or account, as of names or transactions; also, a book containing such a record. **2.** An individual entry in a register. **3.** Any of various devices for counting or recording: a cash *register*. **4.** An official keeper of records; registrar. **5.** *Music* **a** A portion of the compass of a voice or instrument having tones of a relatively homogeneous timbre. **b** A full set of organ pipes or harpsichord strings controlled by a single stop. **6.** A device by which heated or cooled air is admitted to a room. **7.** *Printing* **a** Exact correspondence of the lines and margins on the opposite sides of a printed sheet. **b** Correct relation of the colors in color printing. **8.** The act of recording or registering; registry. — *v.t.* **1.** To enter in or as in a register; record officially or exactly. **2.** To indicate, as on a scale. **3.** To express; show: His face *registered* shock. **4.** To cause (mail) to be recorded, on payment of a fee, when deposited with the postal system, so as to insure delivery. **5.** *Printing* To effect the exact correspondence of; put in register. — *v.i.* **6.** To enter one's name in a register. **7.** To cause one's name to be included on a list of eligible voters by fulfilling certain requirements. **8.** *Informal* To have effect; make an impression. **9.** *Printing* To be in register. [< OF < Med.L < LL < L < *re-* back + *gerere* to carry] — **reg·is·tra·ble** (rej'is·trə·bəl) *adj.* — **reg'is·trant** *n.*

reg·is·tered (rej'is·tərd) *adj.* **1.** Recorded, as a birth, a voter, an animal's pedigree, etc. **2.** Having a required or official certificate, as a nurse.

registered nurse A graduate nurse licensed to practice by the appropriate State authority and entitled to add R.N. after her name.

reg·is·trar (rej'is·trär, rej'is·trär') *n.* An authorized keeper of a register or of records; esp., a college or university officer who records the enrollment of students, their grades, etc.

reg·is·tra·tion (rej'is·trā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of entering in a registry; also, such an entry. **2.** The registering of voters; also, the number of voters registered. **3.** Enrollment in a school, college, or university. **4.** *Music* The combination of stops used in playing a composition on the organ.

reg·is·try (rej'is·trē) *n. pl.* **·tries** **1.** The act of registering; registration. **2.** A register, or the place where it is kept.

reg·nant (reg'nənt) *adj.* **1.** Reigning in one's own right. **2.** Dominant. [< L < *regnum* reign] — **reg'nan·cy** *n.*

re·gorge (ri·gôrj') *v.t.* **·gorged, ·gorg·ing** To vomit up; disgorge. [< F < *re-* again + *gorger* to gorge]

re·gress (*n.* rē'gres; *v.* ri·gres') *n.* **1.** Passage back; return. **2.** The power or right of passing back. **3.** Withdrawal; retrogression. — *v.i.* To go back; move backward; return. [< L < *re-* back + *gradi* to walk] — **re·gres'sor** *n.*

re·gres·sion (ri·gresh'ən) *n.* **1.** The act of regressing. **2.** *Psychoanal.* A retreat of the libido to earlier and less mature forms of behavior. **3.** *Stat.* The return to a mean or average value. **4.** *Med.* The subsidence of a disease.

re·gres·sive (ri·gres'iv) *adj.* **1.** Tending to regress. **2.** Of or marked by regression. **3.** Denoting or pertaining to a tax or taxes in which the tax rate decreases as the amount taxed increases. — **re·gres'sive·ly** *adv.*

re·gret (ri·gret') *v.t.* **·gret·ted, ·gret·ting** **1.** To look back upon with a feeling of distress or loss. **2.** To feel sorrow or grief concerning. — *n.* **1.** Distress of mind over loss or circumstances beyond one's control. **2.** Remorseful sorrow; compunction. **3.** *pl.* A polite refusal in response to an invitation. [< OF *regreter* < Gmc.] — **re·gret'ta·ble** *adj.* — **re·gret'ta·bly** *adv.* — **re·gret'ter** *n.*

re·gret·ful (ri·gret'fəl) *adj.* Feeling, expressive of, or full of regret. — **re·gret'ful·ly** *adv.* — **re·gret'ful·ness** *n.*

reg·u·lar (reg'yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Made according to rule; symmetrical; normal. **2.** Acting according to rule; methodical; orderly: *regular* habits. **3.** Constituted, appointed, or conducted in the proper manner; duly authorized: a *regular* meeting. **4.** *Gram.* Undergoing the inflection that is normal or most common to the class of words to which it belongs: said esp. of weak verbs. **5.** *Bot.* Having all the parts or organs of the same kind uniform in structure or shape and size: said mainly of flowers. **6.** *Eccl.* Bound by a religious rule. **7.** *Mil.* Pertaining or belonging to the permanent military services. **8.** In politics, adhering loyally to a party organization or platform. **9.** *Geom.* Having equal sides and angles. **10.** *Math.* Controlled or governed by one law or operation throughout: a *regular* equation. **11.** *Informal* Thorough; unmitigated; absolute. **12.** *U.S.* Designating the component of the armed services that consists of persons in continuous service on active duty in both peace and war: the *regular* Army. — *n.* **1.** A regular soldier. **2.** *Informal* One regularly employed or engaged; also, a habitual customer. **3.** *Eccl.* A member of a religious or monastic order. **4.** A person loyal to a certain political party. [< OF < L < *regula* rule] — **reg'u·lar·ly** *adv.* — **reg'u·lar·ness** *n.*

reg·u·lar·i·ty (reg'yə·lar'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state, quality, or character of being regular; also, an instance of this.

reg·u·lar·ize (reg'yə·lə·rīz') *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make regular. Also *Brit.* **reg'u·lar·ise'.** — **reg'u·lar·i·za'tion** *n.*

reg·u·late (reg'yə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To direct or control according to certain rules, principles, etc. **2.** To adjust according to a standard, degree, etc.: to *regulate* currency. **3.** To adjust to accurate operation. **4.** To put in order. [< LL < *regulare* to rule] — **reg'u·la'tive, reg'u·la·to'ry** *adj.*

reg·u·la·tion (reg'yə·lā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of regulating, or the state of being regulated. **2.** A rule of conduct.

reg·u·la·tor (reg'yə·lā'tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which regulates. **2.** A device for regulating the rate of a watch. **3.** *Mech.* A contrivance for regulating or equalizing motion or flow. — **reg'u·la'tor·ship** *n.*

Reg·u·lus (reg'yə·ləs) A white star, one of the 20 brightest, 1.34 magnitude; Alpha in the constellation Leo. [< L]

re·gur·gi·tate (ri·gûr'jə·tāt) *v.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To rush, pour, or surge back. — *v.t.* **2.** To cause to surge back, as partially digested food; vomit. [< Med.L < *re-* back + LL *gurgitare* to swallow, engulf] — **re·gur'gi·tant** *adj.* — **re·gur'gi·ta'tion** *n.*

re·ha·bil·i·tate (rē'hə·bil'ə·tāt) *v.t.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** **1.** To restore to a former state, capacity, privilege, rank, etc.; reinstate. **2.** To restore to a state of health, useful activity, etc., through training, therapy, guidance. [< Med.L < *re-* back + HABILITATE] — **re'ha·bil'i·ta'tion** *n.*

re·hash (*v.* rē·hash'; *n.* rē'hash') *v.t.* To work into a new form; go over again. — *n.* Something hashed over, or made or served up from something used before.

re·hear·ing (rē·hir'ing) *n.* A new hearing, as in court.

re·hears·al (ri·hûr'səl) *n.* **1.** A practice session or performance of a play, etc. **2.** The act of practicing or drilling for public performance. **3.** The act of telling over again.

re·hearse (ri·hûrs') *v.* **·hearsed, ·hears·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To perform privately in preparation for public performance, as a play or song. **2.** To instruct by rehearsal. **3.** To say over again; repeat aloud; recite. **4.** To give an account of; relate. — *v.i.* **5.** To rehearse a play, song, dance, etc. [< OF < *re-* again + *hercier* to harrow] — **re·hears'er** *n.*

Reich (rīkh) *n.* Germany or its government. — **First Reich** The Holy Roman Empire from its establishment in the ninth century to its collapse in 1806. — **Second Reich** Either of two German governments in the period 1871–1933. — **Third Reich** The Nazi state under Adolf Hitler, 1933–45. [< G, realm]

reichs·mark (rīkhs'märk') *n.* A former standard monetary unit of Germany, worth about 24 U.S. cents.

Reichs·tag (rīkhs'täkh) *n.* The former legislative assembly of Germany. [< G]

reign (rān) *n.* **1.** The possession or exercise of supreme power, esp. royal power; sovereignty. **2.** The time or duration of a sovereign's rule. — *v.i.* **1.** To hold and exercise sovereign power. **2.** To hold sway; prevail: Winter *reigns*. [< F < L *regnum* rule]

Reign of Terror The period of the French Revolution from May, 1793, to August, 1794, during which thousands were guillotined, including Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

re·im·burse (rē'im·bûrs') *v.t.* **·bursed, ·burs·ing** **1.** To pay

back (a person) an equivalent for what has been spent or lost; recompense; indemnify. **2.** To pay back; refund. [< RE- + obs. *imburse*] — **re/im·burs/a·ble** *adj.* — **re/im·burse/·ment** *n.* — **re/im·burs/er** *n.*

re·im·port (*v.* rē/im·pôrt/, -pōrt/, rē·im/pôrt, -pōrt; *n.* rē·im/·pôrt, -pōrt) *v.t.* To import (goods, etc., previously exported) again. — *n.* **1.** The act of importing again. **2.** That which is reimported. — **re/im·por·ta/tion** *n.*

rein (rān) *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* A strap attached to the bit to control a horse or other draft animal. **2.** Any means of restraint or control; a check. — *v.t.* **1.** To guide, check, or halt with or as with reins. **2.** To furnish with reins. — *v.i.* **3.** To check or halt a horse by means of reins: with *in* or *up*. [< AF < L *retinere* to retain]

re·in·car·nate (rē/in·kär/nāt) *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** To cause to undergo reincarnation.

re·in·car·na·tion (rē/in·kär·nā/shən) *n.* **1.** A rebirth of the soul in successive bodies; also, the belief in such rebirth. **2.** In Vedic religions, the becoming of an avatar again.

rein·deer (rān/dir/) *n. pl.* **·deer** A deer of northern regions, having branched antlers in both sexes, long domesticated for its milk, hide, and flesh, and used as a pack animal. [< ON < *hreinn* reindeer + *dȳr* deer]

re·in·force (rē/in·fôrs/, -fōrs/) *v.t.* **·forced, ·forc·ing** **1.** To give new force or strength to. **2.** *Mil.* To strengthen with additional personnel or equipment. **3.** To add some strengthening part or material to. **4.** *Psychol.* To strengthen (a response) by the addition of another stimulus, as a reward. Also spelled *reenforce*. [< RE- + *inforce*, var. of ENFORCE]

reinforced concrete Concrete containing metal bars, rods, or netting disposed through the mass to increase its tensile strength and durability: also called *ferro-concrete*.

re·in·force·ment (rē/in·fôrs/mənt, -fōrs/-) *n.* **1.** The act of reinforcing. **2.** *Often pl. Mil.* A fresh body of troops or additional vessels. Also spelled *reenforcement*.

re·in·state (rē/in·stāt/) *v.t.* **·stat·ed, ·stat·ing** To restore to a former state, position, etc. — **re/in·state/ment** *n.*

re·in·sure (rē/in·shŏŏr/) *v.t.* **·sured, ·sur·ing** **1.** To protect (the risk on a policy already issued) by obtaining insurance from a second insurer: said of a first insurer. **2.** To insure anew. — **re/in·sur/ance** *n.* — **re/in·sur/er** *n.*

re·is·sue (rē·ish/ōō) *n.* **1.** A second or subsequent issue, as of a publication changed in form or price. **2.** A second printing of postage stamps from the same plates. — *v.t.* **·sued, ·su·ing** To issue again.

re·it·er·ate (rē·it/ə·rāt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To say or do again and again. [< L *re-* again + ITERATE] — **re·it/er·a/tion** *n.* — **re·it/er·a/tive** *adj.* — **re·it/er·a/tive·ly** *adv.*

re·ject (*v.* ri·jekt/; *n.* rē/jekt) *v.t.* **1.** To refuse to accept, recognize, believe, etc. **2.** To refuse to grant; deny, as a petition. **3.** To refuse (a person) recognition, acceptance, etc. **4.** To expel, as from the mouth; vomit. **5.** To cast away as worthless; discard. — *n.* One who or that which has been rejected. [< L < *re-* back + *jacere* to throw] — **re·ject/er** or **re·jec/tor** *n.* — **re·jec/tion** *n.*

re·joice (ri·jois/) *v.* **·joiced, ·joic·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To feel joyful; be glad. — *v.t.* **2.** To fill with joy; gladden. [< OF < *re-* again + *esjoir* to be joyous] — **re·joic/er** *n.*

re·joic·ing (ri·joi/sing) *adj.* Pertaining to or characterized by joyfulness. — *n.* The feeling or expression of joy.

re·join[1] (rē·join/) *v.t.* **1.** To say in reply; answer. — *v.i.* **2.** To answer; respond. [< F < *re-* again + *joindre* to join]

re·join[2] (rē/join/) *v.t.* **1.** To come again into company with. **2.** To join together again; reunite. — *v.i.* **3.** To come together again. [< RE- + JOIN]

re·join·der (ri·join/dər) *n.* **1.** An answer to a reply; also, any reply or retort. **2.** *Law* The answer filed by a defendant to a plaintiff's replication.

re·ju·ve·nate (ri·jōō/və·nāt) *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** To give new vigor or youthfulness to. Also **re·ju/ve·nize.** [< RE- + L *juvenis* young + -ATE[1]] — **re·ju/ve·na/tion** *n.*

re·lapse (ri·laps/; *for n., also* rē/laps) *v.i.* **·lapsed, ·laps·ing** **1.** To lapse back, as into a disease. **2.** To return to bad habits or ways; backslide. — *n.* The act or condition of relapsing. [< L < *re-* back + *labi* to slide] — **re·laps/er** *n.*

re·late (ri·lāt/) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To tell the events or the particulars of; narrate. **2.** To bring into connection or relation. — *v.i.* **3.** To have relation: with *to*. **4.** To have reference: with *to*. [< F *relater*] — **re·lat/er, re·la/tor** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** report, recount, recite, rehearse, state. **2.** connect, link, join, associate. **3.** pertain, apply.

re·lat·ed (ri·lā/tid) *adj.* **1.** Standing in relation; connected. **2.** Connected by blood or marriage; of common ancestry; akin. **3.** Narrated; told. — **re·lat/ed·ness** *n.*

re·la·tion (ri·lā/shən) *n.* **1.** The fact or condition of being related or connected in some way. **2.** Connection by blood or marriage; kinship. **3.** A person connected by blood or marriage; kinsman. **4.** Reference; regard; allusion: in *relation* to that matter. **5.** The position of one person with respect to another: the *relation* of ruler to subject. **6.** *pl.* Conditions or connections that bring an individual in touch with his fellows; also, any conditions or connections by which one country may come into contact with another politically and commercially. **7.** The act of narrating; also, that which is narrated. [< F < L. See REFER.] — **re·la/tion·al** *adj.*

re·la·tion·ship (ri·lā/shən·ship) *n.* The state of being related; connection.

— **Syn.** *Relationship, kinship, consanguinity,* and *affinity* are compared as they apply to persons of the same descent or family. *Relationship* is the most general term, embracing all the others and also the connection between things. *Kinship* is *relationship* by blood or marriage, and suggests mutual regard and affection. *Consanguinity* is *relationship* by blood only, and *affinity, relationship* by marriage only.

rel·a·tive (rel/ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Having connection; pertinent: an inquiry *relative* to one's health. **2.** Resulting from or depending upon relation; comparative: a *relative* truth. **3.** Intelligible only in relation to each other: the *relative* terms "father" and "son." **4.** Referring to, relating to, or qualifying an antecedent term: a *relative* pronoun. — *n.* **1.** One who is related; a kinsman. **2.** A relative word or term, esp. a relative pronoun. [< OF < Med.L < L *relatus*] — **rel/a·tive·ly** *adv.* — **rel/a·tive·ness** *n.*

relative clause *Gram.* An adjective clause.

relative pronoun *Gram.* A pronoun that relates to an antecedent and introduces a qualifying clause, as *who* in *We found a boatman who ferried us.*

rel·a·tiv·i·ty (rel/ə·tiv/ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The quality or condition of being relative. **2.** *Philos.* Existence only as an object of, or in relation to, a thinking mind. **3.** A condition of dependence or of close relation, as of the solar system on the sun. **4.** *Physics* The principle of the interdependence of matter, energy, space, and time, as mathematically formulated by Albert Einstein. The **special theory of relativity** states that the velocity of light is the maximum velocity possible in the universe, that it is constant and independent of the motion of its source, and that energy and mass are interconvertible in accordance with the equation $energy = mass \times the\ square\ of\ the\ speed\ of\ light\ or\ E = mc^2$. The **general theory of relativity** extends these principles to the law of gravitation and the motions of the heavenly bodies.

re·lax (ri·laks/) *v.t.* **1.** To make lax or loose; make less tight or firm. **2.** To make less stringent or severe, as discipline. **3.** To abate; slacken, as efforts. **4.** To relieve from strain or effort. — *v.i.* **5.** To become lax or loose; loosen. **6.** To become less stringent or severe. **7.** To rest; repose. **8.** To become less formal; unbend. [< L < *re-* again + *laxare* to loosen] — **re·lax/a·ble** *adj.* — **re/lax·a/tion** *n.* — **re·lax/·er** *n.*

re·lay (rē/lā, ri·lā/) *n.* **1.** A fresh set, as of men, horses, or dogs, to replace or relieve a tired set. **2.** A supply of anything kept in store for anticipated use or need. **3.** A relay race, or one of its laps or legs. **4.** *Electr.* A device that utilizes variations in the condition of a current in a circuit to effect the operation of similar devices in the same or another circuit. — *v.t.* **1.** To send onward by or as by relays. **2.** To provide with relays. **3.** *Electr.* To operate or retransmit by means of a relay. [< MF < L *relaxare* to loosen again]

re·lay (rē·lā/) *v.t.* **·laid, ·lay·ing** To lay again.

relay race A race between teams each member of which races a set part of the course and is relieved by a teammate.

re·lease (ri·lēs/) *v.t.* **·leased, ·leas·ing** **1.** To set free; liberate. **2.** To deliver from worry, pain, obligation, etc. **3.** To free from something that holds, binds, etc. **4.** To permit the circulation, sale, performance, etc., of, as a motion picture, phonograph record, or news item. — *n.* **1.** The act of releasing or the state of being released. **2.** A discharge from responsibility or penalty, as from a debt. **3.** *Law* An instrument of conveyance by which one surrenders and relinquishes all claim to something; quitclaim. **4.** Anything formally released to the public, as news, a motion picture, etc. **5.** *Mech.* Any catch or device to hold and release a mechanism, weights, etc. [< OF < L *relaxare* to relax] — **re·leas/er** *n.*

re-lease (rē/lēs/) *v.t.* **·leased, ·leas·ing** To lease again.

released time *U.S.* A period during which school children are released from classes to receive religious instruction.

rel·e·gate (rel/ə·gāt) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** **1.** To send off or consign, as to an obscure position or place. **2.** To assign, as to a particular class or sphere. **3.** To refer (a matter) to someone for decision **4.** To banish; exile. [< L < *re-* back + *legare* to send] — **rel/e·ga/tion** *n.*

re·lent (ri·lent/) *v.i.* To soften in temper; become more gentle or compassionate. [< L < *re-* again + *lentus* soft]

re·lent·less (ri·lent/lis) *adj.* **1.** Unremitting; continuous. **2.** Indifferent to the pain of others; pitiless. — **re·lent/less·ly** *adv.* — **re·lent/less·ness** *n.*

rel·e·vant (rel′ə·vənt) *adj.* Fitting or suiting given requirements; pertinent; applicable: usu. with *to*. [< Med.L ppr. of *relevare* to bear upon] — **rel′e·vance, rel′e·van·cy** *n.* — **rel′e·vant·ly** *adv.*

re·li·a·ble (ri·lī′ə·bəl) *adj.* That may be relied upon; worthy of confidence; trustworthy. — **re·li′a·bil′i·ty, re·li′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·li′a·bly** *adv.*

re·li·ance (ri·lī′əns) *n.* **1.** The act of relying, or the condition of being reliant. **2.** Something relied upon.

re·li·ant (ri·lī′ənt) *adj.* Manifesting reliance, esp. upon oneself. — **re·li′ant·ly** *adv.*

rel·ic (rel′ik) *n.* **1.** Some remaining portion or fragment of that which has vanished or been destroyed. **2.** A keepsake or memento. **3.** The body or part of the body of a saint, or any sacred memento. **4.** Any outworn custom, institution, etc. [< OF < L *reliquiae* remains, leavings.]

re·lief (ri·lēf′) *n.* **1.** The act of relieving, or the state of being relieved. **2.** That which relieves. **3.** Charitable aid, as food or money. **4.** The release, as of a sentinel or guard, from his post or duty, and the substitution of some other person or persons; also, the person or persons so substituted. **5.** In architecture and sculpture, the projection of a figure, ornament, etc., from a surface: also, any such figure. **6.** In painting, the apparent projection of forms and masses. **7.** *Geog.* **a** The elevations and unevenness of land surface. **b** The parts of a map that portray the configuration of the district represented; contour lines. [See RELIEVE.]

re·lieve (ri·lēv′) *v.t.* **·lieved, ·liev·ing** **1.** To free wholly or partly from pain, embarrassment, etc. **2.** To lessen or alleviate, as pain or anxiety. **3.** To give aid or assistance to. **4.** To free from obligation, injustice, etc. **5.** To release from duty, as a sentinel, by providing or serving as a substitute. **6.** To make less monotonous, harsh, or unpleasant; vary. **7.** To bring into relief or prominence. **8.** To rid (oneself) of urine or excrement. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *levare* to lift, raise] — **re·liev′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·liev′er** *n.*

re·lig·ion (ri·lij′ən) *n.* **1.** The beliefs, attitudes, emotions, behavior, etc., constituting man's relationship with the powers and principles of the universe, esp. with a deity or deities. **2.** An object of conscientious devotion or scrupulous care: His work is a *religion* to him. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *ligare* to bind]

re·lig·ious (ri·lij′əs) *adj.* **1.** Feeling and manifesting religion; devout; pious **2.** Of or pertaining to religion: a *religious* teacher. **3.** Strict in performance; conscientious: a *religious* loyalty. **4.** Belonging to the monastic life. — *n. pl.* **·ious** A person devoted to a life of piety; a monk or nun. [< OF < Med.L *religiosus*] — **re·lig′ious·ly** *adv.* — **re·lig′ious·ness** *n.*

re·lin·quish (ri·ling′kwish) *v.t.* **1.** To give up; abandon. **2.** To renounce: to *relinquish* a claim. **3.** To let go (a hold, etc.). [< OF < L < *re-* back, from + *linquere* to leave] — **re·lin′quish·er** *n.* — **re·lin′quish·ment** *n.*

rel·i·quar·y (rel′ə·kwer′ē) *n. pl.* **·quar·ies** A repository for relics, as a casket, coffer, or shrine. [< F < L < *re-* back, from + *linguere* to leave]

rel·ish (rel′ish) *n.* **1.** Appetite; appreciation; liking. **2.** The flavor, esp. when agreeable, in food and drink. **3.** The quality in anything that lends spice or zest: Danger gives *relish* to adventure. **4.** Something taken with food to lend it flavor, as chopped pickles and spices. **5.** A small but important characteristic; flavoring. — *v.t.* **1.** To like the savor of; enjoy. **2.** To give pleasant flavor to. — *v.i.* **3.** To have an agreeable flavor; afford gratification. [ME < OF *relaissier* to leave behind] — **rel′ish·a·ble** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** gusto, zest.

re·luc·tance (ri·luk′təns) *n.* **1.** The state of being reluctant. **2.** *Electr.* Capacity for opposing magnetic induction. Also **re·luc′tan·cy.**

— **Syn. 1.** disinclination, unwillingness.

re·luc·tant (ri·luk′tənt) *adj.* **1.** Marked by unwillingness or rendered unwillingly. **2.** Disinclined to yield to some requirement. [< L < *re-* back + *luctari* to fight] — **re·luc′tant·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** averse, hesitant, indisposed, loath.

rel·uc·tiv·i·ty (rel′ək·tiv′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** *Electr.* The specific electrical resistance to magnetization, of a given substance per unit of length or cross section.

re·ly (ri·lī′) *v.i.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** To place trust or confidence: with *on* or *upon*. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *ligare* to bind]

rem (rem) *n. Physics* The quantity of absorbed ionizing radiation that has the same biological effect as one roentgen of X-ray or gamma ray radiation. [< R(OENTGEN) + E(QUIVALENT) + M(AN)]

REM (rem) *n.* Rapid eye movement.

re·main (ri·mān′) *v.i.* **1.** To stay or be left behind after the removal, departure, or destruction of other persons or things. **2.** To continue in one place, condition, or character: He *remained* in office. **3.** To be left as something to be done, dealt with, etc.: It *remains* to be proved. **4.** To endure or last: abide. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *manere* to stay]

re·main·der (ri·mān′dər) *n.* **1.** That which remains. **2.** *Math.* The quantity left after subtraction or division. **3.** A book disposed of by a publisher at a reduced price. — *adj.* Left over. — *v.t.* To sell (books) as remainders.

re·mains (ri·mānz′) *n.pl.* **1.** That which is left after a part has been removed or destroyed. **2.** The body of a deceased person. **3.** Writings of an author published after his death. **4.** Survivals of the past, as fossils, etc.

re·mand (ri·mand′, -mänd′) *v.t.* **1.** To order or send back. **2.** *Law* To recommit to custody, as an accused person after a preliminary examination. — *n.* **1.** A remanding, or being remanded. **2.** A remanded person. [< OF < LL < L *re-* back + *mandare* to order] — **re·mand′ment** *n.*

re·mark (ri·märk′) *n.* **1.** An oral or written comment or saying; a casual observation. **2.** The act of observing or noticing; observation; notice. — *v.t.* **1.** To say or write by way of comment. **2.** To take particular notice of. — *v.i.* **3.** To make remarks: with *on* or *upon*. [< F < *re-* again + *marquer* to mark] — **re·mark′er** *n.*

re·mark·a·ble (ri·mär′kə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Worthy of notice. **2.** Extraordinary; unusual; conspicuous; distinguished. — **re·mark′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·mark′a·bly** *adv.*

re·me·di·a·ble (ri·mē′dē·ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being cured or remedied. [< MF < L *remediabilis*] — **re·me′di·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·me′di·a·bly** *adv.*

re·me·di·al (ri·mē′dē·əl) *adj.* Of the nature of or adapted to be used as a remedy: *remedial* measures. [< L < *remediare* to remedy] — **re·me′di·al·ly** *adv.*

rem·e·dy (rem′ə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** That which cures or affords relief to bodily disease or ailment; a medicine; also, remedial treatment. **2.** A means of counteracting or removing an error, evil, etc. **3.** *Law* A legal mode for enforcing a right or redressing or preventing a wrong. — *v.t.* **·died, ·dy·ing** To cure or heal, as by medicinal treatment. **2.** To make right; correct. **3.** To overcome or remove (an evil, defect, etc.). [< AF < OF < L < *re-* again + *mederi* to heal]

re·mem·ber (ri·mem′bər) *v.t.* **1.** To bring back or recall again to the mind or memory. **2.** To keep in mind carefully, as for a purpose. **3.** To bear in mind as worthy of a reward, gift, etc.: She *remembered* me in her will. **4.** To reward; tip. — *v.i.* **5.** To have or use one's memory. — **to remember (one) to** To inform a person of the regard of: *Remember* me *to* your wife. [< OF < LL < L *re-* again + *memorare* to bring to mind] — **re·mem′ber·er** *n.*

re·mem·brance (ri·mem′brəns) *n.* **1.** The act or power of remembering, or the state of being remembered. **2.** The period within which one can remember. **3.** That which is remembered. **4.** *Often pl.* A memento; keepsake. **5.** Mindful regard. [< OF]

re·mind (ri·mīnd′) *v.t.* To bring to (someone's) mind; cause to remember. — **re·mind′er** *n.* — **re·mind′ful** *adj.*

rem·i·nisce (rem′ə·nis′) *v.i.* **·nisced, ·nisc·ing** *Chiefly U.S.* To recall incidents or events of the past; indulge in reminiscences. [Back formation < REMINISCENCE]

rem·i·nis·cence (rem′ə·nis′əns) *n.* **1.** The recalling to mind of past incidents and events. **2.** The narration of past experiences. **3.** A feature, etc., serving as a reminder of something else. [< MF or LL < L < *re-* again + *memini* to remember] — **rem′i·nis′cent** *adj.* — **rem′i·nis′cent·ly** *adv.*

re·miss (ri·mis′) *adj.* Slack or careless in matters requiring attention; dilatory; negligent. [< L < *re-* back + *mittere* to send] — **re·miss′ness** *n.*

re·mis·si·ble (ri·mis′ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being remitted or pardoned, as sins. [< F *rémissible*] — **re·mis′si·bil′i·ty** *n.*

re·mis·sion (ri·mish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of remitting, or the state of being remitted. **2.** Discharge from penalty; pardon; deliverance, as from a debt or obligation. **3.** *Med.* Temporary abatement of a disease or pain. Also **re·mit·tal** (ri·mit′l). [See REMIT.]

re·mit (ri·mit′) *v.* **·mit·ted, ·mit·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To send, as money in payment for goods; transmit. **2.** To refrain from exacting or inflicting, as a penalty. **3.** To pardon; forgive, as a sin or crime. **4.** To abate; relax, as vigilance. **5.** To refer or submit for judgment, settlement, etc., as to one in authority. **6.** *Law* To refer (a legal proceeding) to a lower court for further consideration. **7.** *Rare* To send back, as to prison. — *v.i.* **8.** To send money, as in payment. **9.** To diminish; abate. [< L < *re-* back + *mittere* to send] — **re·mit′ta·ble** *adj.* — **re·mit′ter** or **re·mit′tor** *n.*

re·mit·tance (ri·mit′əns) *n.* The act of sending money or credit; also, the money or credit so sent.

re·mit·tent (ri·mit′ənt) *adj.* Having temporary diminutions of energy or action, as a fever. — *n.* A remittent fever. — **re·mit′tence, re·mit′tan·cy** *n.* — **re·mit′tent·ly** *adv.*

rem·nant (rem′nənt) *n.* **1.** That which remains of anything. **2.** The piece of cloth, etc., left over after the last cutting. **3.** Any small piece or quantity. — *adj.* Remaining. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *manere* to stay, remain]

re·mod·el (rē·mod′l) *v.t.* **·eled** or **·elled, ·el·ing** or **·el·ling** **1.** To model again. **2.** To make over or anew.

re·mon·e·tize (ri·mon′ə·tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** To reinstate (esp. silver) as lawful money. — **re·mon′e·ti·za′tion** *n.*

re·mon·strance (ri·mon′strəns) *n.* **1.** The act of remonstrating; protest; expostulation. **2.** Expostulatory counsel.

re·mon·strant (ri·mon′strənt) *adj.* Having the character of a remonstrance; expostulatory. — *n.* One who presents or signs a remonstrance.

re·mon·strate (ri·mon′strāt) *v.* **·strat·ed, ·strat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To say or plead in protest. — *v.i.* **2.** To urge strong reasons against any course or action; protest; object. [< Med.L < L < *re-* again + *monstrare* to show] — **re·mon·stra′tion** (rē′mon·strā′shən, rem′ən-) *n.* — **re·mon′stra·tive** (-strə·tiv) *adj.* — **re·mon′stra·tor** (-strā·tər) *n.*

re·morse (ri·môrs′) *n.* The keen or hopeless anguish caused by a sense of guilt; distressing self-reproach. [< OF < LL < L < *re-* again + *mordere* to bite] — **re·morse′ful** *adj.* — **re·morse′ful·ly** *adv.* — **re·morse′ful·ness** *n.* — **re·morse′less** *adj.* — **re·morse′less·ly** *adv.* — **re·morse′less·ness** *n.*

re·mote (ri·mōt′) *adj.* **·mot·er, ·mot·est 1.** Located far from a specified place. **2.** Distant in time. **3.** Having slight relation or connection: a *remote* cousin. **4.** Not obvious; slight. **5.** Distant in manner; aloof. [< L < *re-* again + *movere* to move] — **re·mote′ly** *adv.* — **re·mote′ness** *n.*

remote control Control from a distance by electrical or radio circuits, as in the operation of a machine, aircraft, guided missile, etc.

re·mount (*v.* rē·mount′; *n.* rē′mount′) *v.t. & v.i.* To mount again. — *n.* **1.** A new setting or framing. **2.** A fresh riding horse. [< OF < *re-* again (< L) + *monter* to climb]

re·mov·a·ble (ri·mōō′və·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being removed. — **re·mov′a·bil′i·ty, re·mov′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·mov′a·bly** *adv.*

re·mov·al (ri·mōō′vəl) *n.* **1.** The act of removing, or the state of being removed. **2.** Dismissal, as from office. **3.** Changing of place, as of residence or business.

re·move (ri·mōōv′) *v.* **·moved, ·mov·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take or move away, as from one place to another. **2.** To take off; doff, as a hat. **3.** To get rid of; do away with: to *remove* abuses. **4.** To kill. **5.** To displace or dismiss, as from office. **6.** To take out; extract: with *from.* — *v.i.* **7.** To change one's place of residence or business. **8.** *Poetic* To go away. — *n.* **1.** The act of removing, as one's business or belongings. **2.** The space moved over in changing an object from one position to another. **3.** A degree of difference; step: He is only one *remove* from a fool. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *movere* to move] — **re·mov′er** *n.*

— **Syn.** (verb) **1.** transfer, transplant, transpose. **3.** eliminate, obliterate, eradicate. **5.** depose, disestablish.

re·moved (ri·mōōvd′) *adj.* Separated, as by intervening space, time, or relationship, or by difference in kind: a cousin twice *removed.* — **re·mov·ed·ness** (ri·mōō′vid·nis) *n.*

re·mu·ner·ate (ri·myōō′nə·rāt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To make just or adequate return to or for; pay or pay for. [< L < *re-* again + *munus* gift] — **re·mu′ner·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·mu′ner·a·ble** *adj.* — **re·mu′ner·a′tion** *n.* — **re·mu′ner·a′tive** (-nə·rā′tiv, -nər·ə·tiv) *adj.* — **re·mu′ner·a′tive·ly** *adv.*

Re·mus (rē′məs) In Roman mythology, the twin brother of Romulus. See ROMULUS.

ren- Var. of RENI-.

re·nais·sance (ren′ə·säns′, -zäns′, ri·nā′səns; *Fr.* rə·ne·säńs′) *n.* A new birth; resurrection; renascence. [< F < L < *re-* again + *nasci* to be born]

Ren·ais·sance (ren′ə·säns′, -zäns′, ri·nā′səns; *Fr.* rə·ne·säńs′) *n.* **1.** The revival of letters and art in Europe, marking the transition from medieval to modern history. **2.** The period of this revival, roughly from the 14th through the 16th century. **3.** The style of art, literature, etc., that was developed in and characteristic of this period. Also *Renascence.* — *adj.* **1.** Of the Renaissance. **2.** Pertaining to a style of architecture developed in Italy in the 15th century, and based on the classic Roman style.

RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE
(Church of the Redentore, Venice, 1578–80)

re·nal (rē′nəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, affecting, or near the kidneys. [< F < LL < L *renes* kidneys]

Ren·ard (ren′ərd) See REYNARD.

re·nas·cence (ri·nas′əns) *n.* A rebirth; revival. [< L < *re-* again + *nasci* to be born] — **re·nas′cent** *adj.*

Re·nas·cence (ri·nas′əns) *n.* The Renaissance.

rend (rend) *v.* **rent** or **rend·ed, rend·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To tear apart forcibly. **2.** To pull or remove forcibly: with *away, from, off,* etc. **3.** To pass through (the air) violently and noisily. **4.** To distress (the heart, etc.). — *v.i.* **5.** To split; part. [OE *rendan* to tear] — **rend′er** *n.*

ren·der (ren′dər) *v.t.* **1.** To give, present, or submit for action, approval, payment, etc. **2.** To provide; give: to *render* aid to the poor. **3.** To give as due: to *render* obedience. **4.** To perform; do: to *render* great service. **5.** To give or state formally. **6.** To give by way of requital: to *render* double for one's sins. **7.** To represent or depict, as in music or painting. **8.** To cause to be: to *render* a ship seaworthy. **9.** To translate. **10.** To melt and clarify, as lard. **11.** To give back; return: often with *back.* **12.** To surrender; give up. [< F < LL < L < *re-* back + *dare* to give] — **ren′der·a·ble** *adj.* — **ren′der·er** *n.*

ren·dez·vous (rän′dā·vōō, -də-; *Fr.* rän·dā·vōō′) *n. pl.* **·vous** (-vōōz, *Fr.* -vōō′) **1.** An appointed place of meeting. **2.** A meeting or an appointment to meet. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·voused** (-vōōd), **·vous·ing** (-vōō′ing) To assemble or cause to assemble at a certain place or time. [< F < *se rendre* to betake oneself]

ren·di·tion (ren·dish′ən) *n.* **1.** The interpretation of a text; a translation. **2.** Artistic, dramatic, or musical interpretation; also, the performance or execution of a dramatic or musical composition. **3.** The act of rendering; also, that which is rendered. [< obs. F < *rendre* to render]

ren·e·gade (ren′ə·gād) *n.* **1.** One who forsakes his faith, etc. **2.** A traitor; deserter. Also **ren′e·ga′do** (-gä′dō). — *adj.* Of or characteristic of a renegade; traitorous. [< Sp. < Med.L < L *re-* again + *negare* to deny]

re·nege (ri·nig′, -neg′, -nēg′) *v.i.* **·neged, ·neg·ing 1.** In card games, to fail to follow suit when able and required by the rules to do so; revoke. **2.** *Informal* To fail to fulfill a promise. [See RENEGADE.] — **re·neg′er** *n.*

re·new (ri·nōō′, -nyōō′) *v.t.* **1.** To make new or as if new again; restore to a former or sound condition. **2.** To begin again; resume. **3.** To repeat: to *renew* an oath. **4.** To regain (vigor, strength, etc.). **5.** To cause to continue in effect; extend. **6.** To revive; reestablish. **7.** To replenish or replace, as provisions. — *v.i.* **8.** To become new again. **9.** To begin or commence again. [< RE- + NEW] — **re·new′·a·ble** *adj.* — **re·new′al** *n.* — **re·new′ed·ly** *adv.*

reni- *combining form* Kidney; of or related to the kidneys. Also *ren-* (before vowels): also **reno-.** [< L *ren, renis* kidney]

ren·i·form (ren′ə·fôrm, rē′nə-) *adj.* Kidney-shaped.

ren·net (ren′it) *n.* **1.** The mucous membrane lining the fourth stomach of a suckling calf or sheep. **2.** *Biochem.* A substance that yields rennin, obtained from the stomach of such an animal. [ME *rennen* to cause to run]

ren·nin (ren′in) *n. Biochem.* A milk-curdling enzyme present in rennet. [< RENN(ET) + -IN]

re·nounce (ri·nouns′) *v.* **·nounced, ·nounc·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give up, esp., by formal statement. **2.** To disown; repudiate. [< F < L < *re-* back, against + *nuntiare* to report] — **re·nounce′ment** *n.* — **re·nounc′er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Renounce* and *abjure* are often used in the general sense of put aside or abandon: to *renounce* one's citizenship, to *abjure* vice. *Forswear* has acquired an implication of perjury, esp. in the reflexive form: he *forswore* himself, that is, he swore falsely.

ren·o·vate (ren′ə·vāt) *v.t.* **·vat·ed, ·vat·ing 1.** To make as good as new; repair. **2.** To renew; refresh. [< L < *re-* again + *novare* to make new] — **ren′o·va′tion** *n.* — **ren′o·va′tor** *n.*

re·nown (ri·noun′) *n.* Exalted reputation; celebrity; fame. [< AF < OF < L *re-* again + *nominare* to name]

re·nowned (ri·nound′) *adj.* Having renown; famous.

rent[1] (rent) *n.* **1.** Compensation made in any form by a tenant to a landlord or owner for the use of land, buildings, etc., esp., when paid in money at regular or specified intervals. **2.** Similar payment for the use of any property, movable or fixed. **3.** *Econ.* Income derived by the owner from the use or cultivation of his land or property. — **for rent** Available for use or occupancy by the paying of rent. — *v.t.* **1.** To obtain temporary possession and use of for a rent. **2.** To grant such temporary possession and use. — *v.i.* **3.** To be let for rent. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *dare* to give] — **rent′a·ble** *adj.* — **rent′er** *n.*

rent[2] (rent) Alternative past tense and past participle of REND. — *n.* **1.** A hole or slit made by rending or tearing; rip; fissure. **2.** A violent separation; schism.

rent·al (ren′təl) *n.* **1.** The revenue from rented property **2.** A schedule of rents. — *adj.* Of or for rent. [< AF]

ren·tier (rän·tyā′) *n. French* One who owns or derives a fixed income from invested capital or lands.

re·nun·ci·a·tion (ri·nun′sē·ā′shən, -shē-) *n.* **1.** The act of renouncing or disclaiming; repudiation. **2.** A declaration or statement in which something is renounced. [< L *renunciatio, -onis* proclamation] — **re·nun′ci·a·tive** *adj.* — **re·nun·ci·a·to·ry** (ri·nun′sē·ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, -shē-) *adj.*

re·or·der (rē·ôr′dər) *v.t.* **1.** To order (goods) again. **2.** To put back into order. **3.** To give a different order to; rearrange. — *n.* Goods ordered again.

re·or·gan·i·za·tion (rē′ôr·gən·ə·zā′shən, -ī·zā′-) *n.* **1.** The act of reorganizing, or the condition of being reorganized. **2.** The legal reconstruction of a corporation.

re·or·gan·ize (rē·ôr′gən·īz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To organize anew. — **re·or′gan·iz′er** *n.*

rep[1] (rep) *n.* A silk, cotton, rayon, or wool fabric having a crosswise rib: also spelled *repp*. [< F *reps*, prob. < E *ribs*]

rep[2] (rep) *n. Slang* Reputation.

re·pair[1] (ri·pâr′) *v.t.* **1.** To restore to sound or good condition after damage, decay, etc.; mend. **2.** To make amends for (an injury); remedy. **3.** To make up, as a loss; compensate for. — *n.* **1.** The act or process of repairing. **2.** Condition after use or after repairing: in good *repair*. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *parare* to prepare, make ready] — **re·pair′er** *n.*

re·pair[2] (ri·pâr′) *v.i.* To betake oneself; go: to *repair* to the garden. [< OF < LL < L *re-* again + *patria* native land]

re·pair·man (ri·pâr′man′, -mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-men′, -mən) A man whose work is to make repairs.

rep·a·ra·ble (rep′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being repaired. Also **re·pair·a·ble** (ri·pâr′ə·bəl). — **rep′a·ra·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **rep′a·ra·bly** *adv.*

rep·a·ra·tion (rep′ə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of making amends; atonement. **2.** That which is done by way of amends or satisfaction. **3.** The act of repairing or the state of being repaired. **4.** *pl.* Indemnities paid by defeated countries for acts of war. [< OF < LL < L. See REPAIR.[1]] — **re·par·a·tive** (ri·par′ə·tiv) *adj.*

rep·ar·tee (rep′ər·tē′, -är-, -tā′) *n.* **1.** Conversation marked by quick and witty replies. **2.** Skill or quickness in such conversation. **3.** A witty or quick reply; a sharp rejoinder. [< OF < *repartir* to depart again, reply]

re·past (ri·past′, -päst′) *n.* **1.** Food taken at a meal. **2.** A meal. [< OF < Med.L < LL < L *re-* again + *pascere* to feed]

re·pa·tri·ate (*v.* rē·pā′trē·āt; *n.* rē·pā′trē·it) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To send back to one's own country or to the place of citizenship. — *n.* One who has been repatriated. [< LL < L *re-* again + *patria* native land] — **re·pa′tri·a′tion** *n.*

re·pay (ri·pā′) *v.* **·paid, ·pay·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pay back; refund. **2.** To pay back or refund something to. **3.** To give a reward or inflict a penalty for; recompense or retaliate for. — *v.i.* **4.** To make repayment or requital. [< OF *repaier*] — **re·pay′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·pay′ment** *n.*

re·peal (ri·pēl′) *v.t.* To rescind, as a law; revoke. — **Syn.** See ANNUL. — *n.* The act of repealing; revocation. [< OF < *re-* back, again + *apeler* to call, summon] — **re·peal′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·peal′er** *n.*

re·peat (ri·pēt′) *v.t.* **1.** To say again; iterate. **2.** To recite from memory. **3.** To say (what another has just said) **4.** To tell, as a secret, to another. **5.** To do, make, or experience again. — *v.i.* **6.** To say or do something again; esp., to vote more than once in an election. — *n.* **1.** The act of repeating; a repetition. **2.** *Music* A passage that is repeated; also, any notations indicating this. **3.** Anything repeated. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *petere* to seek, demand]

re·peat·ed (ri·pē′tid) *adj.* Occurring or spoken again and again; reiterated. — **re·peat′ed·ly** *adv.*

re·peat·er (ri·pē′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which repeats. **2.** A repeating firearm. **3.** *U.S.* One who votes, or attempts to vote, more than once at the same election. **4.** One who has been repeatedly imprisoned.

re·peat·ing decimal (ri·pē′ting) A decimal in which a series of digits is repeated indefinitely, as 0.16353535. . ..

repeating firearm A gun, rifle, or pistol capable of shooting several bullets without reloading.

re·pel (ri·pel′) *v.* **·pelled, ·pel·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To force or drive back; repulse. **2.** To reject; refuse, as a suggestion. **3.** To cause to feel distaste or aversion. **4.** To refuse to mix with or adhere to. **5.** To push or keep away, esp. with invisible force. — *v.i.* **6.** To act so as to drive something back or away. **7.** To cause distaste or aversion. [< L < *re-* back + *pellere* to drive] — **re·pel′ler** *n.*

re·pel·lent (ri·pel′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Serving, tending, or having power to repel. **2.** Waterproof. **3.** Repugnant; repulsive. — *n.* Something that repels, as a compound to repel insects. — **re·pel′lence, re·pel′len·cy** *n.*

re·pent (ri·pent′) *v.i.* **1.** To feel remorse or regret, as for something one has done or failed to do; be contrite. **2.** To change one's mind concerning past action: with *of*: He *repented* of his generosity. — *v.t.* **3.** To feel remorse or regret for (an action, sin, etc.). **4.** To change one's mind concerning (a past action). [< OF < L *re-* again + *poenitere* to cause to repent] — **re·pent′er** *n.*

re·pen·tance (ri·pen′təns) *n.* The act of repenting or the condition of being repentant.

re·pen·tant (ri·pen′tənt) *adj.* Showing, feeling, or characterized by repentance. [< OF] — **re·pen′tant·ly** *adv.*

re·peo·ple (rē·pē′pəl) *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** **1.** To people anew. **2.** To provide again with animals; restock.

re·per·cus·sion (rē′pər·kush′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of driving back, or the state of being driven back; repulse. **2.** Echo; reverberation. **3.** A stroke or blow given in return; also, the recoil after impact. **4.** The indirect result of something; aftereffect. [< L < *re-* again + *percutere* to strike] — **re′per·cus′sive** *adj.*

rep·er·toire (rep′ər·twär, -twôr) *n.* A list of songs, plays, operas, or the like, that a person or company is prepared to perform; also, such pieces collectively: also called *repertory*. [See REPERTORY.]

rep·er·to·ry (rep′ər·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** Repertoire. **2.** A place where things are gathered together. **3.** The things so gathered. [< LL *repertorium* inventory < L *reperire* to discover]

repertory company A theatrical group having a repertoire of productions, each typically running for a few weeks. Also **repertory theater.**

rep·e·ti·tion (rep′ə·tish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of repeating; the doing, making, or saying of something again. **2.** Recital from memory. **3.** That which is repeated; a copy. — **re·pet·i·tive** (ri·pet′ə·tiv) *adj.* — **re·pet′i·tive·ly** *adv.*

rep·e·ti·tious (rep′ə·tish′əs) *adj.* Characterized by or containing repetition, esp. useless or tedious repetition. — **rep′e·ti′tious·ly** *adv.* — **rep′e·ti′tious·ness** *n.*

re·phrase (rē·frāz′) *v.t.* **·phrased, ·phras·ing** To phrase again; esp., to express in a new way.

re·pine (ri·pīn′) *v.i.* **·pined, ·pin·ing** To be discontented or fretful; complain; murmur. [< RE- + PINE[2]] — **re·pin′er** *n.*

re·place (ri·plās′) *v.t.* **·placed, ·plac·ing** **1.** To put back in place. **2.** To take or fill the place of; supersede. **3.** To refund; repay. — **re·place′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·plac′er** *n.*

re·place·ment (ri·plās′mənt) *n.* **1.** One who or that which takes the place of another person or thing. **2.** The act of replacing or the state of being replaced.

re·plen·ish (ri·plen′ish) *v.t.* **1.** To fill again, as something wholly or partially emptied. **2.** To bring back to fullness or completeness, as supplies. [< OF < L *re-* again + *plenus* full] — **re·plen′ish·er** *n.* — **re·plen′ish·ment** *n.*

re·plete (ri·plēt′) *adj.* **1.** Full or supplied to the uttermost. **2.** Gorged with food or drink; sated. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *plere* to fill] — **re·ple′tion** *n.*

re·plev·in (ri·plev′in) *Law* *n.* **1.** An action to regain possession of personal property unlawfully retained, on giving security to try the title and respond to the judgment; also, recovery of property by such action **2.** The writ or process by which such proceedings are instituted. — *v.t.* To recover (goods) by a writ of replevin. Also **re·plev·y** (ri·plev′ē). [< AF < OF < *re-* back + *plevir* to pledge]

rep·li·ca (rep′lə·kə) *n.* Any close copy or reproduction, esp. of a work of art, etc. [< Ital. < L *replicare* to reply]

rep·li·ca·tion (rep′lə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** A reply. **2.** *Law* A plaintiff's reply to a defendant's plea or answer. [< OF < L < *replicare* to answer to] — **rep′li·ca′tive** *adj.*

re·ply (ri·plī′) *v.* **·plied, ·ply·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To give an answer orally or in writing. **2.** To respond by some act, gesture, etc. **3.** To bounce back, as a sound; echo. **4.** *Law* To file a pleading in answer to the statement of the defense. — *v.t.* **5.** To say in answer: often with a clause as object. — *n.* *pl.* **·plies** Something said, written, or done by way of answer. [< OF < L *replicare* to fold back, answer to] — **re·pli′er** *n.*

re·port (ri·pôrt′, -pōrt′) *v.t.* **1.** To make or give an account of, often formally. **2.** To relate, as information obtained by investigation. **3.** To repeat to another, as an answer. **4.** To complain about, esp. to a superior. **5.** To state the result of consideration concerning: The committee *reported* the bill. — *v.i.* **6.** To make a report. **7.** To act as a reporter. **8.** To present oneself, as for duty. — *n.* **1.** That which is reported. **2.** A statement or record of an investigation, transaction, etc. **3.** Common talk; rumor. **4.** Fame, reputation, or character. **5.** An explosive sound. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *portare* to carry] — **re·port′a·ble** *adj.*

report card *U.S.* A periodic statement of a pupil's scholastic record, which is presented to the parents or guardian.

re·port·ed·ly (ri·pôr′tid·lē, -pōr′-) *adv.* According to report.

re·port·er (ri·pôr′tər, -pōr′-) *n.* **1.** One who reports; esp., one who reports news for a newspaper, magazine, etc. **2.** One who reports cases in court for official publication. — **rep·or·to·ri·al** (rep′ər·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.*

re·pose[1] (ri·pōz′) *n.* **1.** The act of taking rest or the state of being at rest. **2.** Calm; peace. **3.** Ease of manner; graceful and dignified calmness. **4.** That which conduces to rest or calm. — *v.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To lay or place in a position of rest. — *v.i.* **2.** To lie at rest. **3.** To rely; depend: with *on*, *upon*, or *in*. [< F < LL < *re-* again + *pausare* to pause] — **re·pos′al** *n.* — **re·pose′ful** *adj.* — **re·pos′er** *n.*

re·pose[2] (ri·pōz′) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** To place, as confidence or hope: with *in*. [ME < L *reponere* to put back] — **re·pos′al** *n.*

re·pos·i·to·ry (ri·poz′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** 1. A place in which goods are or may be stored. 2. A person to whom a secret is entrusted. 3. A burial vault. 4. A receptacle for relics. [< L < *re-* back, again + *ponere* to place]

re·pos·sess (rē′pə·zes′) *v.t.* 1. To have possession of again; regain possession of. 2. To give back possession or ownership to. — **re′pos·ses′sion** (-zesh′ən) *n.*

re·pous·sé (rə·pōō·sā′) *adj.* 1. Formed in relief, as a design in metal. 2. Adorned with such designs. [< F]

repp (rep) *n.* Rep, the fabric.

rep·re·hend (rep′ri·hend′) *v.t.* To criticize sharply; find fault with; blame. [< L < *re-* back + *prehendere* to hold]

rep·re·hen·si·ble (rep′ri·hen′sə·bəl) *adj.* Deserving blame or censure. — **rep′re·hen′si·bil′i·ty, rep′re·hen′si·ble·ness** *n.* — **rep′re·hen′si·bly** *adv.*

rep·re·hen·sion (rep′ri·hen′shən) *n.* The act of reprehending; also, an expression of blame; a rebuke. — **rep′re·hen′·sive** *adj.* — **rep′re·hen′sive·ly** *adv.*

rep·re·sent (rep′ri·zent′) *v.t.* 1. To serve as the symbol, expression, or designation of; symbolize. 2. To express or symbolize in this manner. 3. To depict; portray, as in painting or sculpture. 4. To produce on the stage, as an opera. 5. To act the part of; impersonate. 6. To serve as or be the delegate, agent, etc., of. 7. To describe: They *represented* him as a genius. 8. To set forth in words; state; explain. 9. To bring before the mind; present clearly. 10. To serve as an example, specimen, type, etc., of. [< OF < L < *re-* again + PRESENT²] — **rep′re·sent′a·ble** *adj.* — **rep′re·sent′a·bil′i·ty** *n.*

re·present (rē′pri·zent′) *v.t.* To present again. — **re′-pre′·sen·ta′tion** *n.*

rep·re·sen·ta·tion (rep′ri·zen·tā′shən) *n.* 1. The act of representing or the state of being represented. 2. Anything that represents, as a picture, a statue, etc. 3. A dramatic performance. 4. The right of acting authoritatively for others, esp. in a legislative body. 5. Representatives collectively. 6. A setting forth by statement or account, esp. to object or propose. [< OF]

rep·re·sen·ta·tion·al (rep′ri·zen·tā′shən·əl) *adj.* 1. Serving to represent; esp., denoting a style of art that seeks to represent objects realistically. 2. Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of representation.

rep·re·sen·ta·tive (rep′ri·zen′tə·tiv) *adj.* 1. Typifying or typical of a group or class. 2. Acting as a qualified agent. 3. Made up of representatives. 4. Based on or pertaining to the political principle of representation. 5. Presenting, portraying, or representing, or capable of so doing. — *n.* 1. One who or that which is fit to stand as a type; a typical instance. 2. One who is a qualified agent of any kind. 3. A member of a legislative body, esp. a member of the lower house of Congress or of a State legislature. — **rep′re·sen′ta·tive·ly** *adv.* — **rep′re·sen′ta·tive·ness** *n.*

re·press (ri·pres′) *v.t.* 1. To keep under restraint or control. 2. To put down; quell, as a rebellion. 3. *Psychoanal.* To effect the repression of, as fears, impulses, etc. [< L < *re-* back + PRESS] — **re·press′er** or **re·pres′sor** *n.* — **re·press′i·ble** *adj.*

— **Syn.** 1. check, curb, rein, restrain, subdue, suppress.

re-press (rē′pres′) *v.t. & v.i.* To press again.

re·pres·sion (ri·presh′ən) *n.* 1. The act of repressing or the condition of being repressed. 2. That which holds in check; a restraint. 3. *Psychoanal.* The exclusion from consciousness of painful or unacceptable memories, etc.

re·pres·sive (ri·pres′iv) *adj.* 1. Tending to repress. 2. Capable of repressing. — **re·pres′sive·ly** *adv.* — **re·pres′·sive·ness** *n.*

re·prieve (ri·prēv′) *v.t.* **·prieved, ·priev·ing** 1. To suspend temporarily the execution of a sentence upon. 2. To relieve for a time from suffering, danger, or trouble. — *n.* 1. The temporary suspension of a sentence, or the instrument ordering such a suspension. 2. Temporary relief or cessation of pain or ill. 3. The act of reprieving or the state of being reprieved. [< earlier *repry* < F *repris*, pp. of *reprendre* to take back] — **re·priev′a·ble** *adj.*

rep·ri·mand (rep′rə·mand, -mänd) *v.t.* To reprove sharply or formally. — *n.* Severe reproof or censure. [< F *réprimande* reproof]

re·print (*n.* rē′print′; *v.* rē·print′) *n.* An edition of a printed work that is a verbatim copy of the original. — *v.t.* To print a new edition or copy of. — **re·print′er** *n.*

re·pri·sal (ri·prī′zəl) *n.* 1. The application of force short of war by one nation against another in retaliation for acts committed; also, an instance of such use of force. 2. Any act of retaliation. [< OF *reprendre* < L < *re-* back + *prehendere* to hold]

re·prise (rə·prēz′, -prīz′) *n. Music* A repeated phrase; esp., the repetition of or return to the subject after an intermediate movement. [See REPRISAL.]

re·proach (ri·prōch′) *v.t.* 1. To charge with or blame for something wrong; rebuke; censure. 2. To bring discredit and disgrace upon; to disgrace. — *n.* 1. The act of reproaching, or the words of one who reproaches; censure; reproof; rebuke. 2. A cause of blame or disgrace. 3. Disgrace; discredit. [< F *reprocher*; ult. origin uncertain.] — **re·proach′a·bly** *adj.* — **re·proach′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·proach′·a·bly** *adv.* — **re·proach′er** *n.*

re·proach·ful (ri·prōch′fəl) *adj.* Containing or full of reproach; expressing reproach. — **re·proach′ful·ly** *adv.* — **re·proach′ful·ness** *n.*

rep·ro·bate (rep′rə·bāt) *adj.* 1. Having lost all sense of duty; depraved. 2. Abandoned to punishment; condemned. — *n.* A depraved or profligate person. — *v.t.* **·bat·ed, ·bat·ing** To disapprove of heartily; condemn. [See REPROVE.] — **rep′ro·ba′tion** *n.* — **rep′ro·ba′tive** *adj.*

re·pro·duce (rē′prə·dōōs′, -dyōōs′) *v.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** *v.t.* 1. To make a copy, image, or reproduction of. 2. *Biol.* a To give rise to (offspring) by sexual or asexual generation. b To replace (a lost part or organ) by regeneration. 3. To produce again. 4. To recall to the mind; visualize again. — *v.i.* 5. To produce offspring. 6. To undergo copying, reproduction, etc. — **re′pro·duc′er** *n.* — **re′pro·duc′i·ble** *adj.*

re·pro·duc·tion (rē′prə·duk′shən) *n.* 1. The act or power of reproducing. 2. *Biol.* The process by which an animal or plant gives rise to another of its kind. 3. That which is reproduced, as a revival of a play or a copy of a picture.

re·pro·duc·tive (rē′prə·duk′tiv) *adj.* Pertaining to, employed in, or tending to reproduction. — **re′pro·duc′tive·ly** *adv.* — **re′pro·duc′tive·ness** *n.*

re·proof (ri·prōōf′) *n.* 1. The act of reproving. 2. A rebuke; blame; censure. Also **re·prov·al** (ri·prōō′vəl).

re·prove (ri′prōōv′) *v.t.* **·proved, ·prov·ing** 1. To censure, as for a fault; rebuke. 2. To express disapproval of (an act). [< OF < LL < *re-* again + *probare* to test] — **re·prov′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·prov′er** *n.* — **re·prov′ing·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** 1. chide, upbraid, reprimand.

re-prove (rē·prōōv′) *v.t.* **-proved, -prov·ing** To prove (a theory, assertion, etc.) anew.

rep·tile (rep′til, -tīl) *n.* 1. Any of a class of cold-blooded, air-breathing vertebrates, including the snakes, crocodiles, lizards, and turtles. 2. A groveling, abject person. — *adj.* 1. Crawling on the belly. 2. Groveling morally; sly and base; treacherous. 3. Of or resembling a reptile [< LL < *reptus*, pp. of *repere* to creep]

rep·til·i·an (rep·til′ē·ən) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a reptile or reptiles. — *n.* Any reptile.

re·pub·lic (ri·pub′lik) *n.* A state in which the sovereignty resides in the people and the legislative and administrative powers are lodged in officers elected by them; also, such a government. [< F < L *respublica* commonwealth]

re·pub·li·can (ri·pub′li·kən) *adj.* 1. Of, like, or suitable for a republic. 2. Supporting republican government. — *n.* One who advocates a republican form of government.

Re·pub·li·can (ri·pub′li·kən) *adj.* Pertaining to or belonging to the Republican Party of the U.S. — *n.* A member of the Republican Party.

Republican calendar See under CALENDAR.

re·pub·li·can·ism (ri·pub′li·kən·iz′əm) *n.* 1. The theory or principles of republican government. 2. Advocacy of or adherence to republican principles.

Re·pub·li·can·ism (ri·pub′li·kən·iz′əm) *n.* The policy and principles of the Republican Party of the U.S.

Republican Party One of the two major political parties of the United States, founded in 1854 in opposition to the extension of slavery.

re·pu·di·ate (ri·pyōō′dē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** 1. To refuse to accept as valid or binding; reject. 2. To refuse to acknowledge or pay. 3. To cast off; disown, as a son. [< L < *repudiare* to divorce] — **re·pu′di·a′tion** *n.* — **re·pu′di·a′tive** *adj.* — **re·pu′di·a′tor** *n.*

re·pug·nance (ri·pug′nəns) *n.* The state of feeling aversion and resistance; antipathy. Also **re·pug′nan·cy.**

re·pug·nant (ri·pug′nənt) *adj.* 1. Offensive to taste or feeling; exciting aversion or repulsion. 2. Being inconsistent or opposed; antagonistic. 3. Hostile; resisting. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *pugnare* to fight]

re·pulse (ri·puls′) *v.t.* **·pulsed, ·puls·ing** 1. To drive back; repel, as an attacking force. 2. To repel by coldness, discourtesy, etc.; reject; rebuff. — *n.* 1. The act of repulsing or the state of being repulsed. 2. Rejection; refusal [< L *repulsus*, pp. of *repellere*. See REPEL.] — **re·puls′er** *n.*

re·pul·sion (ri·pul′shən) *n.* 1. The act of repelling, or the state of being repelled. 2. Aversion; repugnance. 3. *Physics* The mutual action of two bodies that tends to drive them apart.

re·pul·sive (ri·pul′siv) *adj.* 1. Exciting feelings of dislike, disgust, or horror; grossly offensive. 2. Such as to forbid ap-

proach or familiarity; forbidding. **3.** Acting by repulsion: *repulsive* forces. — **re·pul′sive·ly** *adv.* — **re·pul′sive·ness** *n.*

rep·u·ta·ble (rep′yə·tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Having a good reputation; estimable; honorable. **2.** Consistent with proper usage, as words — **rep′u·ta·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **rep′u·ta·bly** *adv.*

rep·u·ta·tion (rep′yə·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The general estimation in which a person or thing is held by others. **2.** The state of being in high regard or esteem **3.** A particular credit or character ascribed to a person or thing: a *reputation* for honesty. [See REPUTE.]

re·pute (ri·pyōōt′) *v.t.* **·put·ed, ·put·ing** To regard or consider to be as specified; esteem: usu. in the passive: They are *reputed* to be an intelligent people. — *n.* **1.** Reputation (defs. 1 and 2). **2.** Public opinion; general report. [< OF < L *reputare* to reckon, be reputed]

re·put·ed (ri·pyōō′tid) *adj.* Generally thought or supposed: a *reputed* criminal — **re·put′ed·ly** *adv.*

re·quest (ri·kwest′) *v.t.* **1.** To express a desire for. **2.** To ask (a person) to do a favor, answer an inquiry, etc. — **Syn.** See ASK. — *n.* **1.** The act of requesting; petition. **2.** That which is requested. **3.** The state of being in demand: in *request.* — *adj.* Having been asked for: a *request* program. [See REQUIRE.]

re·qui·em (rē′kwē·əm, rek′wē-) *n.* **1.** Any musical composition, or service for the dead. **2.** *Often cap. Eccl.* In the Roman Catholic Church, a solemn mass sung for the dead: also **Requiem mass.** **3.** *Often cap.* A musical setting for such a mass. [< L *Requiem* (*aeternam dona eis, Domine*) rest (eternal give unto them, O Lord)]

req·ui·es·cat in pa·ce (rek′wē·es′kat in pā′sē) May he rest in peace Abbr. *R.I.P.* [< L]

re·quire (ri·kwīr′) *v.* **·quired, ·quir·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To have need of; find necessary. **2.** To demand authoritatively; insist upon. — *v.i.* **3.** To make demand or request. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *quaerere* to ask, seek] — **re·quir′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·quir′er** *n.* — **re·quire′ment** *n.*

req·ui·site (rek′wə·zit) *adj.* Required by the nature of things or by circumstances; indispensable. — *n.* That which cannot be dispensed with; a necessity. [See REQUEST.] — **req′ui·site·ly** *adv.* — **req′ui·site·ness** *n.*

req·ui·si·tion (rek′wə·zish′ən) *n.* **1.** A formal request, summons, or demand, as for supplies. **2.** A necessity or requirement. **3.** The state of being required. — *v.t.* To make a requisition for or upon; demand or take upon requisition. [See REQUIRE.]

re·quite (ri·kwīt′) *v.t.* **·quit·ed, ·quit·ing** **1.** To make equivalent return for, as kindness, service, or injury; make up for. **2.** To make return to; compensate or repay in kind. **3.** To give or do in return. [< RE- + *quite,* obs. var. of QUIT] — **re·quit′al** (ri·kwīt′l) *adj.* — **re·quit′er** *n.*

rere·dos (rir′dos) *Chiefly Brit. n.* **1.** An ornamental screen behind an altar. **2.** The back of an open fire hearth. [< AF < *rere* rear + *dos* back]

re·run (*n.* rē′run; *v.* rē·run′) *n.* The presenting of a motion picture, play, etc., after its original run is over; also, the motion picture, play, etc., so presented. — *v.t.* **·ran, ·run·ning** To run again or a second time.

re·sale (rē′sāl, rē·sāl′) *n.* The act of selling again.

re·scind (ri·sind′) *v.t.* To make void, as an act; abrogate; repeal. — **Syn.** See ANNUL. [< L < *re-* back + *scindere* to cut] — **re·scind′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·scind′er** *n.*

re·scis·sion (ri·sizh′ən) *n.* The act of rescinding or abrogating. — **re·scis′si·ble** (-sis′-) *adj.* — **re·scis′so·ry** *adj.*

re·script (rē′skript) *n.* **1.** A formal answer to questions of state, law, morality, etc., as given by a Roman emperor or a Pope. **2.** Any decree, edict or formal announcement. [< L < *re-* back + *scribere* to write]

res·cue (res′kyōō) *v.t.* **·cued, ·cu·ing** **1.** To save or free from danger, captivity, evil, etc.; deliver. **2.** *Law* To remove forcibly from the custody of the law. — *n.* The act of rescuing; deliverance. [< OF *rescourre* < *re-* back + *escorre* to move, shake] — **res′cu·a·ble** *adj.* — **res′cu·er** *n.*

re·search (ri·sûrch′, rē′sûrch) *n.* **1.** Diligent, protracted investigation; studious inquiry. **2.** A systematic investigation of some phenomenon — *v.i.* To undertake research. [< F < *re-* back + *chercher* to seek] — **re·search′·er** *n.*

re·seat (rē·sēt′) *v.t.* **1.** To seat again. **2.** To put a new seat or seats in or on.

re·sect (ri·sekt′) *v.t. Surg.* To cut or pare off. [< L < *re-* back + *secare* to cut] — **re·sec′tion** *n.*

re·sem·blance (ri·zem′bləns) *n.* **1.** The quality of similarity in nature, form, etc.; likeness. **2.** A semblance or likeness of a person or thing. — **Syn.** See ANALOGY.

re·sem·ble (ri·zem′bəl) *v.t.* **·bled, ·bling** To be similar to in appearance, quality, or character. [< OF < *re-* again + *sembler* to seem] — **re·sem′bler** *n.*

re·sent (ri·zent′) *v.t.* To feel or show resentment at; be indignant at. [< F < *re-* again + *sentir* to feel] — **re·sent′·ful** *adj.* — **re·sent′ful·ly** *adv.* — **re·sent′ful·ness** *n.*

re·sent·ment (ri·zent′mənt) *n.* Anger and ill will in view of real or fancied wrong or injury.

re·ser·pine (ri·sûr′pēn, -pin, res′ər-) *n.* A drug originally prepared from alkaloids found in rauwolfia, used as a tranquilizer. [< NL *Rauwolfia serpentina,* genus name + -INE]

res·er·va·tion (rez′ər·vā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of reserving. **2.** That which is reserved, kept back, or withheld. **3.** A qualification or condition, as to an opinion or commitment. **4.** An agreement by which a seat on a train, hotel room, etc., is reserved in advance. **5.** A tract of government land reserved for a special purpose, as for the use and occupancy of an Indian tribe, or for the preservation of forests, wildlife, etc. [< OF < LL *reservatio, -onis*]

re·serve (ri·zûrv′) *v.t.* **·served, ·serv·ing** **1.** To hold back or set aside for special or future use. **2.** To keep as one's own; retain. **3.** To arrange for ahead of time; have set aside for one's use. — *n.* **1.** Something stored up for future use or set apart for a particular purpose. **2.** A reservation of land. **3.** In banking, the amount of funds reserved in order to meet regular or emergent demands. **4.** The act of reserving. **5.** Silence or reticence as to one's feelings, opinions, or affairs. **6.** A fighting force held back from action to meet possible emergencies. **7.** A branch of the armed forces composed of persons trained for military service and subject to call in emergencies. — *adj.* Held in reserve; constituting a reserve. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *servare* to keep] — **re·serv′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·serv′er** *n.*

re·serve (rē·sûrv′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·served, ·serv·ing** To serve again.

re·served (ri·zûrvd′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by reserve of manner; distant; undemonstrative. **2.** Retained; kept back. — **re·serv·ed·ly** (ri·zûr′vid·lē) *adv.* — **re·serv′ed·ness** *n.*

Reserve Officers' Training Corps In the U.S., a military corps to train students at colleges and universities to qualify as officers in a reserve. Abbr. *ROTC, R.O.T.C.*

re·serv·ist (ri·zûr′vist) *n.* A member of a military reserve.

res·er·voir (rez′ər·vwôr, -vwär, -vôr) *n.* **1.** A lake, either natural or artificial, for collecting and containing a supply of water, as for use in a city or for water power. **2.** An attachment to a stove, machine, or instrument, for containing a fluid to be used in its operation. **3.** An extra supply; a store of anything. [< F *réservoir*]

re·set (*v.* rē·set′; *n.* rē′set′) *v.t.* **·set, ·set·ting** To set again. — *n.* The act of resetting, or that which is reset.

re·ship (rē·ship′) *v.* **·shipped, ·ship·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To ship again. **2.** To transfer (oneself) to another vessel. — *v.i.* **3.** To go on a vessel again. **4.** To sign for another voyage as a crew member or a passenger. — **re·ship′ment** *n.*

re·side (ri·zīd′) *v.i.* **·sid·ed, ·sid·ing** **1.** To dwell for a considerable time; make one's home; live. **2.** To exist as an attribute or quality: with *in.* **3.** To be vested: with *in.* — **Syn.** See LIVE. [< F < L *residere* to abide]

res·i·dence (rez′ə·dəns) *n.* **1.** The place or the house where one resides. **2.** The act of residing. **3.** The fact of being officially present, esp. in the phrase **in residence.** **4.** The seat of power of government. **5.** The length of time one resides in a place. Also *residency.* [< OF < LL *residentia*]

res·i·den·cy (rez′ə·dən·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** **1.** Residence. **2.** An official abode of the representative of a government. **3.** *Med.* The period of clinical training served by a physician in his chosen specialty.

res·i·dent (rez′ə·dənt) *n.* **1.** One who resides or dwells in a place. **2.** A diplomatic representative residing at a foreign seat of government. **3.** *Med.* One serving a residency. — *adj.* **1.** Having a residence. **2.** Abiding in a place in connection with one's official work: a *resident* physician. **3.** Inherent: Pungency is *resident* in pepper. **4.** Not migratory: said of certain birds.

res·i·den·tial (rez′ə·den′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resulting from residence; having residence. **2.** Of, consisting of, or suitable for residences or living quarters.

re·sid·u·al (ri·zij′ōō·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or having the nature of a residue or remainder. **2.** Left over as a residue. — *n.* Something left over.

re·sid·u·ar·y (ri·zij′ōō·er′ē) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a residuum or remainder; residual.

res·i·due (rez′ə·dōō, -dyōō) *n.* **1.** A remainder or surplus after a part has been separated or otherwise treated. **2.** *Chem.* Insoluble matter left after filtration or separation from a liquid. **3.** *Law* The portion of an estate that remains after all charges, debts, and particular bequests have been satisfied. Also **re·sid·u·um** (ri·zij′ōō·əm). [< OF < L < *re-* back + *sedere* to sit]

re·sign (ri·zīn′) *v.t.* **1.** To give up, as a position, office, or trust. **2.** To relinquish (a privilege, claim, etc.). **3.** To give over (oneself, one's mind, etc.), as to fate or domination. — *v.i.* **4.** To resign a position, etc. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *signare* to seal] — **re·sign′er** *n.*

re·sign (rē·sīn′) *v.t.* To sign again.

res·ig·na·tion (rez′ig·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of resigning, as a position or office. **2.** A written statement declaring one's intention to resign. **3.** The quality of being submissive or acquiescent.

re·signed (ri·zīnd′) *adj.* Characterized by resignation; submissive. — **re·sign·ed·ly** (ri·zī′nid·lē) *adv.*

re·sil·ience (ri·zil′yəns) *n.* The quality or power of being resilient; elasticity; rebound. Also **re·sil′ien·cy.**

re·sil·ient (ri·zil′yənt) *adj.* 1. Springing back to a former shape or position. 2. Capable of recoiling from pressure or shock unchanged or undamaged; buoyant. [< MF < L < *re-* back + *salire* to leap] — **re·sil′ient·ly** *adv.*

res·in (rez′in) *n.* 1. An amorphous organic substance exuded from certain plants and trees, yellowish or dark in color. 2. Any of a class of similar substances made by chemical synthesis, esp. those used in the making of plastics. 3. Rosin (def. 1). — *v.t.* To apply resin to. [< OF < L < Gk. *rhētinē*] — **res·i·na·ceous** (rez′ə·nā′shəs) *adj.*

res·i·nous (rez′ə·nəs) *adj.* 1. Like or containing resin. 2. Obtained from resin. Also **res·in·y** (rez′ən·ē).

re·sist (ri·zist′) *v.t.* 1. To strive against; act counter to. 2. To be proof against; withstand. — *v.i.* 3. To offer opposition. [< OF < L *resistere* to withstand] — **re·sist′er** *n.*

re·sis·tance (ri·zis′təns) *n.* 1. The act of resisting. 2. Any force tending to hinder motion. 3. *Electr.* The opposition that a conductor offers to the passage of a current, resulting from the conversion of energy into heat, light, etc. 4. *Psychoanal.* The action of the ego in preventing the return to consciousness of unpleasant incidents and experiences. 5. The underground and guerrilla movement opposing an occupying power. — **re·sis′tant** *n.*

re·sist·i·ble (ri·zis′tə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being resisted. — **re·sist′i·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·sist′i·bly** *adv.*

re·sis·tive (ri·zis′tiv) *adj.* Having or exercising the power of resistance. — **re·sis′tive·ly** *adv.*

re·sis·tiv·i·ty (rē′zis·tiv′ə·tē) *n.* 1. The capacity to resist, or the degree of that capacity. 2. *Electr.* Specific resistance to electric or magnetic force of a substance as tested in a cube measuring one centimeter.

re·sist·less (ri·zist′lis) *adj.* 1. Incapable of resisting; irresistible. 2. Offering no resistance; powerless. — **re·sist′less·ly** *adv.* — **re·sist′less·ness** *n.*

re·sis·tor (ri·zis′tər) *n.* *Electr.* A device, as a coil of wire, for introducing resistance into an electrical circuit.

res·na·tron (rez′na·tron) *n.* *Electronics* A tetrode electron tube operating on the resonance principle and capable of generating large power at high frequency and maximum efficiency. [< RES(O)NA(TOR) + -TRON]

re·sole (rē·sōl′) *v.t.* **·soled, ·sol·ing** To sole (a shoe, etc.) again.

res·o·lute (rez′ə·lōōt) *adj.* 1. Having a fixed purpose; determined. 2. Bold; unflinching. [See RESOLVE.] — **res′o·lute·ly** *adv.* — **res′o·lute·ness** *n.*

res·o·lu·tion (rez′ə·lōō′shən) *n.* 1. The act of resolving or of reducing to a simpler form. 2. The state of being resolute; active fortitude. 3. The making of a resolve; also, the purpose or course resolved upon. 4. The separation of anything into component parts. 5. A proposition offered to or adopted by an assembly. 6. *Med.* The termination of an abnormal condition. — **res′o·lu′tion·er, res′o·lu′tion·ist** *n.*

re·solve (ri·zolv′) *v.* **·solved, ·solv·ing** *v.t.* 1. To decide or determine (to do something). 2. To cause to decide or determine. 3. To separate or break down into constituent parts. 4. To make clear; explain or solve, as a problem. 5. To explain away; remove (doubts, etc.). 6. To state or decide by vote, as in a legislative assembly. 7. To transform; convert: He *resolves* his anger into pride. 8. *Optics* To make distinguishable the structure or parts of, as in a microscope or telescope. — *v.i.* 9. To make up one's mind; arrive at a decision: with *on* or *upon*. 10. To become separated into constituent parts. — *n.* 1. Fixity of purpose; resolution. 2. A fixed determination; a resolution. 3. The action of a deliberative body expressing formally its intention or purpose. [< L < *re-* again + *solvere* to loosen] — **re·solv′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·solv′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·solv′er** *n.*

re·solve (rē·solv′) *v.t.* **·solved, ·solv·ing** To solve anew.

re·solved (ri·zolvd′) *adj.* Fixed or set in purpose; determined. — **re·solv·ed·ly** (ri·zol′vid·lē) *adv.*

res·o·nance (rez′ə·nəns) *n.* 1. The state or quality of being resonant. 2. *Physics* The property whereby any vibratory system responds with maximum amplitude to an applied force having a frequency equal or nearly equal to its own. 3. *Electr.* The condition of an electric circuit in which maximum flow of current is obtained by impressing an electromotive force of given frequency.

res·o·nant (rez′ə·nənt) *adj.* 1. Sending back or having the quality of sending back or prolonging sound. 2. Resounding. 3. Having resonance. [< L < *re-* again + *sonare* to sound] — **res′o·nant·ly** *adv.*

res·o·nate (rez′ə·nāt) *v.i.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** 1. To exhibit resonance. 2. To manifest sympathetic vibration, as a resonator. [< L *resonatus*, pp. of *resonare*. See RESONANT.]

res·o·na·tor (rez′ə·nā′tər) *n.* 1. That which resounds. 2. Any device utilizing the effects of resonance, esp. in connection with sound or electromagnetic waves. [< NL]

re·sorb (ri·sôrb′) *v.t.* To absorb again. [< L < *re-* back + *sorbere* to suck up] — **re·sorp·tion** (ri·sôrp′shən) *n.*

re·sor·cin·ol (ri·zôr′sin·ōl, -ol) *n.* *Chem.* A colorless crystalline compound, $C_6H_6O_2$, used as an antiseptic and in the making of dyes. Also **re·sor′cin.** — **re·sor′cin·al** *adj.*

re·sort (ri·zôrt′) *v.i.* 1. To go frequently or habitually; repair. 2. To have recourse; apply or betake oneself for relief or aid: with *to*. — *n.* 1. A place frequented for recreation or rest: health *resort*. 2. The use of something as a means; a recourse. 3. The act of frequenting a place. [< OF < *re-* again + *sortir* to go out] — **re·sort′er** *n.*

re·sort (rē·sôrt′) *v.t. & v.i.* To sort anew or again.

re·sound (ri·zound′) *v.i.* 1. To be filled with sound; echo; reverberate. 2. To make a loud, prolonged, or echoing sound. 3. To ring; echo: said of sounds. — *v.t.* 4. To give back (a sound, etc.); re-echo. 5. *Poetic* To extol. [ME < OF < L *resonare* to echo]

re·sound (rē·sound′) *v.t. & v.i.* To sound again.

re·source (ri·sôrs′, -zors′, -sōrs′, rē′sôrs, -sōrs) *n.* 1. That which is resorted to for aid or support; resort. 2. *pl.* Available means or property; any natural advantages or products. 3. Capacity for finding or adapting means; power of achievement. 4. Fertility in expedients; skill or ingenuity in meeting any situation; resourcefulness. [< OF < *re-* again + *sourdre* < L *surgere* to rise]

re·source·ful (ri·sôrs′fəl, -sōrs′-, -zors′-) *adj.* 1. Fertile in resources or expedients. 2. Full of resources. — **re·source′ful·ly** *adv.* — **re·source′ful·ness** *n.*

re·spect (ri·spekt′) *v.t.* 1. To have deferential regard for; esteem. 2. To treat with propriety or consideration. 3. To regard as inviolable; avoid intruding upon. 4. To have relation or reference to; concern. — *n.* 1. Regard for and appreciation of worth; honor and esteem. 2. Demeanor or deportment indicating deference; courteous regard. 3. *pl.* Expressions of consideration or esteem; compliments: to pay one's *respects*. 4. Conformity to duty or obligation: *respect* for the law. 5. The condition of being honored or respected. 6. A specific aspect: In what *respect* is he wanting? 7. Reference or relation: usu. with *to*: with *respect* to profits. [< L < *re-* again + *specere* to look] — **re·spect′er** *n.*

re·spect·a·ble (ri·spek′tə·bəl) *adj.* 1. Deserving of respect; being of good name or repute; also, respected. 2. Being of moderate excellence; average. 3. Considerable in number, size, quality, etc. 4. Having a good appearance; presentable. 5. Conventionally correct or socially acceptable in conduct. — **re·spect′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·spect′a·bly** *adv.*

re·spect·ful (ri·spekt′fəl) *adj.* Marked by or manifesting respect. — **re·spect′ful·ly** *adv.* — **re·spect′ful·ness** *n.*

re·spect·ing (ri·spek′ting) *prep.* In relation to; regarding.

re·spec·tive (ri·spek′tiv) *adj.* Pertaining or relating severally to each of those under consideration; particular.

re·spec·tive·ly (ri·spek′tiv·lē) *adv.* As singly or severally considered; singly in the order designated: The first three go to John, James, and William *respectively*.

re·spell (rē·spel′) *v.t.* To spell again, esp. in a system whereby pronunciation is indicated.

res·pi·ra·tion (res′pə·rā′shən) *n.* 1. The act of inhaling and exhaling; breathing. 2. The process by which a plant or animal takes in oxygen from the air and gives off carbon dioxide and other products of oxidation. [< MF < L < *re-* again + *spirare* to breathe]

res·pi·ra·tor (res′pə·rā′tər) *n.* 1. A screen, as of fine gauze, worn over the mouth or nose, as a protection against dust, etc. 2. A device worn over the nose and mouth for the inhalation of medicated vapors, or of oxygen for lung patients. 3. An apparatus for artificial respiration.

re·spir·a·to·ry (ri·spīr′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, res′pər·ə·) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, used in, or caused by respiration.

res·pite (res′pit) *n.* 1. Postponement; delay. 2. Temporary intermission of labor or effort; an interval of rest. 3. *Law* Temporary suspension of the execution of a sentence for a capital offense; reprieve. — *v.t.* **·pit·ed, ·pit·ing** 1. To relieve by a pause or rest. 2. To grant delay in the execution of (a penalty, sentence, etc.). 3. To postpone. [< OF < L *respectus* regard, refuge]

re·splen·dent (ri·splen′dənt) *adj.* Shining with brilliant luster; vividly bright; splendid; gorgeous. [< L < *re-* back + *splendere* to shine] — **re·splen′dence, re·splen′den·cy** *n.* — **re·splen′dent·ly** *adv.*

re·spond (ri·spond′) *v.i.* 1. To give an answer; reply. 2. To act in reply or return; react. 3. *Law* To be liable or answerable. — *v.t.* 4. To say in answer; reply. — *n.* 1. *Archit.* A pilaster or similar feature placed against a wall, to receive an arch. 2. *Eccl.* A response (def. 2). [< L < *re-* back + *spondere* to pledge] — **re·spon′der** *n.*

re·spon·dence (ri·spon′dəns) *n.* **1.** The character or condition of being respondent. **2.** The act of responding. Also **re·spon′den·cy.**

re·spon·dent (ri·spon′dənt) *adj.* **1.** Giving response, or given as a response; answering; responsive. **2.** *Law* Occupying the position of defendant. — *n.* **1.** One who responds or answers. **2.** *Law* A defendant.

re·sponse (ri·spons′) *n.* **1.** The act of responding, or that which is responded; reply; reaction. **2.** *Eccl.* **a** A portion of a liturgy or church service said or sung by the congregation or choir in reply to the officiating priest. **b** An anthem sung or said during or after a reading. Also called *respond.* **3.** *Biol.* The behavior of an organism resulting from a stimulus or influence; a reaction. **4.** In bridge, the play of a high or low card in following suit, as a signal to one's partner.

re·spon·si·bil·i·ty (ri·spon′sə·bil′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being responsible or accountable. **2.** That for which one is answerable; a duty or trust. **3.** Ability to meet obligations or to act without superior authority or guidance. Also **re·spon′si·ble·ness.**

re·spon·si·ble (ri·spon′sə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Answerable legally or morally for the discharge of a duty, trust, or debt. **2.** Having capacity to perceive the distinctions of right and wrong. **3.** Able to meet legitimate claims; having sufficient property or means for the payment of debts. **4.** Involving accountability or obligation. [See RESPOND.] — **re·spon′si·bly** *adv.*

re·spon·sive (ri·spon′siv) *adj.* **1.** Inclined or ready to respond; being or reacting in accord, sympathy, or harmony; responding. **2.** Constituting, or of the nature of, response or reply. **3.** Characterized by or containing responses. — **re·spon′sive·ly** *adv.* — **re·spon′sive·ness** *n.*

rest[1] (rest) *v.i.* **1.** To cease working, exerting oneself, etc., so as to refresh oneself. **2.** To cease from effort or activity for a time. **3.** To seek or obtain ease or refreshment by lying down, sleeping, etc. **4.** To sleep. **5.** To be at peace; be tranquil. **6.** To lie in death; be dead. **7.** To remain unchanged. **8.** To be supported; stand, lean, lie, or sit: with *against, on,* or *upon.* **9.** To be founded or based: with *on* or *upon.* **10.** To rely; depend: with *on* or *upon.* **11.** To be placed as a burden or responsibility: with *on* or *upon.* **12.** To be or lie in a specified place. **13.** To be directed; remain, as the gaze or eyes, on something. **14.** *Law* To cease presenting evidence in a case. **15.** *Agric.* To lie fallow. — *v.t.* **16.** To give rest to; refresh by rest. **17.** To put, lay, lean, etc., as for support or rest. **18.** To found; base. **19.** To direct (the gaze, eyes, etc.). **20.** *Law* To cease presenting evidence in (a case). — *n.* **1.** The act or state of resting; repose; quiet. **2.** Freedom from disturbance or disquiet; tranquillity. **3.** Sleep; also, death. **4.** That on which anything rests; a support. **5.** In billiards and pool, a support for a cue; a bridge. **6.** A place of repose or quiet; a stopping place; abode. **7.** *Music* A pause or interval of silence that corresponds to the time value of a note; also, the character indicating such a pause. **8.** In prosody, a pause in a verse; caesura. **9.** *Mil.* A command given troops, allowing them to relax. — **at rest** **1.** In a state of repose, as in sleep or death. **2.** Not in motion; still. **3.** Free from anxiety or worry: to set one's mind *at rest.* [OE *restan*] — **rest′er** *n.*

rest[2] (rest) *n.* **1.** That which remains or is left over; a remainder. **2.** (*construed as pl.*) Those remaining or not enumerated; the others. — *v.i.* To be and remain; stay: *Rest* content. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *stare* to stand]

re·state (rē·stāt′) *v.t.* **·stat·ed, ·stat·ing** To state again or anew. — **re·state′ment** *n.*

res·tau·rant (res′tər·ənt, -tə·ränt) *n.* A place where refreshments or meals are provided; a public dining room. [< F, lit., restoring]

res·tau·ra·teur (res′tər·ə·tûr′, *Fr.* res·tō·rà·tœr′) *n.* The proprietor or keeper of a restaurant. [< F]

rest·ful (rest′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Full of or giving rest; affording freedom from disturbance, work, or trouble. **2.** Being at rest or in repose; quiet. — **rest′ful·ly** *adv.* — **rest′ful·ness** *n.*

rest·ing (res′ting) *adj.* **1.** In a state of rest; reposing; also, dead. **2.** *Bot.* Dormant: a *resting* spore.

res·ti·tu·tion (res′tə·tōō′shən, -tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The act of restoring something that has been taken away or lost. **2.** The act of making good or rendering an equivalent for injury or loss. **3.** Restoration to, return to, or recovery of a former position or condition. **4.** *Physics* The tendency of elastic bodies to recover their shape after compression. [< OF < L < *re-* again + *statuere* to set up]

res·tive (res′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Impatient of control; unruly. **2.** Restless; fidgety. [< F < L *restare* to stand] — **res′tive·ly** *adv.* — **res′tive·ness** *n.*

rest·less (rest′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no rest; never quiet. **2.** Unable or disinclined to rest. **3.** Constantly seeking change; discontented. **4.** Obtaining no rest or sleep; sleepless. — **rest′less·ly** *adv.* — **rest′less·ness** *n.*

re·stock (rē·stok′) *v.t.* To stock again or anew.

res·to·ra·tion (res′tə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of restoring a person or thing to a former place or condition. **2.** The state of being restored; renewal. **3.** The reconstruction or repair of something so as to restore it to its original or former state; also, an object that has been so restored. — **the Restoration** The return of Charles II to the English throne in 1660, after the overthrow of the Protectorate; also, the following period until 1685.

re·sto·ra·tive (ri·stôr′ə·tiv, -stō′rə-) *adj.* **1.** Tending or able to restore. **2.** Pertaining to restoration. — *n.* That which restores; esp. something to restore consciousness.

re·store (ri·stôr′, -stōr′) *v.t.* **·stored, ·stor·ing** **1.** To bring into existence or effect again. **2.** To bring back to a former or original condition, appearance, etc., as a painting. **3.** To put back in a former place or position; reinstate, as a deposed monarch. **4.** To bring back to health and vigor. **5.** To give back (something lost or taken away). [< OF < L < *re-* again + *-staurare* to make firm] — **re·stor′er** *n.*

re·store (rē·stôr′, -stōr′) *v.t.* **·stored, ·stor·ing** To store again or anew.

re·strain (ri·strān′) *v.t.* **1.** To hold back from acting, proceeding, or advancing; repress. **2.** To deprive of freedom or liberty, as by placing in a prison. **3.** To restrict or limit. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *stringere* to draw tight] — **re·strain′·a·ble** *adj.* — **re·strain′ed·ly** *adv.* — **re·strain′er** *n.*

re·straint (ri·strānt′) *n.* **1.** The act of restraining. **2.** The state of being restrained; confinement. **3.** That which restrains; a restriction. **4.** Self-repression; constraint.

restraint of trade Interference with the free flow of goods or with fair competition, as by price fixing.

re·strict (ri·strikt′) *v.t.* To hold or keep within limits or bounds. [< L *restrictus,* pp. or *restringere* to restrain]

re·strict·ed (ri·strik′tid) *adj.* **1.** Limited; confined. **2.** Not available to the general public; limited to a specific group: *restricted* information. **3.** Excluding people of certain races, religions, or nationalities. — **re·strict′ed·ly** *adv.*

re·stric·tion (ri·strik′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of restricting, or the state of being restricted. **2.** That which restricts.

re·stric·tive (ri·strik′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Serving, tending, or operating to restrict. **2.** *Gram.* Denoting a word or word group, esp. an adjective clause, that limits the identity of its antecedent and is therefore essential to the meaning of the sentence, as *who votes for Jones* in *Any man who votes for Jones is a fool.* — **re·stric′tive·ly** *adv.*

rest room A toilet and washroom in a public building.

re·sult (ri·zult′) *n.* **1.** The outcome of an action, course, process, or agency; consequence; effect; conclusion. **2.** *Math.* A quantity or value ascertained by calculation. — *v.i.* **1.** To be a result or outcome; be a physical or logical consequent; follow: with *from.* **2.** To have an issue; terminate; end: with *in.* [< L < *re-* back + *salire* to leap]

re·sul·tant (ri·zul′tənt) *adj.* Arising or following as a result. — *n.* **1.** That which results; a consequence. **2.** *Physics* A force, velocity, or other quantity, resulting from and equivalent in effect to the action of two or more quantities of the same kind.

re·sume (ri·zōōm′) *v.* **·sumed, ·sum·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take up again after cessation or interruption; begin again. **2.** To take or occupy again. **3.** To take for oneself again: to *resume* a title. — *v.i.* **4.** To continue after cessation or interruption. [< MF < L < *re-* again + *sumere* to take] — **re·sum′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·sum′er** *n.*

ré·su·mé (rez′ōō·mā′, rez′ōō·mā) *n.* A summary, as of one's employment record. [< F]

re·sump·tion (ri·zump′shən) *n.* The act of resuming.

re·sur·face (rē·sûr′fis) *v.t.* **·faced, ·fac·ing** To provide with a new surface.

re·surge (ri·sûrj′) *v.i.* **·surged, ·surg·ing** **1.** To rise again; be resurrected. **2.** To surge or sweep back again, as the tide. [< L < *re-* again + *surgere* to rise]

re·sur·gent (ri·sûr′jənt) *adj.* **1.** Rising again. **2.** Surging back or again. — **re·sur′gence** *n.*

res·ur·rect (rez′ə·rekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To bring back to life; raise from the dead. **2.** To bring back into use or to notice. — *v.i.* **3.** To rise again from the dead. [Back formation < RESURRECTION]

res·ur·rec·tion (rez′ə·rek′shən) *n.* **1.** A rising again from the dead. **2.** The state of those who have risen from the dead. **3.** Any revival or renewal, as of a practice or custom, after disuse, decay, etc.; restoration. — **the Resurrection** *Theol.* **1.** The rising of Christ from the dead. **2.** The rising again of all the dead at the day of judgment. [See RESURGE.] — **res′ur·rec′tion·al** *adj.* — **res′ur·rec′tion·ar·y** *adj.*

re·sus·ci·tate (ri·sus′ə·tāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** To bring or come back to life; revive from unconsciousness. [< L < *re-* again + *suscitare* to revive] — **re·sus′ci·ta′tion** *n.* — **re·sus′ci·ta′tive** *adj.* — **re·sus′ci·ta′tor** *n.*

ret (ret) *v.t.* **ret·ted, ret·ting** To steep or soak, as flax, to separate the fibers: also *rot.* [ME < MDu. *reten*]

re·tail (*n. & adj.* rē′tāl; *v.* ri·tāl′) *n.* The selling of goods in small quantities, esp. to the ultimate consumer: distinguished from *wholesale.* — *adj.* Pertaining to, involving, or engaged in the sale of goods at retail. — *v.t.* **1.** To sell at re-

tail. **2.** To repeat, as gossip. — *v.i.* **3.** To be sold at retail. [< OF < *re-* back + *tailler* to cut] — **re/tail·er** *n.*

re·tain (ri·tān′) *v.t.* **1.** To keep or continue to keep in one's possession; hold. **2.** To maintain in use, practice, etc. **3.** To keep in a fixed condition or place. **4.** To keep in mind; remember. **5.** To hire; also, to engage (an attorney or other representative) by paying a retainer. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *tenere* to hold] — **re·tain′a·ble** *adj.*

re·tain·er[1] (ri·tā′nər) *n.* **1.** A servant. **2.** One who retains or keeps. **3.** *Mech.* A device for holding the parts of ball or roller bearings in place.

re·tain·er[2] (ri·tā′nər) *n.* **1.** The fee paid, or the agreement made, to employ an attorney to serve in a suit; a retaining fee. **2.** A similar fee paid to anyone to retain his services. [< OF *retenir* to hold back, used as noun]

re·tain·ing wall (ri·tā′ning) A wall to prevent the material of an embankment or cut from sliding, as a revetment.

re·take (*v.* rē·tāk′; *n.* rē′tāk′) *v.t.* **·took, ·tak·en, ·tak·ing 1.** To take back; receive again. **2.** To recapture. **3.** To photograph again. — *n.* A motion-picture or television scene, part of a musical or other recording, etc., done again.

re·tal·i·ate (ri·tal′ē·āt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To return like for like; esp., to repay evil with evil. — *v.t.* **2.** To repay (an injury, wrong, etc.) in kind; revenge. [< L < *re-* back + *talio* punishment in kind] — **re·tal′i·a′tive** *adj.* — **re·tal′i·a·to′ry** *adj.*

re·tal·i·a·tion (ri·tal′ē·ā′shən) *n.* The act of retaliating; reprisal; requital. — **Syn.** See REVENGE.

re·tard (ri·tärd′) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move or proceed slowly; hinder the advance or course of; delay. — *v.i.* **2.** To be delayed. — *n.* The act of retarding; delay. [< MF < L < *re-* back + *tardare* to make slow] — **re·tard′ant** *n. & adj.* — **re/tar·da′tion** *n.* — **re·tard′a·tive** (-ə·tiv) *adj. & n.*

re·tard·ed (ri·tär′did) *adj. Psychol.* Slowed down or backward in mental development or school achievement.

re·tard·er (ri·tärd′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which retards. **2.** *Chem.* A substance that slows a chemical reaction, usu. when added in small quantity: compare CATALYST.

retch (rech) *v.i.* To make an effort to vomit; strain; heave. [OE *hrǣcan* to clear one's throat]

re·ten·tion (ri·ten′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of retaining, or the state of being retained. **2.** The ability to remember. **3.** The capacity or ability to retain. **4.** *Med.* A retaining within the body of materials normally excreted, as urine.

re·ten·tive (ri·ten′tiv) *adj.* Having the power or tendency to retain. — **re/ten·tiv′i·ty** *n.* — **re·ten′tive·ness** *n.*

ret·i·cent (ret′ə·sənt) *adj.* Habitually silent or reserved in utterance. [< L < *re-* again + *tacere* to be silent] — **ret′i·cence, ret′i·cen·cy** *n.* — **ret′i·cent·ly** *adv.*

re·tic·u·lar (ri·tik′yə·lər) *adj.* Like a network; reticulate; intricate. Also **re·tic′u·lar′y.**

re·tic·u·late (ri·tik′yə·lāt; *for adj., also* ri·tik′yə·lit) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make a network of. **2.** To cover with or as with lines of network. — *v.i.* **3.** To form a network. — *adj.* **1.** Having the form or appearance of a network. **2.** *Bot.* Having lines or veins crossing: also **re·tic′u·lat′ed.** — **re·tic′u·la′tion** *n.*

ret·i·cule (ret′ə·kyōōl) *n.* A small bag formerly used by women for carrying personal articles, etc. [See RETICULUM.]

re·tic·u·lum (ri·tik′yə·ləm) *n. pl.* **·la** (-lə) **1.** A netlike structure; network. **2.** *Zool.* The second stomach of a ruminant. [< L, dim. of *rete* net]

ret·i·na (ret′ə·nə, ret′nə) *n. pl.* **·nas** or **·nae** (-nē) *Anat.* The inner membrane at the back of the eyeball, containing light-sensitive rods and cones that transmit the image to the optic nerve. For illus. see EYE. [< Med.L < L *rete* net] — **ret′i·nal** *adj.*

ret·i·ni′tis (ret′ə·nī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the retina.

ret·i·nue (ret′ə·nōō, -nyōō) *n.* The body of retainers attending a person of rank; cortège. [< F < *retenir* to retain]

re·tire (ri·tīr′) *v.* **·tired, ·tir·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To go away or withdraw, as for privacy, shelter, or rest. **2.** To go to bed. **3.** To withdraw oneself from business, public life, or active service. **4.** To fall back; retreat, as troops under attack. **5.** To move back; recede or appear to recede. — *v.t.* **6.** To remove from active service. **7.** To pay off and withdraw from circulation: to *retire* bonds. **8.** To withdraw (troops, etc.) from action. **9.** In baseball, etc., to put out (a batter or side). [< MF < *re-* back + *tirer* to draw]

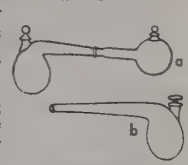
re·tired (ri·tīrd′) *adj.* **1.** Withdrawn from public view; solitary; secluded: a *retired* life. **2.** Withdrawn from active service, business, office, etc. **3.** Due to or received by a person withdrawn from active service: *retired* pay.

re·tire·ment (ri·tīr′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of retiring, or the state of being retired. **2.** A secluded place; a retreat.

re·tir·ing (ri·tīr′ing) *adj.* **1.** Shy; modest; reserved; unobtrusive. **2.** Pertaining to retirement: a *retiring* pension.

re·tort[1] (ri·tôrt′) *v.t.* **1.** To direct (a word or deed) back upon the originator. **2.** To reply to, as an accusation or argument, by a similar accusation, etc. — *v.i.* **3.** To make answer, esp. sharply. — *n.* **1.** A keen rejoinder or retaliatory speech; caustic repartee. **2.** The act of retorting. [< L < *re-* back + *torquere* to twist] — **re·tort′er** *n.*

re·tort[2] (ri·tôrt′) *n.* **1.** *Chem.* A vessel with a bent tube for the heating of substances, or for distillation. **2.** *Metall.* A vessel in which ore may be heated for the removal of its metal content. [< L *retortus* bent back.]



RETORTS
a Retort with receiver. *b* Common retort.

re·touch (rē·tuch′; *for n., also* rē′tuch) *v.t.* **1.** To add new touches to; modify; revise. **2.** *Photog.* To change or improve, as a print. — *n.* An additional touch, as to a picture, model, or other work of art. — **re·touch′er** *n.*

re·trace (ri·trās′) *v.t.* **·traced, ·trac·ing 1.** To go back over; follow backward, as a path. **2.** To trace the whole story of, from the beginning. **3.** To go back over with the eyes or mind. [< F *retracer*] — **re·trace′a·ble** *adj.*

re-trace (rē·trās′) *v.t.* **-traced, -trac·ing** To trace again, as an engraving, drawing, or map.

re·tract (ri·trakt′) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To take back (an assertion, admission, etc.); make a disavowal (of); recant. **2.** To draw back or in, as the claws of a cat. [< F < L < *re-* again + *tractare* to handle, freq. of *trahere* to draw] — **re·tract′a·ble** or **·i·ble** *adj.* — **re·trac·ta·tion** (rē′trak·tā′shən), **re·trac′tion** *n.*

re·trac·tile (ri·trak′til) *adj. Zool.* Capable of being drawn back or in, as a cat's claws or the head of a tortoise. — **re·trac·til·i·ty** (rē′trak·til′ə·tē) *n.*

re·trac·tive (ri·trak′tiv) *adj.* Having the power or tendency to retract; retracting.

re·trac·tor (ri·trak′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which retracts. **2.** *Surg.* An instrument used to hold apart the edges of a wound, incision, etc.

re·tread (*n.* rē′tred′; *v.* rē·tred′) *n.* A pneumatic tire furnished with a new tread. — *v.t.* **·tread·ed, ·tread·ing** To fit or furnish (an automobile tire) with a new tread.

re-tread (rē·tred′) *v.t.* **-trod, -trod·den, -tread·ing** To tread again.

re·treat (ri·trēt′) *v.i.* **1.** To go back or backward; withdraw; retire. **2.** To curve or slope backward. — *v.t.* **3.** In chess, to move (a piece) back. — *n.* **1.** The act of retreating. **2.** The retirement of a military force from a position of danger or from an enemy; also, a signal for retreating, made by a trumpet or drum **3.** *Mil.* A signal, as by bugle, for the lowering of the flag at sunset. **4.** Retirement; seclusion; solitude. **5.** A place of retirement, quiet, or security; a refuge; haunt. **6.** Religious retirement; also, the time spent in religious retirement. — **to beat a retreat** **1.** To give a signal for retreat, as by the beat of drums. **2.** To turn back; flee. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *trahere* to draw]

re·trench (ri·trench′) *v.t.* **1.** To cut down or reduce; curtail (expenditures). **2.** To cut off or away; remove; omit. — *v.i.* **3.** To make retrenchments; economize. [< MF < *re-* back + *trencher* to cut]

re·trench·ment (ri·trench′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of retrenching. **2.** Reduction, as of expenses, for the sake of economy. **3.** *Mil.* An interior fortification from which the enemy can be resisted should the outer line be taken.

re·tri·al (rē·trī′əl) *n.* A second or succeeding trial, as of a judicial case.

re·tri·bu·tion (ret′rə·byōō′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of requiting; esp., impartial infliction of punishment. **2.** That which is done or given in requital, as a reward or punishment. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *tribuere* to divide, grant]

re·trib·u·tive (ri·trib′yə·tiv) *adj.* Tending to reward or punish. Also **re·trib′u·to′ry** (-tôr′ē, -tō′rē).

re·triev·al (ri·trē′vəl) *n.* **1.** The act or process of retrieving. **2.** Possibility of restoration or recovery.

re·trieve (ri·trēv′) *v.* **·trieved, ·triev·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To get back; regain. **2.** To restore; revive, as flagging spirits. **3.** To make up for. **4.** To call to mind. **5.** To find and bring in (wounded or dead game): said of dogs. **6.** *Electronics* To obtain or extract (specific information) from the storage unit of an electronic computer. — *v.i.* **7.** To retrieve game. — *n.* The act of retrieving; recovery. [ME < OF < *re-* again + *trouver* to find] — **re·triev′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **re·triev′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·triev′a·bly** *adv.*

re·triev·er (ri·trē′vər) *n.* **1.** A sporting dog specifically trained to retrieve game. **2.** One who retrieves.

retro- *prefix* **1.** Back; backward. **2.** Behind. [< L *retro* back, backward]

ret·ro·ac·tive (ret′rō·ak′tiv, rē′trō-) *adj.* Taking effect at a (usu. specified) time prior to its enactment, ratification, etc., as a provision in a law or contract; applying retrospectively. — **ret/ro·ac/tive·ly** *adv.* — **ret/ro·ac·tiv′i·ty** *n.*

ret·ro·cede (ret′rō·sēd′) *v.* **·ced·ed, ·ced·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cede or give back — *v.i.* **2.** To recede. [< L < *retro-* back + *cedere* to go] — **ret′ro·ces′sion** (-sesh′ən) *n.*

ret·ro·fire (ret′rə·fīr) *n. Aerospace* The operation or moment of firing a retrorocket.

ret·ro·flex (ret′rə·fleks) *adj.* Bent backward; reflexed: said esp. of the tongue. Also **ret·ro·flexed** (ret′rə·flexst). [< LL < L *retro-* back + *flectere* to bend]

ret·ro·grade (ret′rə·grād) *adj.* **1.** Going or tending backward; reversed. **2.** Declining to or toward a worse state or character. **3.** *Astron.* Apparently moving from east to west relative to the fixed stars. **4.** Reversed; inverted. — *v.* **·grad·ed, ·grad·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move or appear to move backward. **2.** To degenerate. **3.** *Astron.* To have a retrograde motion. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to move backward; reverse. [< L < *retro-* backward + *gradi* to walk] — **ret/ro·gra·da′tion** (-grā·dā′shən) *n.*

ret·ro·gress (ret′rə·gres) *v.i.* To go back to an earlier or worse state. [< L < *retro-* backward + *gradi* to walk]

— **Syn.** In strict usage, *retrogress* suggests a return to a former place or condition, while *degenerate* implies a passing into a worse condition.

ret·ro·gres·sion (ret′rə·gresh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of retrogressing. **2.** *Biol.* Return to or toward an earlier form or structure. — **ret′ro·gres′sive** *adj.*

ret·ro·rock·et (ret′rō·rok′it) *n. Aerospace* An auxiliary rocket whose reverse thrust decelerates a rocket or spaceship.

re·trorse (ri·trôrs′) *adj.* Turned or directed backward. [< L *retrorsus*, contr. of *retroversus* < *retro-* backward + *versus*, pp. of *vertere* to turn] — **re·trorse′ly** *adv.*

ret·ro·spect (ret′rə·spekt) *n.* A view or contemplation of something past. [< L < *retro-* back + *specere* to look] — **ret/ro·spec′tion** *n.*

ret·ro·spec·tive (ret′rə·spek′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Looking back on the past. **2.** Looking or facing backward. **3.** Applying retroactively, as legislation. **4.** Characterized by retrospection. — **ret/ro·spec′tive·ly** *adv.*

ret·rous·sé (ret′rōō·sā′, *Fr.* rə·trōō·sā′) *adj.* Turned up at the end: said of a nose. [< F, pp. of *retrousser* to turn up]

re·try (rē·trī′) *v.t.* **·tried, ·try·ing** To try again, as a judicial case.

re·turn (ri·tûrn′) *v.i.* **1.** To come or go back, as to or toward a former place or condition. **2.** To come back or revert in thought or speech. **3.** To revert to a former owner. **4.** To answer; respond. — *v.t.* **5.** To bring, carry, send, or put back; replace. **6.** To give in return for something. **7.** To repay or requite, esp. with an equivalent: to *return* a compliment. **8.** To yield or produce, as a profit or interest. **9.** To send back; reflect, as light or sound. **10.** To render (a verdict, etc.). **11.** To submit, as a report or writ, to one in authority. **12.** To report or announce officially. **13.** In card games, to lead (a suit previously led by one's partner). — *n.* **1.** The act, process, state, or result of coming back or returning. **2.** That which is returned. **3.** That which accrues, as from investments, labor, or use; profit. **4.** A coming back, reappearance, or recurrence, as of a periodical event. **5.** A report, list, etc.; esp., a formal or official report. **6.** *pl.* A set of tabulated statistics: election *returns*. **7.** In card games, a lead in a suit formerly led, esp. by one's partner **8.** In tennis, etc., the act of returning a ball to one's opponent; also, the ball, etc., so returned. — *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or for a return: a *return* ticket. **2.** Given, taken, or done in return: a *return* visit. **3.** Occurring or presented a second time or again. **4.** Reversing direction; doubling back, as a U-shaped bend. [< OF < *re-* back + *torner* to turn] — **re·turn′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·turn′er** *n.*

re·turn (rē′tûrn′) *v.t. & v.i.* To turn or fold back again.

return ticket A round-trip ticket.

Reu·ben (rōō′bin) In the Old Testament, the eldest son of Jacob and Leah. *Gen.* xxix 32. — *n.* The tribe of Israel descended from Reuben.

re·un·ion (rē·yōōn′yən) *n.* **1.** The act of reuniting. **2.** A gathering of persons who have been separated.

re·u·nite (rē′yōō·nīt′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·nit·ed, ·nit·ing** To unite, cohere, or combine again after separation. — **re/u·nit′er** *n.*

Reu·ters (roi′tərz) *n.* A British organization for collecting news and distributing it to member newspapers. Also **Reuter's News Agency.** [after Baron P. J. von *Reuter*, 1816–99, born in Germany]

rev (rev) *n.* A revolution, as of a motor. — *v.t. & v.i.* **revved, rev·ving** To alter the speed of (a motor): with *up*.

re·vamp (rē·vamp′) *v.t.* **1.** To patch up; make over; renovate. **2.** To vamp (a boot or shoe) anew.

re·veal (ri·vēl′) *v.t.* **1.** To make known; disclose; divulge. **2.** To make visible; expose to view; show. [< OF < L *to* unveil < *re-* back + *velum* veil] — **re·veal′a·ble** *adj.* — **re·veal′er** *n.* — **re·veal′ment** *n.*

rev·eil·le (rev′i·lē) *n.* **1.** A morning signal by drum or bugle, notifying soldiers or sailors to rise. **2.** The hour at which this signal is sounded. [< F, ult. < L < *re-* again + *vigilare* to keep watch]

rev·el (rev′əl) *v.i.* **rev·eled** or **·elled, rev·el·ing** or **·el·ling** **1.** To take delight: with *in*: He *revels* in his freedom. **2.** To engage in boisterous festivities; make merry. — *n.* **1.** Merrymaking; carousing. **2.** *Often pl.* An occasion of boisterous festivity; a celebration. [< OF *reveler* to make an uproar < L *rebellare*] — **rev′el·er** or **rev′el·ler** *n.*

rev·e·la·tion (rev′ə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of revealing. **2.** That which is or has been revealed. **3.** *Theol.* **a** The act of revealing or communicating divine truth, esp. by divine agency. **b** That which has been so revealed, as concerning God in his relations to man.

Rev·e·la·tion (rev′ə·lā′shən) *n. Often pl.* The Apocalypse, or book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament: in full, **The Revelation of Saint John the Divine.**

rev·el·ry (rev′əl·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** Noisy or boisterous merriment.

re·venge (ri·venj′) *v.* **·venged, ·veng·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To inflict punishment, injury, or loss in return for. **2.** To take or seek vengeance in behalf of. — *n.* **1.** The act of revenging. **2.** A means of avenging oneself or others. **3.** A desire for vengeance. [< OF < *re-* again + *vengier* to take vengeance] — **re·veng′er** *n.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** *Revenge* stresses personal bitterness that seeks relief in harming or humiliating an enemy. *Vengeance*, originally the indignant vindication of justice, is now applied to any furious and thoroughgoing *revenge*. *Retaliation* suggests the repayment of an act by a like act.

re·venge·ful (ri·venj′fəl) *adj.* Disposed to or full of revenge; vindictive. — **re·venge′ful·ly** *adv.* + **re·venge′ful·ness** *n.*

rev·e·nue (rev′ə·nyōō, -nōō) *n.* **1.** Total current income of a government, except duties on imports: also called *internal revenue*. **2.** Income from any form of property. **3.** A source of income. [< F < L < *re-* back + *venire* to come]

re·ver·ber·ant (ri·vûr′bər·ənt) *adj.* Reverberating.

re·ver·ber·ate (ri·vûr′bə·rāt) *v.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To resound or re-echo. **2.** To be reflected. **3.** To rebound or recoil. — *v.t.* **4.** To echo back (a sound); re-echo. **5.** To reflect. [< L < *re-* back + *verberare* to beat]

re·ver·ber·a·tion (ri·vûr′bə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of reverberating. **2.** That which is reverberated. **3.** The rebound or reflection of light, heat, or sound waves. — **re·ver′ber·a′tive** *adj.* — **re·ver′ber·a·to′ry** (-bər·ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

re·vere (ri·vir′) *v.t.* **·vered, ·ver·ing** To regard with reverence; venerate. — **Syn.** See VENERATE. [< L < *re-* again + *vereri* to fear] — **re·ver′er** *n.*

rev·er·ence (rev′ər·əns) *n.* **1** A feeling of profound respect often mingled with awe and affection; veneration. **2.** An act of respect; an obeisance. — *v.t.* **·enced, ·enc·ing** To regard with reverence. — **Syn.** See VENERATE.

Rev·er·ence (rev′ər·əns) *n.* A title or form of address for clergymen: often preceded by *His, Your*, etc.

rev·er·end (rev′ər·ənd) *adj.* **1.** Worthy of reverence. **2.** *Often cap.* A title of respect often used with the name of a clergyman. — *n. Informal* A clergyman; minister. [See REVERE.]

rev·er·ent (rev′ər·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Feeling reverence. **2.** Expressing reverence. [See REVERE.] — **rev′er·ent·ly** *adv.*

rev·er·en·tial (rev′ə·ren′shəl) *adj.* Proceeding from or expressing reverence. — **rev′er·en′tial·ly** *adv.*

rev·er·ie (rev′ə·rē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** Abstracted musing; dreaming. **2.** A product of such musing. Also **rev′er·y.** [< F < MF *resver* to be delirious, dream]

re·vers (rə·vir′, -vâr′) *n. pl.* **·vers** (-virz′, -vârz′) A part of a garment folded over to show the inside, as the lapel of a coat. Also **re·vere′.** [< OF. See REVERSE.]

re·ver·sal (ri·vûr′səl) *n.* The act of reversing, or the state of being reversed.

re·verse (ri·vûrs′) *adj.* **1.** Having a contrary or opposite direction, character, order, etc.; turned backward. **2.** Causing backward motion: the *reverse* gear of an automobile. — *n.* **1.** That which is directly opposite or contrary. **2.** The back or secondary side of anything: distinguished from *obverse*. **3.** A change to an opposite position, direction, or state. **4.** A change for the worse; a check or partial defeat. **5.** *Mech.* A reversing gear or movement. — *v.* **·versed, ·vers·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To turn upside down or inside out. **2.** To turn in an opposite direction. **3.** To change into something different or opposite. **4.** To set aside; annul: to *reverse* a decree. **5.** *Mech.* To cause to have an opposite motion or effect. — *v.i.* **6.** To move or turn in the opposite direction. **7.** To reverse its action, as an engine. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *vertere* to turn] — **re·verse′ly** *adv.* — **re·vers′er** *n.*

re·vers·i·ble (ri·vûr′sə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being reversed in direction or position. **2.** Capable of going either forward or backward, as a chemical reaction or physiological

process. **3.** Capable of being used or worn inside out or backward, as a coat. **4.** Having the finish on both sides, as a fabric. — *n.* A reversible coat. — **re·vers′i·bil′i·ty**, **re·vers′i·ble·ness** *n.* — **re·vers′i·bly** *adv.*

re·ver·sion (ri·vûr′zhən, -shən) *n.* **1.** A return to or toward some former state, condition, practice, or belief. **2.** The act of reversing, or the state of being reversed. **3.** *Biol.* **a** The reappearance in an individual of characteristics that had not been evident for two or more generations: also called *atarism*. **b** An example of such reappearance. **4.** *Law* **a** The return of an estate to the grantor or his heirs after the expiration of the grant. **b** The right of succession to an estate. [See REVERT.] — **re·ver′sion·al**, — **re·ver′sion·ar′y** (-er′ē) *adj.*

re·vert (ri·vûrt′) *v.i.* **1.** To go or turn back to a former place, condition, attitude, etc. **2.** *Biol.* To return to or show characteristics of an earlier type. **3.** *Law* To return to the former owner or his heirs. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *vertere* to turn] — **re·vert′i·ble** *adj.* — **re·vert′ive** *adj.*

re·vet·ment (ri·vet′mənt) *n.* A facing or sheathing, as of masonry, for protecting earthworks, river banks, etc. [< F < OF < LL < L < *re-* again + *restire* to clothe]

re·view[1] (ri·vyōō′) *v.t.* **1.** To go over or examine again; look at or study again. **2.** To look back upon; think of retrospectively. **3.** To make an inspection of, esp. formally. **4.** To write or make a critical review of, as a new book. **5.** *Law* To reexamine (something done or adjudged by a lower court). — *v.i.* **6.** To write a review or reviews, as for a magazine. [< RE- + VIEW]

re·view[2] (ri·vyōō′) *n.* **1.** A repeated or new view or study of something; a retrospective survey. **2.** A lesson studied or recited again. **3.** Critical study or examination. **4.** An article containing a critical discussion of some work. **5.** A periodical devoted to essays in criticism and on general subjects. **6.** A formal inspection, as of troops. **7.** *Law* A judicial revision by a superior court of the order or decree of a subordinate court. See REVUE. [< MF < L < *re-* again + *videre* to see]

re·view·al (ri·vyōō′əl) *n.* The act of reviewing; a review.

re·view·er (ri·vyōō′ər) *n.* One who reviews; esp., one who critically reviews new books, plays, movies, etc.

re·vile (ri·vīl′) *v.* **·viled**, **·vil·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To assail with abusive or contemptuous language; vilify; abuse. — *v.i.* **2.** To use abusive or contemptuous language. — **Syn.** See SCOLD. [< OF *reviler* to despise] — **re·vile′ment** *n.* — **re·vil′er** *n.* — **re·vil′ing·ly** *adv.*

re·vis·al (ri·vī′zəl) *n.* The act of revising; revision.

re·vise (ri·vīz′) *v.t.* **·vised**, **·vis·ing** **1.** To read or read over so as to correct errors, suggest or make changes, etc. **2.** To change; alter. — *n.* **1.** The act or result of revising; a revision. **2.** A corrected proof after revision. [< MF < L < *re-* again + *visere* to scrutinize] — **re·vis′er** or **re·vi′sor** *n.*

re·vi·sion (ri·vizh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of revising. **2.** Something revised, as a new version of a book. — **re·vi′sion·al**, **re·vi′sion·ar′y** *adj.*

re·vi·so·ry (ri·vī′zər·ē) *adj.* Effecting, or capable of effecting, revision; revising: *revisory* powers.

re·vi·val (ri·vī′vəl) *n.* **1.** The act of reviving or, the state of being revived. **2.** A recovery, as from depression. **3.** A restoration, as after neglect or obscurity. **4.** A renewal of interest in religion. **5.** A series of evangelical meetings to reawaken faith.

re·vi·val·ist (ri·vī′vəl·ist) *n.* A preacher or leader in a religious revival movement.

re·vive (ri·vīv′) *v.* **·vived**, **·viv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To bring back to life or to consciousness. **2.** To give new health, etc., to. **3.** To bring back into use. **4.** To make effective or operative again. **5.** To renew in the mind or memory. **6.** To produce again, as an old play. — *v.i.* **7.** To come back to life again. **8.** To assume new vigor, health, etc. **9.** To come back into use. **10.** To become effective or operative again. [< MF < L < *re-* again + *vivere* to live] — **re·viv′er** *n.*

re·vi·vi·fy (ri·viv′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied**, **·fy·ing** To give new life to; revive. [< L < *re-* again + *vivus* alive + *facere* to make] — **re·viv′i·fi·ca′tion** *n.*

rev·o·ca·ble (rev′ə·kə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being revoked. Also **re·vok·a·ble** (ri·vō′kə·bəl). — **rev′o·ca·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **rev′o·ca·bly** *adv.*

rev·o·ca·tion (rev′ə·kā′shən) *n.* The act of revoking, or the state of being revoked; repeal; reversal; annulment.

re·voke (ri·vōk′) *v.* **·voked**, **·vok·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To annul or make void by recalling; cancel; rescind. — *v.i.* **2.** In card games, to fail to follow suit when possible and when required by the rules. — **Syn.** See ANNUL. — *n.* In card games, neglect to follow suit; a renege. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *vocare* to call] — **re·vok′er** *n.*

re·volt (ri·vōlt′) *n.* **1.** An uprising against authority; rebellion. **2.** An act of protest, refusal, or disgust. **3.** The state of a person or persons who revolt: to be in *revolt*. — *v.i.* **1.** To rise in rebellion against constituted authority; mutiny. **2.** To turn away in disgust: with *against*, *at*, or *from*. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to feel disgust; repel. [< MF < Ital. < L < *re-* back + *volvere* to roll] — **re·volt′er** *n.*

re·volt·ing (ri·vōl′ting) *adj.* Abhorrent; loathsome; nauseating. — **re·volt′ing·ly** *adv.*

rev·o·lu·tion (rev′ə·lōō′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or state of revolving. **2.** A motion in a closed curve around a center, or a complete circuit made by a body in such a course. **3.** *Mech.* Rotation about an axis, as in a spiral, so as to come to a point corresponding to the starting point. **4.** *Astron.* The movement of a planet around the sun or of any celestial body around a center of attraction. **5.** A cycle of successive events or changes. **6.** The overthrow and replacement of a government or political system by those governed. **7.** A drastic change in a condition, method, idea, etc.: a *revolution* in industry. [< OF < LL < L < *re-* back + *volvere* to roll]

— **American Revolution** The war for independence carried on by the thirteen American colonies against Great Britain, 1775–83. Also *Revolutionary War*. See table for WAR.

— **Chinese Revolution** The events in China during the years 1911–12, inspired by Sun Yat-sen, that overthrew the Manchu Empire and established a republic.

— **English Revolution** The course of events in England in 1642–89 that brought about the execution of Charles I, the rise of the Commonwealth, the dethronement of James II, and the establishment of a constitutional government.

— **French Revolution** The revolution that began in France in 1789, overthrew the French monarchy, and culminated in the start of the Napoleonic era in 1799.

— **Russian Revolution** The conflict (1917–22), beginning in a Petrograd uprising on March 12, 1917, that resulted in a provisional moderate government and the abdication of Nicholas II. On November 6, the Bolsheviks under Lenin overthrew this government (the **October Revolution**), and in December, 1922, united the soviet states in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under Communist (Bolshevik) control.

rev·o·lu·tion·ar·y (rev′ə·lōō′shən·er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or of the nature of revolution, esp. political; causing or tending to produce revolution. **2.** Rotating; revolving.

Revolutionary calendar See (Republican) CALENDAR.

Revolutionary War The American Revolution. See under REVOLUTION.

rev·o·lu·tion·ize (rev′ə·lōō′shən·īz) *v.t.* **·ized**, **·iz·ing** To effect a radical change in the character, operation, etc., of.

re·volve (ri·volv′) *v.* **·volved**, **·volv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To move in an orbit about a center. **2.** To spin around on an axis; rotate. **3.** To recur periodically. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to move in a circle or orbit. **5.** To cause to rotate. **6.** To turn over mentally; consider. [< L < *re-* back + *volvere* to roll] — **re·volv′a·ble** *adj.*

re·volv·er (ri·vol′vər) *n.* **1.** A type of pistol having a revolving cylinder in the breech chambered to hold several cartridges that may be fired in succession without reloading. **2.** One who or that which revolves.

revolving door A door rotating like a turnstile about a central post and consisting of three or four adjustable leaves so encased in a doorway as to exclude drafts of air.

re·vue (ri·vyōō′) *n.* A musical show consisting of songs, dances, and skits that lampoon or burlesque contemporary people and events: also spelled *review*. [< F]

re·vul·sion (ri·vul′shən) *n.* **1.** A sudden change of or strong reaction in feeling. **2.** The drawing back from something: violent withdrawal or recoil. [< OF < L < *re-* back + *vellere* to pull] — **re·vul′sive** (-siv) *adj.*

re·ward (ri·wôrd′) *n.* **1.** Something given or done in return; esp., a gift, prize, etc., for merit, service, or achievement. **2.** Money offered for information, for the return of lost goods, etc. **3.** Profit; return. — *v.t.* **1.** To give a reward to or for. **2.** To be a reward for. [< OF < *re-* back (< L) + *warder* to guard] — **re·ward′er** *n.*

re·wire (rē·wīr′) *v.t.* **·wired**, **·wir·ing** To wire again, as a house or a machine.

re·word (rē·wûrd′) *v.t.* **1.** To say again in other words; express differently. **2.** To utter or say again in the same words.

re·write (r. rē·rīt′; *n.* rē′rīt′) *v.t.* **·wrote**, **·writ·ten**, **·writ·ing** **1.** To write over again. **2.** In American journalism, to put into publishable form (a story submitted by a reporter). — *n.* A news item written in this manner.

rex (reks) *n.* *pl.* **re·ges** (rē′jēz) *Usu. cap. Latin* King.

Reyn·ard (ren′ərd, rā′nərd) *n.* The fox, esp. as the personification of cunning: also spelled *Renard*. [< MDu. < OHG, name of fox in medieval legend]

-rhage, **-rhagia**, **-rhagy** See -RRHAGIA.

-rhaphy See -RRHAPHY.

rhap·so·dize (rap′sə·dīz) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·dized**, **·diz·ing** To express or recite rhapsodically. — **rhap′so·dist** *n.*

rhap·so·dy (rap′sə·dē) *n.* *pl.* **·dies** **1.** A series of disconnected and often extravagant sentences, extracts, or utterances, gathered or composed under excitement. **2.** *Music* An instrumental composition of irregular form, often suggestive of improvisation. **3.** A miscellaneous collection. [< L < Gk. < *rhaptein* to stitch together + *ōidē* song] — **rhap·sod·ic** (rap·sod′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **rhap·sod′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

rhe·a (rē′ə) *n.* A flightless bird of the plains of South America, smaller than true ostriches, and having three toes: also called *ostrich.* [< NL < L < Gk.]

Rhe·a (rē′ə) In Greek mythology, the daughter of Uranus and Gaea and mother of Zeus.

-rhea See -RRHEA.

Rhen·ish (ren′ish) *adj.* Pertaining to the river Rhine, or to the adjacent lands. — *n.* Rhine wine. [< L *Rhenus* Rhine]

rhe·ni·um (rē′nē·əm) *n.* A heavy, lustrous, rare metallic element (symbol Re) of the manganese group. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L *Rhenus* Rhine]

rheo- *combining form* Current or flow, as of water or electricity. [< Gk. *rheos* a current]

rhe·o·stat (rē′ə·stat) *n.* *Electr.* A variable resistor used to control current and voltage strength in a circuit. [< RHEO- + Gk. *statos* standing] — **rhe′o·stat′ic** *adj.*

rhe·sus (rē′səs) *n.* A monkey with a short tail, common throughout India and widely used in biological and medical research. [< NL < Gk. *Rhēsos* Rhesus]

Rhe·sus factor (rē′səs) Rh factor.

rhet·o·ric (ret′ə·rik) *n.* **1.** The art of discourse, both written and spoken. **2.** The power of pleasing or persuading. **3.** Affected and exaggerated display in the use of language. **4.** The art of prose as distinct from verse. [< MF < Gk. < *rhētōr* public speaker]

rhe·tor·i·cal (ri·tôr′i·kəl, -tor′-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to rhetoric; oratorical. **2.** Designed for showy oratorical effect. — **rhe·tor′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **rhe·tor′i·cal·ness** *n.*

rhetorical question A question put only for oratorical or literary effect, the answer being implied in the question.

rhet·o·ri·cian (ret′ə·rish′ən) *n.* **1.** A master of rhetoric. **2.** One who writes or speaks eloquently. [< F *rhétoricien*]

rheum (rōōm) *n.* *Pathol.* **1.** A thin, watery discharge from the nose and eyes. **2.** A cold. [< OF < L < Gk. *rheuma* stream < *rheein* to flow] — **rheum′y** *adj.*

rheu·mat·ic (rōō·mat′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to rheumatism. **2.** Affected with rheumatism. — *n.* One affected with rheumatism. [< OF < L < Gk. *rheuma* a stream]

rheumatic fever *Pathol.* An infectious disease chiefly affecting children, characterized by painful inflammation around the joints, typically intermittent fever, and inflammation of the pericardium and valves of the heart.

rheu·ma·tism (rōō′mə·tiz′əm) *n.* *Pathol.* **1.** A painful inflammation and stiffness of the muscles, joints, etc. **2.** Rheumatoid arthritis. [< L < Gk. *rheumatismos* < *rheuma* a stream]

rheu·ma·toid (rōō′mə·toid) *adj.* *Pathol.* **1.** Resembling rheumatism. **2.** Rheumatic. Also **rheu′ma·toi′dal** (-toid′əl). — **rheu′ma·toi′dal·ly** *adv.*

rheumatoid arthritis *Pathol.* A persisting inflammatory disease of the joints, marked by atrophy, rarefaction of the bones, and deformities.

Rh factor *Biochem.* An agglutinogen present in the blood of most persons (who are said to be **Rh positive**) and that may cause hemolytic reactions under certain conditions, as during pregnancy or following transfusions with persons lacking this factor (who are said to be **Rh negative**): also called *Rhesus factor.*

rhin- Var. of RHINO-.

rhi·nal (rī′nəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the nose; nasal.

rhine·stone (rīn′stōn′) *n.* A refractive, colorless glass or paste, used as an imitation gemstone. [Trans. of F *caillou du Rhin*; so called because orig. made at Strasbourg]

Rhine wine **1.** Wine made from grapes grown in the neighborhood of the Rhine: also called *Rhenish.* **2.** Any of various white, dry, still wines.

rhi·ni·tis (rī·nī′tis) *n.* *Pathol.* Inflammation of the mucous membranes of the nose.

rhi·no[1] (rī′nō) *n.* *pl.* **·nos** A rhinoceros.

rhi·no[2] (rī′nō) *n.* *Slang* Money; cash. [Origin unknown]

rhino- *combining form* Nose; nasal. Also, before vowels, *rhin-.* [< Gk. *rhis, rhinos* nose]

rhi·noc·e·ros (rī·nos′ər·əs) *n.* *pl.* **·ros·es** or **·ros** A large, herbivorous mammal of Africa and Asia, having one or two horns on the snout and a very thick hide. [< LL < Gk. < *rhis, rhinos* nose + *keras* horn]

rhizo- *combining form* Root; pertaining to a root or roots. Also, before vowels, **rhiz-.** [< Gk. *rhiza* root]

rhi·zoid (rī′zoid) *adj.* Rootlike. — *n.* *Bot.* A hairlike, branching organ by which mosses and liverworts obtain nourishment and support. — **rhi·zoi·dal** (rī·zoid′əl) *adj.*

rhi·zome (rī′zōm) *n.* *Bot.* A subterranean rootlike stem, producing roots from its lower surface and leaves or shoots from its upper surface: also called *rootstalk, rootstock.* Also **rhi·zo·ma** (rī·zō′mə). [< NL *rhizoma* < Gk. *rhizōma*, ult. < *rhiza* root] — **rhi·zom·a·tous** (rī·zom′ə·təs, -zō′mə-) *adj.*

rhi·zo·pod (rī′zə·pod) *n.* Any of a class or subclass of protozoans with rootlike pseudopodia. — **rhi·zop·o·dan** (rī·zop′ə·dən) *adj. & n.* — **rhi·zop′o·dous** *adj.*

rho (rō) *n.* The seventeenth letter in the Greek alphabet (P, ρ), corresponding to the English *r* aspirated. See ALPHABET. [< Gk. *rhō*]

Rhode Island Red An American breed of domestic fowls, reddish and black in color, with yellow smooth legs.

Rhodes scholarships One of a number of scholarships at Oxford University, provided for in the will of Cecil Rhodes, for selected scholars (**Rhodes scholars**) from the U.S. and the British dominions and colonies.

Rho·di·an (rō′dē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the island of Rhodes. — *n.* A native of Rhodes.

rho·di·um (rō′dē·əm) *n.* A whitish gray, metallic element (symbol Rh) of the platinum group, whose salts are for the most part rose-colored, used in electroplating to prevent corrosion. See ELEMENT. [< NL < Gk. *rhodon* rose]

rho·do·den·dron (rō′də·den′drən) *n.* Any of a genus of evergreen shrubs or small trees of the heath family, with clusters of white, pink, or purple flowers: the State flower of West Virginia. [< L < Gk. < *rhodon* rose + *dendron* tree]

-rhoea See -RRHEA.

rhomb (rom, romb) *n.* A rhombus. [< F *rhombe*]

rhom·ben·ceph·a·lon (rom′ben·sef′ə·lon) *n.* *Anat.* A segment of the embryonic brain that divides into the metencephalon and myelencephalon: also called *hindbrain.* [< NL]

rhom·bic (rom′bik) *adj.* Pertaining to or having the shape of a rhombus. Also **rhom′bi·cal.**

rhom·boid (rom′boid) *n.* *Geom.* **1.** A parallelogram having opposite sides and opposite angles equal but having no right angle. **2.** A solid bounded by such parallelograms. — *adj.* **1.** Having the character or shape of a rhomboid. **2.** Having a shape approaching that of a rhombus. [< F *rhomboïde*] — **rhom·boi·dal** (rom·boid′əl) *adj.*

rhom·bus (rom′bəs) *n.* *pl.* **·bus·es** or **·bi** (-bī) *Geom.* An equilateral parallelogram having the angles usu., but not necessarily, oblique. [< L < Gk. *rhombos* spinning top]

rhu·barb (rōō′bärb) *n.* **1.** A stout, coarse, perennial herb having large leaves and small clusters of flowers on tall stalks, esp. one whose acid leafstalks are used in cooking. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A heated argument or quarrel. [< MF < LL < Gk. *rha* rhubarb, ? < *Rha* the Volga River + L *barbarus* foreign]

rhumb (rum, rumb) *n.* *Naut.* **1.** One of the 32 points of the mariners' compass, separated by arcs of 11° 15′. **2.** One of these arcs or divisions. [< OF *rumb*]

rhum·ba (rum′bə) See RUMBA.

rhumb line A line or course along the surface of a sphere crossing successive meridians at the same angle.

rhyme (rīm) *n.* **1.** A correspondence of sounds in two or more words, esp. at the ends of lines of poetry. **2.** A verse whose lines have a correspondence of sounds in the end words. **3.** Poetry; verse. — *v.* **rhymed, rhym·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make rhymes or verses. **2.** To correspond in sound or in terminal sounds. — *v.t.* **3.** To put or write in rhyme or verse. **4.** To use as a rhyme. Also spelled *rime.* [< OF *rime* < L *rhythmus* rhythm] — **rhym′er** *n.*

rhyme·ster (rīm′stər) *n.* A writer of jingles: also spelled *rimester.*

rhythm (rith′əm) *n.* **1.** The recurrence or repetition of stress, beat, sound, accent, motion, etc., usu. occurring in a regular or harmonious pattern or manner. **2.** *Music* **a** The relative duration and accent of musical sounds. **b** Any specific arrangement of the accents or durations of musical sounds. **3.** In poetry, the cadenced flow of sound as determined by the succession of long and short syllables (**classical rhythm**), or accented and unaccented syllables (**modern rhythm**). **4.** In painting, sculpture, etc., a regular or harmonious recurrence of lines, forms, colors, etc. [< MF < L < Gk. *rhythmos* < *rheein* to flow]

rhyth·mi·cal (rith′mə·kəl) *adj.* Of or possessing rhythm. Also **rhyth·mic** (rith′mik). — **rhyth′mi·cal·ly** *adv.*

rhythm method Birth control by sexual abstinence during the woman's estimated monthly period of fertility.

ri·al (rī′əl) *n.* A standard monetary unit and coin of Iran: in 1961 worth about 13 U.S. cents. [< OF *rial, real* royal]

ri·al·to (rē·al′tō) *n.* *pl.* **·tos** A market or place of exchange. [< RIALTO]

Ri·al·to (rē·al′tō, *Ital.* rē·äl′tō) In New York City, the theater district. [after *Rialto*, the ancient business quarter of Venice]

rib (rib) *n.* **1.** *Anat.* One of the series of bony rods attached to the spine of most vertebrates, and nearly encircling the thoracic cavity. In man there are twelve ribs on each side, forming the walls of the thorax. For illus. see SKELETON. ◆ Collateral adjective: *costal.* **2.** Something likened to a rib: the *rib* of an umbrella. **3.** A curved side timber bending away from the keel in a boat or ship. **4.** A raised wale or

stripe in cloth or knit goods. **5.** *Bot.* A vein of a leaf, esp. a central one. **6.** A cut of meat including one or more ribs. — *v.t.* **ribbed, rib·bing** **1.** To make with ridges: to *rib* a piece of knitting. **2.** To strengthen or protect by or enclose within ribs. **3.** *Slang* To make fun of; tease. [OE]

rib·ald (rib′əld) *adj.* Pertaining to or indulging in coarse language or vulgar jokes. — *n.* One who uses coarse or abusive language. [< OF *ribauld* < Gmc.]

rib·ald·ry (rib′əl·drē) *n. pl.* **·ries** Ribald language.

rib·and (rib′ənd) *n. Archaic* A decorative ribbon.

rib·bing (rib′ing) *n.* An arrangement or collection of ribs, as in ribbed cloth, etc.

rib·bon (rib′ən) *n.* **1.** A narrow strip of fine fabric, usu. silk or satin, having finished edges and made in a variety of weaves, used as trimming. **2.** Something shaped like or suggesting a ribbon, as a watch spring. **3.** *Often pl.* A narrow strip; a shred: torn to *ribbons*. **4.** An ink-bearing strip of cloth for giving the impression in a typewriter or similar device. **5.** A colored strip of cloth worn to signify membership in an order, the award of a prize, or as a military badge. — *v.t.* To ornament with ribbons; also, to form or tear into ribbons. [< MF *riban* < Gmc.]

ri·bo·fla·vin (rī′bō·flā′vin) *n. Biochem.* A member of the vitamin B complex, vitamin B_2, an orange-yellow, crystalline compound, $C_{17}H_{22}N_4O_6$, found in milk, leafy vegetables, eggs, and meats: also *vitamin G*. [< RIBO(SE) + FLAVIN]

ri·bo·nu·cle·ase (rī′bō·nōō′klē·ās, -nyōō′-, -āz) *n. Biochem.* A pancreatic enzyme, effective in splitting ribonucleic acid.

ri·bo·nu·cle·ic acid (rī′bō·nōō·klē′ik, -nyōō-) *Biochem.* A nucleic acid of high molecular weight found in the cytoplasm and nuclei of cells and associated with DNA in the synthesis of cell proteins. Abbr. *RNA*

ri·bose (rī′bōs) *n. Chem.* A sugar, $C_5H_{10}O_5$, derived from pentose and occurring in certain nucleic acids. [< G *ribonsäure*, arbitrary alteration of ARABINOSE + *-säure* acid]

ri·bo·some (rī′bə·sōm) *n. Biol.* One of a class of minute protein particles found in the cytoplasm of plant and animal cells, associated with ribonucleic acid in the transmission of genetic characteristics. — **ri·bo·so·mal** (rī′bə·sō′məl) *adj.*

-ric *combining form* Realm: *bishopric*. [OE *rice*]

rice (rīs) *n.* **1.** The edible seeds of an annual cereal grass, rich in carbohydrates and forming a staple food throughout the world. **2.** The grass itself, cultivated in warm climates. [< OF < Ital. < L < Gk. *oryza*]

rice paper **1.** Paper made from rice straw. **2.** A delicate vegetable paper made from the pith of a Chinese shrub, pared into thin rolls and flattened into sheets.

ric·er (rī′sər) *n.* A kitchen utensil consisting of a container perforated with small holes through which potatoes and other vegetables are pressed.

rich (rich) *adj.* **1.** Having large possessions, as of money, goods, or lands; wealthy; opulent. **2.** Composed of rare or precious materials; valuable; costly: *rich* fabrics. **3.** Luscious to the taste, often implying an excess of fats, flavoring, etc. **4.** Full, satisfying, and pleasing, as a tone, voice, color, etc. **5.** Luxuriant; abundant: *rich* hair; *rich* crops. **6.** Yielding abundant returns; fruitful. **7.** Abundantly supplied: often with *in* or *with*. **8.** Abounding in desirable qualities; of full strength, as blood. **9.** *Informal* Exceedingly humorous; amusing or ridiculous: a *rich* joke. **10.** Of a fuel-air mixture, containing a relatively high ratio of fuel to air. [Fusion of OE *rīce* powerful, rich and OF *riche* < Gmc.] — **rich′ly** *adv.* — **rich′ness** *n.*

rich·es (rich′iz) *n.pl.* **1.** Abundant possessions; wealth. **2.** Abundance of whatever is precious.

Rich·ter scale (rik′tər) A scale for measuring the magnitude of earthquakes. [after C. F. *Richter*, born 1900, U.S. seismologist]

rick (rik) *n.* A stack, as of hay, having the top covered to protect the interior from rain. — *v.t.* To pile in ricks. [OE *hrēac*]

rick·ets (rik′its) *n. Pathol.* A disease of early childhood, chiefly due to a deficiency of calcium salts or vitamin D, characterized by softening of the bones and consequent deformity: also called *rachitis*. [? Alter. of Gk. *rachitis* inflammation of the spine]

rick·ett·si·a (rik·et′sē·ə) *n. pl.* **·si·ae** (-si·ē) Any of a genus of microorganisms typically parasitic in the bodies of certain ticks and lice, but transmissible to other animals and to man and the causative agent of typhus, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, etc. [after Howard T. *Ricketts*, 1871–1910, U.S. pathologist] — **rick·ett′si·al** *adj.*

rick·et·y (rik′it·ē) *adj.* **·et·i·er, ·et·i·est** **1.** Ready to fall; tottering. **2.** Affected with or like rickets. **3.** Irregular, as motion. **4.** Feeble; infirm; unsteady. — **rick′et·i·ly** *adv.* — **rick′et·i·ness** *n.*

rick·ey (rik′ē) *n. pl.* **·eys** A cooling drink of which a liquor, as gin, lime juice, and carbonated water are the chief ingredients. [Said to be after a Colonel *Rickey*]

rick·rack (rik′rak′) *n.* Flat braid in zigzag form, made of cotton, rayon, silk, or wool; also, the openwork trimming made with this braid. [Reduplication of RACK[1]]

rick·shaw (rik′shô) *n.* A jinriksha. Also **rick′sha.**

ric·o·chet (rik′ə·shā′, -shet′) *v.i.* **·cheted** (-shād′) or **·chet·ted** (-shet′id), **·chet·ing** (-shā′ing) or **·chet·ting** (-shet′ing) To glance from a surface, as a stone thrown over the water; make a series of skips or bounds. — *n.* **1.** A bounding, as of a projectile over or off a surface. **2.** A projectile so bounding. [< F; origin uncertain]

rid (rid) *v.t.* **rid** or **rid·ded, rid·ding** To free, as from a burden or annoyance: usu. with *of*. — *adj.* Free; clear; quit: with *of*: We are well *rid* of him. [< ON *rythja* to clear land]

rid·dance (rid′ns) *n.* A ridding of something undesirable, or the state of being rid. — **good riddance** A welcome deliverance from something undesirable.

rid·den (rid′n) Past participle of RIDE.

rid·dle[1] (rid′l) *v.t.* **·dled, ·dling** To perforate in numerous places, as with shot. **2.** To sift through a coarse sieve. **3.** To damage, injure; criticize, etc., as if by perforating. — *n.* A coarse sieve. [OE *hriddel* sieve] — **rid′dler** *n.*

rid·dle[2] (rid′l) *n.* **1.** A puzzling question stated as a problem to be solved by clever ingenuity; a conundrum. **2.** Any puzzling object or person. — **Syn.** See PUZZLE. — *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To solve; explain. — *v.i.* **2.** To utter or solve riddles. [OE *rǣdels* advice, interpretation]

ride (rīd) *v.* **rode** (*Archaic* **rid**), **rid·den** (*Archaic* **rid**), **rid·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To sit on and be borne along by a horse or other animal. **2.** To be borne along as if on horseback. **3.** To travel or be carried on or in a vehicle or other conveyance. **4.** To be supported in moving: The wheel *rides* on the shaft. **5.** To support and carry a rider in a specified manner: This car *rides* easily. **6.** To seem to float in space, as a star. **7.** *Naut.* To lie at anchor, as a ship. **8.** To work or move upward out of place: with *up*. **9.** *Slang* To continue unchanged: Let it *ride*. — *v.t.* **10.** To sit on and control the motion of (a horse, bicycle, etc.). **11.** To move or be borne or supported upon. **12.** To overlap or overlie. **13.** To travel or traverse (an area, etc.) on horseback, in an automobile, etc. **14.** To control imperiously or oppressively: usually in the past participle: a king-*ridden* people. **15.** To accomplish by riding: to *ride* a race. **16.** To cause to ride. **17.** *Naut.* To keep at anchor. **18.** *Informal* To tease or harass by ridicule or petty criticisms; tyrannize. — **to ride out** To survive; endure successfully. — *n.* **1.** An excursion by any means of conveyance, as on horseback, by car, etc. **2.** A road intended for riding. [OE *rīdan*] — **rid′a·ble** *adj.*

rid·er (rī′dər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rides. **2.** One who breaks in horses. **3.** Any device that rides upon or weighs down something else. **4.** A separate piece of writing or print added to a document, record, or the like. **5.** An addition or proposed addition to a legislative bill.

ridge (rij) *n.* **1.** An elevation long in proportion to its width and height and generally having sloping sides. **2.** A long, relatively narrow elevation of land. **3.** That part of a roof where the rafters meet the ridgepole. **4.** Any raised strip, as on fabric, etc. **5.** The back or backbone of an animal, especially of a whale. — *v.* **ridged, ridg·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To mark with ridges. **2.** To form into ridges. — *v.i.* **3.** To form ridges. [OE *hrycg*] — **ridg′y** *adj.*

ridge·pole (rij′pōl′) *n.* A horizontal timber at the ridge of a roof. Also **ridge beam, ridge piece, ridge plate.** For illus. see ROOF.

rid·i·cule (rid′ə·kyōōl) *n.* **1.** Language or actions calculated to make a person or thing the object of contemptuous or humorous derision or mockery. **2.** An object of mocking merriment; butt. — *v.t.* **·culed, ·cul·ing** To make fun of; deride. [< OF < L *ridiculum* a joke] — **rid·i·cul′er** *n.*

ri·dic·u·lous (ri·dik′yə·ləs) *adj.* Exciting ridicule; absurd and unworthy of consideration. — **ri·dic′u·lous·ly** *adv.* — **ri·dic′u·lous·ness** *n.*

rid·ing[1] (rī′ding) *n.* The act of one who rides; a ride. — *adj.* **1.** Suitable for riding. **2.** For use while at anchor.

rid·ing[2] (rī′ding) *n.* **1.** One of the three administrative divisions into which Yorkshire, England, was formerly divided. **2.** In Canada, an administrative or electoral district. [OE *thrithing* < ON *thrithjungr* third part]

rife (rīf) *adj.* **1.** Great in number or quantity; plentiful; abundant. **2.** Prevalent; current. **3.** Containing in abundance: followed by *with*. [OE *rȳfe*]

riff (rif) *n.* In jazz music, a melodic phrase or motif, played repeatedly as background or used as the main theme. [? Back formation < RIFFLE, or ? < REFRAIN]

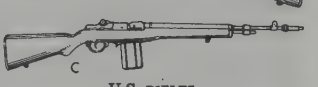
Riff (rif) *n.* One of a Berber tribe inhabiting the mountainous region of northern Morocco. — **Rif′fi·an** *adj. & n.*

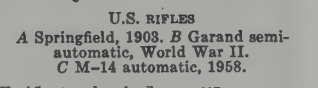
rif·fle (rif′əl) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A shoal or rocky obstruction lying beneath the surface of a river or other stream. **2.** A stretch

of shallow, choppy water caused by such a shoal. **3.** The act or a way of shuffling cards. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·fled, ·fling 1.** To cause or form a rapid. **2.** To shuffle (cards) by bending up adjacent corners of two halves of the pack, and permitting the cards to slip together as they are released. **3.** To thumb through (the pages of a book). [? Alter. of RUFFLE]

riff·raff (rif′raf′) *n.* **1.** The populace; rabble. **2.** Miscellaneous rubbish. [ME *riff and raff* one and all < OF *rif et raf*]

ri·fle[1] (rī′fəl) *n.* **1.** A firearm having a rifled or spirally grooved bore, fired from the shoulder. **2.** An artillery piece having a rifled bore. **3.** *pl.* A body of soldiers equipped with rifles. — *v.t.* **·fled, ·fling.** To cut a spirally grooved bore in (a firearm, etc.). [< *rifled gun* < OF *rifler* to file]





U.S. RIFLES
A Springfield, 1903. *B* Garand semi-automatic, World War II. *C* M–14 automatic, 1958.

ri·fle[2] (rī′fəl) *v.t.* **·fled ·fling 1.** To search through and rob, as a safe. **2.** To search and rob (a person). **3.** To seize and take away by force. [< OF *rifler* to plunder] — **ri′fler** *n.*

ri·fle·man (rī′fəl·mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) One armed or skilled with the rifle.

rifle range An area used for shooting rifles at a target.

ri·fling (rī′fling) *n.* **1.** The operation of forming the grooves in a rifle. **2.** The grooves of a rifle collectively.

rift[1] (rift) *n.* **1.** An opening made by riving or splitting; a cleft; fissure. **2.** Any disagreement or lack of harmony, as between friends, nations, etc. — *v.t. & v.i.* To rive; burst open; split. [< Scand. Cf. Dan. *rift*, ON *rifa.*]

rift[2] (rift) *n.* A shallow place in a stream.

rig[1] (rig) *v.t.* **rigged, rig·ging 1.** To fit out; equip. **2.** *Naut.* **a** To fit, as a ship, with rigging. **b** To fit (sails, stays, etc.) to masts, yards, etc. **3.** *Informal* To dress; clothe, esp. in finery. **4.** To make or construct hurriedly: often with *up.* — *n.* **1.** *Naut.* The arrangement of sails, rigging, spars, etc., on a vessel. **2.** *Informal* A style of dress; costume. **3.** *U.S. Informal* A horse or horses and vehicle. **4.** Any apparatus, gear, or tackle: an oil-well *rig.* **5.** Fishing tackle. [< Scand. Cf. Norwegian and Sw. *rigga.*]

rig[2] (rig) *v.t.* **rigged, rig·ging** To control fraudulently; manipulate: to *rig* an election. [Origin uncertain]

rig·a·doon (rig′ə·dōōn′) *n.* **1.** A gay, quick dance for two, originating in Provence. **2.** Music for this dance. [< F]

Ri·gel (rī′jəl, -gəl) One of the 20 brightest stars, 0.34 magnitude; Beta in the constellation Orion. [< Arabic *rijl* foot]

rig·ger (rig′ər) *n.* **1.** One who rigs. **2.** One who fits the rigging of ships. **3.** A ship having a specified rig: used in combination: a *square-rigger.*

rig·ging (rig′ing) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* The entire cordage system of a vessel. **2.** Tackle used in logging. **3.** The act of one who or that which rigs.

right (rīt) *adj.* **1.** Done in accordance with or conformable to moral law or to some standard of rightness; equitable; just; righteous. **2.** Conformable to truth or fact. **3.** Conformable to a standard of propriety or to the conditions of the case; proper; fit; suitable. **4.** Most desirable or preferable; also, fortunate. **5.** Pertaining to, designating, or situated on the side of the body that is toward the south when one faces east. **6.** Holding one direction, as a line; straight; direct. **7.** Properly placed, disposed, or adjusted; well-regulated; orderly. **8.** Sound in mind or body; healthy; well. **9.** *Geom.* Formed with reference to a line or plane perpendicular to another line or plane: a *right* angle. **10.** Designed to be worn outward or when in use placed toward an observer: the *right* side of cloth. **11.** *Sometimes cap.* Designating a person, party, faction, etc., having absolutely or relatively conservative or reactionary views and policies. — **to rights** In a proper or orderly condition: to put a room *to rights.* — *adv.* **1.** In accordance with justice or moral principle. **2.** According to the fact or truth; correctly. **3.** In a straight line; directly. **4.** Very: used dialectally or in some titles: a *right* good time, *Right* Reverend. **5.** Suitably; properly. **6.** Precisely; just; also, immediately. **7.** Without delay or evasion. **8.** Toward the right. **9.** Completely or quite: The house burned *right* to the ground. — *n.* **1.** That which is right; moral rightness; also, justice. **2.** *Often pl.* A just and proper claim or title to anything. **3.** The right hand, side, or direction. **4.** Anything adapted for right-hand use or position. **5.** *Often cap.* A group, party, etc., whose views and policies are right (adj. def. 11) or, in Europe, whose members sit to the presiding officer's right in a deliberative assembly. **6.** In boxing, a blow delivered with the right hand. — *v.t.* **1.** To restore to an upright or normal position. **2.** To put in order; set right. **3.** To make correct or in accord with facts. **4.** To make reparation for. **5.** To make reparation to (a person). — *v.i.* **6.** To regain an upright or normal position. [OE *riht*] — **right′er** *n.*

right·a·bout (rīt′ə·bout′) *n.* **1.** The opposite direction. **2.** A turning in or to the opposite direction.

right angle *Geom.* An angle whose sides are perpendicular to each other; an angle of 90°.

right-an·gled (rīt′ang′gəld) *adj.* Forming or containing a right angle or angles: a *right-angled* triangle.

right·eous (rī′chəs) *adj.* **1.** Conforming to a standard of right and justice; virtuous. **2.** Morally right; equitable: a *righteous* act. [OE < *riht* right + *wīs* wise] — **right′eous·ly** *adv.* — **right′eous·ness** *n.*

right face In military drill, a 90-degree pivot to the right, using the ball of the left foot and the heel of the right.

right·ful (rīt′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or conforming to a right or just claim: *rightful* heritage. **2.** Consonant with moral right or with justice and truth. **3.** Proper. **4.** Upright; just. [OE *rihtful*] — **right′ful·ly** *adv.* — **right′ful·ness** *n.*

right-hand (rīt′hand′) *adj.* **1.** Of, for, pertaining to, or situated on the right side or right hand. **2.** Chiefly depended on: *right-hand* man. **3.** Toward the right.

right-hand·ed (rīt′han′did) *adj.* **1.** Using the right hand more easily than the left. **2.** Done with the right hand. **3.** Moving from left to right, as the hands of a clock. **4.** Adapted for use by the right hand. — **right′-hand′ed·ness** *n.*

right·ist (rī′tist) *n.* One whose views and policies are right (adj. def. 11). — *adj.* Right (adj. def. 11). — **right′ism** *n.*

right·ly (rīt′lē) *adv.* **1.** Correctly. **2.** Honestly; uprightly. **3.** Properly; aptly.

right-mind·ed (rīt′mīn′did) *adj.* Having right feelings or opinions. — **right′mind′ed·ly** *adv.* — **right′mind′ed·ness** *n.*

right·ness (rīt′nis) *n.* **1.** The quality or condition of being right. **2.** Rectitude. **3.** Correctness. **4.** Straightness.

right·o (rī′tō) *interj. Brit. Informal* Right: All right!

right of asylum In international law, the right to protection from arrest in a place recognized by law or custom.

right of search In international law, the right of a belligerent vessel in time of war to verify the nationality of a vessel and to ascertain, if neutral, whether it carries contraband goods. Also **right of visit and search.**

right of way **1.** *Law* The right of a person to pass over the land of another; also, the path or piece of land. **2.** The strip of land over which a railroad lays its tracks, on which a public highway is built, or above which a high-tension power line is built. **3.** The legal or customary precedence which allows one vehicle or vessel to cross in front of another. Also **right-of-way** (rīt′əv·wā).

right triangle A triangle containing one right angle.

right whale Any of several whales of polar seas, having a large head and elastic whalebone plates in its mouth.

right wing **1.** *Sometimes cap.* A party, group, faction, etc., having rightist policies. **2.** The wing, division, part, etc., on the right side. — **right-wing** (rīt′wing′) *adj.* — **right′-wing′er** *n.*

rig·id (rij′id) *adj.* **1.** Resisting change of form; stiff. **2.** Rigorous; inflexible; severe. **3.** Not moving; fixed. **4.** Strict; exact, as reasoning. **5.** *Aeron.* Designating a dirigible whose cells are enclosed within a rigid framework. [< L *rigere* to be stiff] — **rig·id·ly** *adv.* — **ri·gid′i·ty, rig′id·ness** *n.*

Rig·il Cen·tau·rus (rij′il ken·tôr′əs) *n.* One of the 20 brightest stars, 0.6 magnitude; Beta in the constellation Centaurus.

rig·ma·role (rig′mə·rōl) *n.* Incoherent talk or writing; nonsense. Also **rig′a·ma·role′** (-ə·mə-). [Alter. of *ragman roll* deed on parchment]

rig·or (rig′ər) *n.* **1.** The condition of being stiff or rigid. **2.** Stiffness of opinion or temper; harshness. **3.** Exactness without allowance or indulgence; inflexibility; strictness; severity. **4.** Inclemency, as of the weather; hardship. Also *Brit.* **rig′our.** [< OF < L < *rigere* to be stiff] — **rig′or·ist** *n.* — **rig′or·is′tic** *adj.*

rig·or mor·tis (rig′ər·môr′tis, ri′gər) The muscular rigidity that ensues shortly after death. [< L, stiffness of death]

rig·or·ous (rig′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Marked by or acting with rigor; uncompromising; severe. **2.** Logically accurate; exact; strict. **3.** Inclement; severe: a *rigorous* climate. — **rig′or·ous·ly** *adv.* — **rig′or·ous·ness** *n.*

rile (rīl) *v.t.* **riled, ril·ing** *Informal* or *Dial* **1.** To vex; irritate. **2.** To make (a liquid) muddy. Also *roil.* [Var. of ROIL]

rill (ril) *n.* **1.** A small stream. **2.** A long, narrow valley on the face of the moon: also **rille.** [Prob. < LG *rille*]

rim (rim) *n.* **1.** The edge of an object, usu. of a circular object. **2.** The peripheral part of a wheel, connected to the hub by spokes. **3.** The frame of a pair of spectacles, surrounding the lenses. — *v.t.* **rimmed, rim·ming 1.** To provide with a rim; border. **2.** In sports, to roll around the edge of (the basket, cup, etc.) without falling in. [OE *rima*]

rime[1] (rīm) See RHYME.

rime[2] (rīm) *n.* **1.** A milky white, granular deposit of ice formed on objects by fog or water vapor that has frozen. **2.** Frost. — *v.i. & v.t.* **rimed, rim·ing** To cover with or congeal into rime. [OE *hrīm* frost] — **rim′y** *adj.*

rim·er (rī′mər) See RHYMER.

rime·ster (rīm′stər) See RHYMESTER.

rim·mer (rim′ər) *n.* A reamer (def. 2).

rind (rīnd) *n.* The skin or outer coat that may be peeled or taken off, as of bacon, fruit, cheese, etc. [OE *rind* bark]

rin·der·pest (rin′dər·pest) *n. Vet.* An acute intestinal virus disease of cattle and sometimes of sheep. [< G]

ring[1] (ring) *n.* **1.** Any circular object, line, mark, etc. **2.** A circular band, usu. of precious metal, worn on a finger. **3.** Any metal or wooden band used for holding or carrying something. **4.** A group of persons or things in a circle; also, a circular movement. **5.** A group of persons, as in business or politics; a clique. **6.** One of a series of concentric layers of wood in the trunk of a tree, formed by annual growth. **7.** An area or arena, usu. square, as that in which boxers fight; prize fighting in general. **8.** Political competition or rivalry: He tossed his hat into the *ring*. **9.** *Chem.* An arrangement of atoms in a closed chain: the benzene *ring*. **10.** The space between two concentric circles. — **to run rings around** *Informal* To be superior to in some way. — *v.* **ringed, ring·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To surround with a ring; encircle. **2.** To form into a ring or rings. **3.** To provide or decorate with a ring or rings. **4.** To cut a ring of bark from (a branch or tree). **5.** To hem in (cattle, etc.) by riding in a circle around them. **6.** In certain games, to cast a ring over (a peg or pin). — *v.i.* **7.** To form a ring or rings. **8.** To move or fly in rings or spirals; circle. [OE *hring*]

ring[2] (ring) *v.* **rang** (*Archaic* or *Dial.* **rung**), **rung, ring·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To give forth a resonant, sonorous sound, as a bell when struck. **2.** To sound loudly or be filled with sound or resonance; reverberate; resound. **3.** To cause a bell or bells to sound. **4.** To have or suggest a sound expressive of a specified quality: His story *rings* true. **5.** To have a continued sensation of ringing or buzzing: My ears *ring*. — *v.t.* **6.** To cause (a bell, etc.) to ring. **7.** To produce, as a sound, by or as by ringing. **8.** To announce or proclaim by ringing: to *ring* the hour. **9.** To summon, escort, usher, etc., in this manner: with *in* or *out*: to *ring* out the old year. **10.** To call on the telephone: often with *up*. — *n.* **1.** The sound produced by a bell or other vibrating, sonorous body. **2.** The act of sounding a bell. **3.** A telephone call. **4.** Any reverberating sound, as of acclamation. **5.** Characteristic sound or impression: the *ring* of truth. **6.** A set, chime, or peal of bells. [OE *hringan*; imit.]

ring·bolt (ring′bōlt′) *n.* A bolt having a ring through an eye in its head.

ring·dove (ring′duv′) *n.* One of several other pigeons having a black ring partially surrounding the neck.

ringed (ringd) *adj.* **1.** Having a wedding ring; lawfully married. **2.** Encircled by raised or depressed lines or bands. **3.** Marked by a ring or rings. **4.** Composed of rings.

rin·gent (rin′jənt) *adj. Biol.* Gaping, as a corolla in which the lips are widely separated. [< L < *ringi* to gape]

ring·er[1] (ring′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rings (a bell or chime). **2.** *Slang* An athlete, horse, etc., illegally entered in a contest by concealing disqualifying facts, as age, professional status, etc. **3.** *Slang* A person who bears a marked resemblance to another: You are a *ringer* for Jones.

ring·er[2] (ring′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rings. **2.** A quoit or horseshoe that falls around one of the posts.

ring·lead·er (ring′lē′dər) *n.* A leader or organizer of any undertaking, esp. of an unlawful one, as a riot.

ring·let (ring′lit) *n.* **1.** A long, spiral lock of hair; a curl. **2.** A small ring.

ring·mas·ter (ring′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* One who has charge of a circus ring and of the performances in it.

ring·side (ring′sīd′) *n.* The space or seats immediately surrounding a ring, as at a prize fight.

ring·worm (ring′wûrm′) *n. Pathol.* Any of several contagious skin diseases, caused by certain fungi, and marked by the appearance of discolored, scaly patches on the skin.

rink (ringk) *n.* **1.** A smooth, artificial surface of ice, used for ice-skating or hockey. **2.** A smooth floor, used for roller-skating. **3.** A building containing a surface for ice-skating or roller-skating. [< Scot., course, race]

rinse (rins) *v.t.* **rinsed, rins·ing** **1.** To remove soap from by putting through clear water. **2.** To wash lightly, as by dipping in water or by running water over or into. **3.** To remove (dirt, etc.) by this process. — *n.* **1.** The act of rinsing, or the solution in which something is rinsed. **2.** A hair coloring agent. [< OF < L *recens* fresh] — **rins′er** *n.*

rins·ing (rin′sing) *n.* **1.** A rinse. **2.** The liquid in which anything is rinsed. **3.** That which is removed by rinsing.

ri·ot (rī′ət) *n.* **1.** A disturbance consisting of wild and turbulent conduct of a large number of persons, as a mob. **2.** A brilliant or sometimes confusing display: a *riot* of color. **3.** Boisterous festivity; revelry. **4.** Loose or profligate living or activity. **5.** *U.S. Slang* An uproariously amusing person, thing, or performance. — **to run riot** **1.** To act or move wildly and without restraint. **2.** To grow profusely or luxuriantly, as vines. — *v.i.* **1.** To take part in a riot or public disorder. **2.** To live a life of feasting, drinking, etc.; revel. — *v.t.* **3.** To spend (time, money, etc.) in riot or revelry. [< OF < *rioter* to quarrel] — **ri′ot·er** *n.*

riot act Any forceful or vigorous warning or reprimand. — **to read the riot act to** To reprimand bluntly and severely.

ri·ot·ous (rī′ət·əs) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like a riot. **2.** Engaged in a riot. **3.** Loud; uproarious. **4.** Profligate: *riotous* spending. — **ri′ot·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ri′ot·ous·ness** *n.*

riot squad A group of policemen specially trained, armed, and equipped to deal with riots.

rip[1] (rip) *v.* **ripped, rip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To tear or cut apart roughly or violently; slash. **2.** To tear or cut from something else in a rough or violent manner: with *off*, *away*, *out*, etc. **3.** To saw or split (wood) in the direction of the grain. — *v.i.* **4.** To be torn or cut apart; split. **5.** *Informal* To utter with vehemence: with *out*. **6.** *Informal* To rush headlong. — *n.* **1.** A place torn or ripped open; a tear. **2.** A ripsaw. [Cf. MLG *reppen*, MDu. *rippen*] — **rip′per** *n.*

rip[2] (rip) *n.* **1.** A ripple; a rapid in a river. **2.** A riptide. [? < RIP[1]]

ri·par·i·an (ri·pâr′ē·ən, rī-) *adj.* Of or growing on a bank of a river or stream. [< L < *ripa* river bank]

rip·cord (rip′kôrd′) *n. Aeron.* The cord, together with the handle and fastening pins, that when pulled releases a parachute from its pack.

ripe (rīp) *adj.* **1.** Grown to maturity and fit for food, as fruit or grain. **2.** Brought by keeping and care to a condition for use, as wine or cheese. **3.** Fully developed; matured. **4.** Advanced in years. **5.** In full readiness to do or try; prepared; ready. **6.** Fit; opportune. **7.** Resembling ripe fruit; rosy; luscious. [OE *rīpe*] — **ripe′ly** *adv.* — **ripe′ness** *n.*

rip·en (rī′pən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become ripe; mature.

ri·poste (ri·pōst′) *n.* **1.** A return thrust, as in fencing. **2.** A quick, clever reply; repartee. — *v.i.* **·post·ed, ·post·ing** **1.** To make a riposte. **2.** To reply quickly. Also **ri·post′**. [< F < Ital. *risposta* reply]

rip·ping (rip′ing) *Brit. Slang adj.* Splendid; excellent. — *adv.* Very; extraordinarily: a *ripping* good time.

rip·ple (rip′əl) *v.* **·pled, ·pling** *v.i.* **1.** To become slightly agitated on the surface, as water blown on by a light breeze. **2.** To flow with small waves or undulations on the surface. **3.** To make a sound like water flowing in small waves. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to form ripples. — *n.* **1.** One of the wavelets on the surface of water. **2.** Any sound like that made by rippling. **3.** Any appearance like a wavelet [? Fusion of RIFFLE + RIP[2]] — **rip′pler** *n.* — **rip′ply** *adj.*

rip·plet (rip′lit) *n.* A small ripple.

rip-roar·ing (rip′rôr′ing, -rōr′-) *adj. U.S. Slang* Good and lively; boisterous.

rip-roar·i·ous (rip·rôr′ē·əs, -rōr′-) *adj. U.S. Slang* Uproarious; boisterous; violent. — **rip-roar′i·ous·ly** *adv.*

rip·saw (rip′sô′) *n.* A coarse-toothed saw used for cutting wood in the direction of the grain: also called *rip*.

rip·snort·er (rip′snôr′tər) *n. Archaic Slang* Any person or thing excessively noisy, violent, or striking.

rip·tide (rip′tīd′) *n.* Water agitated and made dangerous for swimmers by conflicting tides or currents: also called *rip*, *tiderip*.

rise (rīz) *v.* **rose, ris·en, ris·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move upward; go from a lower to a higher position. **2.** To slope gradually upward. **3.** To have height or elevation: The city *rises* above the plain. **4.** To gain elevation in rank, status, fortune, or reputation. **5.** To swell up: Dough *rises*. **6.** To become greater in force, intensity, height, etc.; also, to become higher in pitch, as the voice. **7.** To become greater in amount, value, etc. **8.** To become erect after lying down, sitting, etc.; stand up. **9.** To get out of bed. **10.** To return to life. **11.** To revolt; rebel. **12.** To adjourn. **13.** To appear above the horizon: said of heavenly bodies. **14.** To come to the surface, as a fish after a lure. **15.** To have origin; begin. **16.** To become perceptible to the mind or senses. **17.** To occur; happen. **18.** To be able to cope with an emergency, danger, etc. — *v.t.* **19.** To cause to rise. — **to rise above** To prove superior to; show oneself indifferent to. — *n.* **1.** The act of rising; ascent. **2.** Degree of ascent; elevation; also, an ascending course. **3.** The act of beginning to be: the *rise* of a stream. **4.** An elevated place; a small hill. **5.** The act of appearing above the horizon. **6.** Increase or advance, as in price or value. **7.** Advance or elevation, as in rank, prosperity, or importance. **8.** The spring or height of an arch above the impost level. **9.** The height of a stair step.

10. Ascent in a musical scale; also, increase in volume of tone. **11.** The ascent of a fish to food or bait; also, the flying up of a game bird. **12.** *Informal* An emotional reaction; a response or retort. **13.** *Brit.* An increase in salary. [OE *rīsan*]

ris·en (riz′ən) Past participle of RISE.

ris·er (rī′zər) *n.* **1.** One who rises or gets up, as from bed: He is an early *riser*. **2.** The vertical part of a step or stair.

ris·i·bil·i·ty (riz′ə·bil′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A tendency to laughter. **2.** *pl.* Impulses to laughter: also **ris′i·bles** (-bəlz).

ris·i·ble (riz′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Having the power of laughing. **2.** Of a nature to excite laughter. **3.** Pertaining to laughter. [< F < LL < L *ridere* to laugh] — **ris′i·bly** *adv.*

ris·ing (rī′zing) *adj.* **1.** Increasing in wealth, power, or distinction. **2.** Ascending; also, sloping upward: a *rising* hill. **3.** Advancing to adult years or to a state of vigor and activity; growing: the *rising* generation. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which rises. **2.** That which rises above the surrounding surface. **3.** An insurrection or revolt. **4.** Yeast or leaven used to make dough rise.

risk (risk) *n.* **1.** A chance of encountering harm or loss; hazard; danger. **2.** In insurance: **a** The hazard or chance of loss. **b** The degree of exposure to loss. **c** An insurance applicant who is considered a hazard to the insurer. — *v.t.* **1.** To expose to a chance of injury or loss. **2.** To incur the risk of. [< F < Ital. *risco*] — **risk′er** *n.*

risk·y (ris′kē) *adj.* **risk·i·er, risk·i·est** Attended with risk; hazardous; dangerous.

ri·sot·to (rē·sôt′tō) *n.* Rice cooked in broth and served with meat, cheese, etc. [< Ital. < *riso* rice]

ris·qué (ris·kā′, *Fr.* rēs·kā′) *adj.* Bordering on or suggestive of impropriety; bold; daring; off-color: a *risqué* story or play. [< F, pp. of *risquer* to risk]
— **Syn.** racy, ribald, suggestive.

ris·sole (ris′ōl, *Fr.* rē·sôl′) *n.* In cookery, a sausagelike roll consisting of minced meat or fish, enclosed in a thin puff paste and fried. [< F, ult. < LL *russeolus* reddish]

ri·tar·dan·do (rē′tär·dän′dō) *Music adj.* Slackening in tempo gradually; retarding. — *n. pl.* **·dos** A gradual slackening of tempo. [< Ital.]

rite (rīt) *n.* **1.** A solemn or religious ceremony performed in an established or prescribed manner, or the words or acts constituting or accompanying it. **2.** Any formal practice or custom. [< L *ritus*]

rit·u·al (rich′ōō·əl) *n.* **1.** A prescribed form or method for the performance of a religious or solemn ceremony; any body of rites or ceremonies. **2.** A book setting forth such a system of rites. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or practiced as a rite or rites. [< L < *ritus* rite] — **rit′u·al·ly** *adv.*

rit·u·al·ism (rich′ōō·əl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** Insistence upon ritual; adherence to ritual. **2.** The study of religious ritual. **3.** A love of ritual. — **rit′u·al·ist** *n.* — **rit′u·al·is′tic** *adj.* — **rit′u·al·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

ritz·y (rit′sē) *adj.* **ritz·i·er, ritz·i·est** *U.S. Slang* Smart; elegant; classy. [< the *Ritz*-Carlton Hotel, New York; after César *Ritz*, 1850–1918, who founded it]

ri·val (rī′vəl) *n.* **1.** One who strives to equal or excel another, or is in pursuit of the same object as another; a competitor. **2.** One equaling or nearly equaling another, in any respect. — *v.* **ri·valed** or **·valled, ri·val·ing** or **·val·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To strive to equal or excel; compete with. **2.** To be the equal of or a match for. — *adj.* Being a rival; competing. [< L *rivalis*, pl. *rivales* those living near the same stream]

ri·val·ry (rī′vəl·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The act of rivaling. **2.** The state of being a rival or rivals; competition.

rive (rīv) *v.* **rived, rived** or **riv·en, riv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To split asunder by force; cleave. **2.** To break (the heart, etc.). — *v.i.* **3.** To become split. [< ON *rifa*] — **riv·er** (rī′vər) *n.*

riv·er (riv′ər) *n.* **1.** A large, natural stream of water, usu. fed by converging tributaries along its course and discharging into a larger body of water, as the ocean, a lake, or another stream. ◆ Collateral adjective: *fluvial*. **2.** A large stream of any kind; copious flow — **to sell down the river** To betray the trust of; deceive. — **to send up the river** To send to the penitentiary. [< OF *rivière*]

river basin *Geog.* An extensive area of land drained by a river and its branches.

riv·er·ine (riv′ə·rīn, -ər·in) *adj.* Pertaining to or like a river; riparian.

riv·er·side (riv′ər·sīd′) *n.* The space alongside of or adjacent to a river.

riv·et (riv′it) *n.* A short, soft metal bolt, having a head on one end, used to join objects, as metal plates, by passing the shank through holes and forming a new head by flattening out the other end. — *v.t.* **1.** To fasten with or as with a rivet. **2.** To batter the headless end of (a bolt, etc.) so as to make fast. **3.** To fasten firmly. **4.** To engross or attract (the eyes, attention, etc.). [< OF, prob. < MDu. *wriven* to cause to turn] — **riv′et·er** *n.*

riv·u·let (riv′yə·lit) *n.* A small stream or brook; streamlet. [< Ital. < L *rivulus*, dim. of *rivus* stream]

roach[1] (rōch) *n.* **1.** A European fresh-water fish of the carp family, with a greenish back. **2.** Any of various related fishes. [< OF *roche*.]

roach[2] (rōch) *n.* A cockroach.

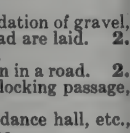
road (rōd) *n.* **1.** An open way for public passage, esp. from one city, town, or village to another; a highway. **2.** Any way of advancing or progressing; the *road* to fame. **3.** *Usu. pl.* A roadstead: Hampton *Roads*. **4.** *U.S.* A railroad. — **on the road** **1.** On tour: said of circuses, theatrical companies, etc. **2.** Traveling, as a canvasser or salesman. **3.** Living the life of a tramp or hobo. [OE *rād* journey < *rīdan* to ride]

road·bed (rōd′bed′) *n.* **1.** The graded foundation of gravel, etc., on which the ties, rails, etc., of a railroad are laid. **2.** The graded foundation or surface of a road.

road·block (rōd′blok′) *n.* **1.** An obstruction in a road. **2.** Any arrangement of men and materials for blocking passage, as of enemy troops.

road·house (rōd′hous′) *n.* A restaurant, dance hall, etc., located at the side of the road in a rural area.

road metal Broken stone or the like, used for making or repairing roads.


ROAD RUNNER (Body to 24 inches; tail 12 inches)

road runner A long-tailed ground cuckoo inhabiting open regions of southwestern North America, and running with great swiftness.

road·side (rōd′sīd′) *n.* The area along the side of a road. — *adj.* Situated on the side of a road.

road·stead (rōd′sted) *n. Naut.* A place of anchorage offshore, but less sheltered than a harbor. [< ROAD + *stead*, a place]

road·ster (rōd′stər) *n.* A light, open automobile, usu. with a single seat for two people and a luggage compartment or rumble seat in the rear.

road·way (rōd′wā′) *n.* A road, esp. that part over which vehicles pass.

roam (rōm) *v.i.* **1.** To move about purposelessly from place to place; rove. — *v.t.* **2.** To wander over; range. — *n.* The act of roaming. [ME *romen*] — **roam′er** *n.*

roan (rōn) *adj.* Of a horse, having a color consisting of bay, sorrel, or chestnut, thickly interspersed with gray or white. — *n.* **1.** A roan color. **2.** An animal of a roan color. [< MF < Sp. *roano*.]

roar (rôr, rōr) *v.i.* **1.** To utter a deep, prolonged cry, as of rage or distress. **2.** To make a loud noise or din, as the sea or a cannon. **3.** To laugh loudly. **4.** To move, proceed, or function with a roar, as an automobile. — *v.t.* **5.** To utter or express by roaring. — *n.* **1.** A full, deep, resonant cry, as of a beast, or of a human being in pain, grief, anger, etc. **2.** Any loud, prolonged sound, as of wind or waves. [OE *rārian*] — **roar′er** *n.*

roast (rōst) *v.t.* **1.** To cook (meat, etc.) by subjecting to the action of heat, as in an oven. **2.** To cook before an open fire or by placing in hot ashes, embers, etc. **3.** To heat to an extreme degree. **4.** To dry and parch under the action of heat. **5.** *Metall.* To heat (ores) with access of air for the purpose of dehydration, purification, or oxidation. **6.** *Informal* To criticize or ridicule severely. — *v.i.* **7.** To roast food in an oven, etc. **8.** To be cooked or prepared by this method. **9.** To be uncomfortably hot. — *n.* **1.** Something roasted; esp. a piece of roasted meat. **2.** A piece of meat adapted or prepared for roasting. **3.** The act of roasting. — *adj.* Roasted. [< OF *rostir* < Gmc.]

roast·er (rōs′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which roasts. **2.** A pan or contrivance for roasting something. **3.** Something suitable for roasting, esp. a pig.

rob (rob) *v.* **robbed, rob·bing** *v.t.* **1.** To seize and carry off the property of by unlawful violence or threat of violence. **2.** To deprive of something belonging or due. **3.** To plunder; rifle, as a house. **4.** To steal. — *v.i.* **5.** To commit robbery. [< OF *robe* booty] — **rob′ber** (-ər) *n.*

robber baron *U.S.* One of the powerful and unscrupulous financial adventurers of the late 19th century.

rob·ber·y (rob′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ber·ies** The act of one who robs; the taking away of the property of another unlawfully, by force or fear. — **Syn.** See THEFT.

robe (rōb) *n.* **1.** A long, loose, flowing garment, worn over other dress; a gown. **2.** A bathrobe. **3.** *pl.* Such a garment worn as a badge of office or rank. **4.** Anything that covers in the manner of a robe. **5.** *U.S.* A blanket or covering, as for use in an automobile: lap *robe*. — *v.* **robed, rob·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To put a robe upon; dress. — *v.i.* **2.** To put on robes. [< OF, orig. booty < Gmc.]

rob·in (rob′in) *n.* **1.** A large North American thrush with black head and tail, grayish wings and sides, and reddish brown breast and underparts. **2.** A small European bird of the thrush family, with the cheeks, and breast yellowish red. Also **robin redbreast.** [< OF *Robin*, dim. of *Robert*]

Robin Hood A legendary medieval outlaw of England, famed for his chivalry and daring, who lived in Sherwood Forest and robbed from the rich to help the poor.

rob·in's-egg blue (rob′inz·eg′) A light greenish blue.
Rob·in·son Cru·soe (rob′in·sən krōō′sō) The hero of Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), a sailor shipwrecked on a tropical island.
ro·bot (rō′bət, rob′ət) *n.* **1.** A mechanical man constructed to perform work in the place of human beings. **2.** One who works mechanically; automaton. **3.** Any mechanism or device that operates automatically or is remotely controlled. [< Czechoslovakian *robota* forced labor]
robot bomb A high-explosive bomb provided with a jet engine or rocket permitting it to travel under its own power after being launched on the target, as the German V-1 of World War II: also called *buzz bomb*.
ro·bust (rō·bust′, rō′bust) *adj.* **1.** Possessing or characterized by great strength or endurance; rugged. **2.** Requiring strength. **3.** Violent; rude. [< L < *robur* oak, hence strength] — **ro·bust′ly** *adv.* — **ro·bust′ness** *n.*
roc (rok) *n.* In Arabian and Persian legend, an enormous and powerful bird of prey. [< Arabic < Persian *rukh*]
Ro·chelle salt (rō·shel′) A white crystalline tartrate of potassium and sodium, $KNaC_4H_4O_6 \cdot 4H_2O$, used as a cathartic. [after La *Rochelle*]
rock[1] (rok) *n.* **1.** A large mass of stone or stony material. **2.** A fragment of rock small enough to be thrown; stone. **3.** *Geol.* The material forming the essential part of the earth's crust, classified principally according to mode of formation, as igneous or sedimentary. **4.** Something resembling or suggesting a rock, as a firm support, source of strength, etc. **5.** *U.S. Slang* A gemstone, esp. a large diamond. — **on the rocks** *U.S. Informal* **1.** Ruined; also, destitute or bankrupt. **2.** Served with ice cubes but without soda or water: said of whisky or other liquors. — *adj.* Made or composed of rock. [< OF *roque, roche*]
rock[2] (rok) *v.i.* **1.** To move backward and forward or from side to side; sway **2.** To sway, reel, or stagger, as from a blow; shake. — *v.t.* **3.** To move backward and forward or from side to side, esp. so as to soothe or put to sleep. **4.** To cause to sway or reel. — *n.* The act of rocking; a rocking motion. [OE *roccian*]
rock·a·by (rok′ə·bī) *interj.* Go to sleep: from a nursery song intended to lull a child to slumber. — *n.* A lullaby. Also **rock′a·bye, rock′-a-bye.**
rock-and-roll (rok′ən·rōl′) *adj.* Denoting a form of popular music derived from hillbilly styles, characterized by repetitious melody and rhythm and exaggerated vocal mannerisms. — *n.* Rock-and-roll music. Also **rock 'n' roll.**
rock bottom The very bottom; the lowest possible level: Prices hit *rock bottom.* — **rock-bot·tom** (rok′bot′əm) *adj.*
rock-bound (rok′bound′) *adj.* Encircled by or bordered with rocks.
rock candy Large crystals of sugar.
rock crystal Colorless transparent quartz.
rock dove The wild pigeon of Europe, the parent of domestic varieties.
rock·er (rok′ər) *n.* **1.** One who rocks, as a cradle or rocking chair. **2.** One of the curved pieces on which a rocking chair or a cradle rocks. **3.** A rocking chair. **4.** A rocking horse. — **off one's rocker** *Slang* Mentally unbalanced; nuts.
rock·et (rok′it) *n.* **1.** A firework, projectile, missile, or other device, usu. cylindrical in form, that is propelled by the reaction of escaping gases produced during flight. **2.** A type of vehicle operated by rocket propulsion and designed for space travel. — *v.i.* **1.** To move like a rocket. **2.** To fly straight up into the air, as a bird. — *v.t.* **3.** To propel by means of a rocket. [< Ital. *rocchetta*, dim. of *rocca* distaff < Gmc.]
rocket bomb A bomb delivered to its target by means of a rocket.
rock·et·eer (rok′ə·tir′) *n.* One who designs or launches rockets; a student of rocket flight.
rocket engine A reaction engine fueled by a liquid or solid propellant containing its own oxidizing agent.
rocket gun Any gunlike device used for the discharge of rocket projectiles, as a bazooka.
rock·et·ry (rok′it·rē) *n.* The science, art, and technology of rocket flight, design, construction, etc.
rock·et·sonde (rok′it·sond′) *n.* *Meteorol.* A radiosonde adapted for use on high-altitude rockets.
rock·fish (rok′fish′) *n.* *pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** Any of several spiny finned fishes of the Pacific coast of North America.
rock garden A garden with flowers and plants growing in rocky ground or among rocks.
rocking chair A chair having the legs set on rockers.
rocking horse A toy horse mounted on rockers, large enough to be ridden by a child: also called *hobbyhorse.*
rock lobster The spiny lobster.
rock maple The sugar maple.
rock oil Petroleum.
rock·oon (rok·ōōn′) *n.* A small rocket equipped with various meteorological recording devices and attached to a balloon, from which it is released at predetermined altitudes. [< ROCK(ET) + (BALL)OON]
rock-ribbed (rok′ribd′) *adj.* **1.** Having rocky ridges. **2.** Unyielding; inflexible.
rock salt Halite.
rock·shaft (rok′shaft′, -shäft′) A shaft made to rock on its bearings; esp., such a shaft for operating a slide valve in an engine.
rock wool Mineral wool.
rock·y[1] (rok′ē) *adj.* **rock·i·er, rock·i·est** **1.** Consisting of, abounding in, or resembling rocks. **2.** Tough; unfeeling; hard. — **rock′i·ness** *n.*
rock·y[2] (rok′ē) *adj.* **rock·i·er, rock·i·est** **1.** Inclined to rock or shake; unsteady. **2.** *Informal* Dizzy or weak, as from dissipation. — **rock′i·ness** *n.*
Rocky Mountain goat A goatlike, shaggy white ruminant with short black horns, found in the mountains of NW North America: also called *mountain goat.*
Rocky Mountain sheep The bighorn.
Rocky Mountain spotted fever *Pathol.* An acute infectious disease caused by a microorganism transmitted by the bite of certain ticks, and marked by skin eruptions.
ro·co·co (rə·kō′kō, rō′kə·kō′) *n.* **1.** A style of art that developed in France in the 18th century and spread throughout Europe; esp., architecture and ornament characterized by curvilinear designs, often imitating shells, foliage, and scrolls in asymmetrical arrangements. **2.** *Music* The elegant, formal style of European music from about 1726 to 1775, immediately following the baroque. **3.** Florid, fantastic, or odd style, as in literature. — *adj.* **1.** In the rococo style. **2.** Overelaborate; florid. [< F, alter. of *rocaille* shellwork]
rod (rod) *n.* **1.** A straight, slim piece of wood, metal, or other material. **2.** A shoot or cane of any woody plant. **3.** A switch or several switches together, used as an instrument of punishment. **4.** Discipline; correction: with *the.* **5.** A scepter or badge of office; a wand. **6.** Dominion; power. **7.** A bar, typically of metal, forming part of a machine: a connecting *rod.* **8.** A light pole used to suspend and manipulate a fishing line. **9.** A measure of length, equal to 5.5 yards; also, a square rod: sometimes called *perch, pole.* See table front of book. **10.** A measuring rule. **11.** One of the rodlike bodies of the retina sensitive to faint light. **12.** A rod-shaped bacterium. **13.** In Biblical usage, a line of family descent. **14.** A lightning rod. **15.** The drawbar of a freight train. **16.** *U.S. Slang* A pistol. [OE *rodd*]
rode (rōd) Past tense of RIDE.
ro·dent (rōd′nt) *n.* Any of a large cosmopolitan order of gnawing mammals, having in each jaw two (rarely four) incisors growing continually from persistent pulps, and no canine teeth, as a squirrel, beaver, or rat. — *adj.* **1.** Gnawing; corroding. **2.** Of or pertaining to a rodent or rodents. [< L *rodens, -entis*, ppr. of *rodere* to gnaw]
rodent ulcer *Pathol.* A malignant ulcer that progressively destroys soft tissues and bones, especially of the face.
ro·de·o (rō′dē·ō, rō·dā′ō) *n.* *pl.* **·os** **1.** The driving of cattle together to be branded, counted, inspected, etc.; a roundup. **2.** A public spectacle in which the more exciting features of a roundup are presented, as the riding of broncos, branding, lariat throwing, etc. **3.** An enclosure for cattle. [< Sp. *rodear* to go around < L *rota* wheel]
roe[1] (rō) *n.* **1.** The spawn or eggs of female fish. **2.** The milt of male fish. **3.** The eggs of crustaceans. [Var. of dial. *roan*, appar. < ON *hrogn* or MDu. *roch*]
roe[2] (rō) *n.* A small, graceful deer of Europe and western Asia. Also **roe deer.** [OE *rā*]
roe·buck (rō′buk′) *n.* The male of the roe deer.
roent·gen (rent′gən, runt′-; *Ger.* rœnt′gən) *n.* A measure of the intensity of gamma or X-rays, being the quantity of radiation that will produce 1 electrostatic unit of electricity in 1 cubic centimeter of air at normal temperature and pressure: also spelled *röntgen.* [after Wilhelm Konrad *Roentgen*]
roent·gen·ize (rent′gən·īz, runt′-) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To subject to the action of X-rays. — **roent′gen·i·za′tion** *n.*
roentgeno- *combining form* X-rays; using, produced by, or producing X-rays. Also, before vowels, **roentgen-.** [< ROENTGEN]
roent·gen·o·gram (rent′gən·ə·gram′, runt′-) *n.* An X-ray photograph. Also **roent′gen·o·graph′** (-graf′, -gräf′).
roent·gen·og·ra·phy (rent′gən·og′rə·fē, runt′-) *n.* *Med.* Photography means of X-rays; radiography. — **roent′gen·o·graph′ic** (-ə·graf′ik) *adj.* — **roent′gen·o·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
Roentgen rays X-rays.
Ro·gal·lo wing (rō·gal′ō) *Aeron.* A kitelike triangular flexible wing that can be used on simple aircraft, as a kite, or type of parachute. [after F. M. *Rogallo*, U.S. engineer, the inventor]

ro·ga·tion (rō·gā′shən) *n. Often pl.* Litany; supplication, esp. as part of the rites of the Rogation Days. [< L < *rogatus*, pp. of *rogare* to ask]
Rogation Days *Eccl.* The three days immediately preceding Ascension Day, observed as days of special supplication.
rog·er (roj′ər) *interj.* **1.** *Often cap.* Message received: used in radio communication. **2.** *Informal* All right; O.K. [after *Roger*, personal name representing *r* in telecommunication]
rogue (rōg) *n.* **1.** A dishonest and unprincipled person; rascal. **2.** One who is innocently mischievous or playful. **3.** *Biol.* A variation from a standard. **4.** A fierce and dangerous animal, as an elephant, separated from the herd. **5.** *Archaic* A vagrant. — *v.* **rogued, ro·guing** *v.t.* **1.** To practice roguery upon; defraud. **2.** *Bot.* To eliminate (inferior individuals) from a plot of plants undergoing selection. [Origin uncertain]
ro·guer·y (rō′gər·ē) *n. pl.* **·guer·ies** **1.** Conduct characteristic of a rogue; trickery. **2.** A roguish act.
rogues' gallery A collection of photographs of criminals taken to aid the police in identification.
ro·guish (rō′gish) *adj.* **1.** Playfully mischievous. **2.** Knavish; dishonest. — **ro′guish·ly** *adv.* — **ro′guish·ness** *n.*
roil (roil) *v.t.* **1.** To make muddy or turbid, as by stirring up sediment. **2.** To vex; irritate; rile. [< F *rouiller, ruiler*]
roil·y (roi′lē) *adj.* **roil·i·er, roil·i·est** Turbid; muddy.
roist·er (rois′tər) *v.i.* **1.** To act in a blustery manner; swagger. **2.** To engage in tumultuous merrymaking; revel. [< OF < L *rusticus* rustic] — **roist′er·er** *n.*
Ro·land (rō′lənd, *Fr.* rō·läN′) Legendary nephew of Charlemagne and hero of the medieval French epic *Chanson de Roland*, in which he dies fighting the Saracens.
role (rōl) *n.* **1.** A part or character taken by an actor. **2.** Any assumed character or function. Also **rôle.** [< F *rôle*]
roll (rōl) *v.i.* **1.** To move forward on a surface by turning round and round, as a ball or wheel. **2.** To move or be moved on wheels or rollers. **3.** To move or appear to move in undulations or swells, as waves. **4.** To assume the shape of a ball or cylinder by turning over and over upon itself, as a ball of yarn. **5.** To pass; elapse: with *on* or *by*. **6.** Of sounds: **a** To make a deep, prolonged sound, as thunder. **b** To trill, as a bird. **c** To produce a roll, as on a drum. **7.** To rotate wholly or partially: his eyes *rolled*. **8.** To sway or move from side to side, as a ship. **9.** To wander or travel about. **10.** To walk with a swaying motion; also, to stagger. **11.** To become spread or flat because of pressure applied by a roller, etc.: The metal *rolls* easily. **12.** To perform a periodic revolution or cycle, as the seasons. **13.** To move ahead; progress. — *v.t.* **14.** To cause to move along a surface by turning round and round, as a ball, log, etc. **15.** To move, push forward, etc. on wheels or rollers. **16.** To wrap round and round upon itself or on an axis: often with *up*. **17.** To cause to assume the shape of a ball or cylinder by means of rotation and pressure: to *roll* a cigarette. **18.** To impel or cause to move onward with a steady, surging motion. **19.** To spread or make flat by pressing with a roller or rollers, as dough. **20.** To impart a swaying motion to. **21.** To wrap or envelop in or as in a covering. **22.** To rotate, as the eyes. **23.** Of sounds: **a** To utter with a trilling sound: to *roll* one's r's. **b** To emit in a full and swelling manner. **c** To beat a roll upon (a drum, etc.). **24.** To cast (dice) in the game of craps. **25.** *Printing* To apply ink to (a form) by means of a roller or rollers. **26.** *U.S. Slang* To rob (a drunk or a person who is asleep). — **to roll back** In commerce, to cause (prices, wages, etc.) to return to a previous, lower level, as by government direction. — **to roll in** *Informal* **1.** To arrive, esp. in numbers; congregate. **2.** To wallow; luxuriate: to *roll in* money. — **to roll up** *Informal* **1.** To accumulate; amass, as profits. **2.** To arrive, as an automobile. — *n.* **1.** Anything rolled up in cylindrical form. **2.** A register or list of names. **3.** A roller; esp., a cylinder in fixed bearings used as a roller. **4.** A strip of material, as of ribbon or carpeting, that is rolled upon itself or upon a core, often of an agreed length for use as a measure. **5.** Any food rolled up in preparation for use; also, a small, individually shaped portion of bread. **6.** A rolling gait or movement, as of a ship. **7.** Of sounds: **a** reverberation, as of thunder. **b** A rapid sustained series of short sounds: a drum *roll*. **c** A trill, as of a bird. **8.** A swell or undulation of a surface, as of land or water. **9.** *U.S. Slang* **a** A wad of paper money. **b** Money in general. **10.** The act of rolling, or the state of being rolled. **11.** *Aeron.* A complete rotation of an airplane about its longitudinal axis without change in the direction of flight. [< OF < L *rotula* < *rota* wheel]
roll-a-way (rōl′ə·wā′) *adj.* Mounted on rollers for easy movement into storage: a *rollaway* bed.
roll call **1.** The act of calling a roll or list of the names of a number of persons, as soldiers, to determine which are present. **2.** The time of or signal for calling the roll.
roll·er (rō′lər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which rolls. **2.** Any of various cylindrical devices that roll or rotate. **3.** The wheel of a caster or roller skate. **4.** A rod on which a window shade, towel, map, etc., is rolled. **5.** A heavy cylinder for rolling, smoothing, or crushing something: a steam *roller*. **6.** *Surg.* A long rolled bandage. **7.** One of a series of long, swelling waves that break on a coast, esp. after a storm. **8.** *Ornithol.* **a** Any of various European birds having gaudy colors and remarkable for their rolling and tumbling flight. **b** A canary having a trilling song.
roller bearing A bearing employing steel rollers to lessen friction between the parts of a mechanism.
roller coaster *U.S.* A railway with small, open cars run over a route of steep inclines and sharp turns, common at amusement parks.
roller skate A skate having wheels instead of a runner.
rol·lick (rol′ik) *v.i.* To move or behave in a careless, frolicsome manner. [? Blend of ROLL and FROLIC]
rol·lick·ing (rol′ik·ing) *adj.* **1.** Acting in a carefree, swaggering manner. **2.** Jovial; light-hearted; merry. Also **rol′·lick·some** (-səm), **rol′lick·y.**
roll·ing (rō′ling) *adj.* **1.** Turning round and round, esp. so as to move forward on a surface. **2.** Having a succession of sloping elevations and depressions: *rolling* hills. **3.** Turning on or as if on wheels; rotating. **4.** Turned back or down as if over a roll: a *rolling* collar. **5.** Surging in puffs, billows, or waves, as smoke, water, etc. **6.** Of sounds: **a** Trilled. **b** Resounding; reverberating. **7.** Swaying from side to side. **8.** Recurring; elapsing. — *n.* The act of one who or that which rolls or is rolled.
rolling hitch A knot having one or more intermediate turns between the first and last hitch. For illus. see HITCH.
rolling mill **1.** An establishment in which metal is rolled into sheets, bars, etc. **2.** A machine used to roll metal.
rolling pin A cylindrical device, usu. of wood and with a handle at each end, for rolling out dough, etc.
rolling stock The wheeled transportation equipment of a railroad, as locomotives and passenger cars.
roll-top (rōl′top′) *adj.* Designating a type of desk having a flexible, slatted cover that rolls back out of the way.
ro·ly-po·ly (rō′lē·pō′lē) *adj.* Short and fat; pudgy; dumpy. — *n. pl.* **-pol·ies** **1.** A roly-poly person or thing. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* A pudding made of pastry dough spread with fruit, preserves, etc., rolled up and cooked. [Reduplication of ROLL]
Ro·ma·ic (rō·mā′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of the language or people of modern Greece. — *n.* Modern Greek, esp. the popular spoken form. [< LL < Gk. *Rhōmaikos* Roman]
ro·maine (rō·mān′) *n.* A variety of lettuce characterized by long, crisp leaves. [< F, fem. of *romain* Roman]
ro·man (rō′mən) *Sometimes cap. n.* A common style of type or lettering characterized by serifs, perpendicularity, and thicker vertical strokes than horizontal strokes: This line is set in roman. — *adj.* Pertaining to, designating, or printed in roman. Distinguished from *italic*. [< ROMAN]
Ro·man (rō′mən) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of modern or ancient Rome or its people. **2.** Of or belonging to the Roman Catholic Church. **3.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the language of ancient Rome; Latin. **4.** Of or pertaining to the Holy Roman Empire. — *n.* **1.** A native, resident, or citizen of ancient or modern Rome. **2.** The language of ancient Rome; Latin. **3.** *Informal* A Roman Catholic. [< OF < L *Roma* Rome]
Roman calendar See under CALENDAR.
Roman candle A firework consisting of a tube filled with a composition that discharges colored balls and sparks of fire.
Roman Catholic A member of the Roman Catholic Church. — **Roman Catholicism**
Roman Catholic Church The Christian church that recognizes the Pope as its supreme head: also called *Catholic Church, Church of Rome*.
ro·mance (rō·mans′; *for n., also* rō′mans) *n.* **1.** A love affair. **2.** A kind of love between the sexes, usu. youthful and nonmarital, characterized by high ideals of purity and devotion, strong ardor, etc. **3.** Adventurous, heroic, or picturesque character or nature: the *romance* of faraway places. **4.** A tendency toward the mysterious or adventurous. **5.** A long narrative, sometimes in verse, presenting chivalrous ideals and usu. involving heroes in strange adventures and affairs of love. **6.** Any long fictitious narrative embodying scenes and events filled with extravagant adventures. **7.** An extravagant or fanciful falsehood. — *v.* **·manced, ·mancing** *v.i.* **1.** To tell or write romances. **2.** To think or act in a romantic manner. **3.** *Informal* To make love. — *v.t.* **4.** *Informal* To make love to; woo. [< OF *romans* story written in French < L < *Romanicus* Roman] — **ro·manc′er** *n.*
Ro·mance (rō·mans′, rō′mans) *adj.* Pertaining or belonging to one or more, or all, of the languages that have developed from Vulgar Latin and that exist now as French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Provençal, and Rumanian. — *n.* One or all collectively, of the Romance languages.
Roman Empire The empire of ancient Rome, established in 27 B.C. and continuing until A.D. 395.

Ro·man·esque (rō′mən·esk′) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or designating a style of Western architecture that developed from Roman principles, prevailed from the 5th to the 12th century, and was characterized by round arches and general massiveness. — *n.* The Romanesque style of architecture.

ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE (Notre Dame de la Grande, Poitiers, France, 11th century)

Roman holiday 1. Enjoyment or profit derived from the suffering of others. 2. A day of gladiatorial and other contests in ancient Rome.

Ro·man·ic (rō·man′ik) *adj.* 1. Roman. 2. Romance.

Ro·man·ism (rō′mən·iz′əm) *n.* The dogmas, forms, etc., of the Roman Catholic Church: often used disparagingly. — **Ro′man·ist** *n.*

Ro·man·ize (rō′mən·īz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** 1. To make or become Roman or Roman Catholic. 2. To write in the Roman style, language, etc. — **Ro′man·i·za′tion** *n.*

Roman nose A nose that is somewhat aquiline.

Roman numerals The letters used by the ancient Romans as symbols in arithmetical notation. The basic letters are I(1), V(5), X(10), L(50), C(100), D(500), and M(1000), and intermediate and higher numbers are formed as follows: Any symbol following another of equal or greater value adds to its value, as II = 2. XI = 11; any symbol preceding one of greater value subtracts from its value, as IV = 4, IX = 9, XC = 90. When a symbol stands between two of greater value, it is subtracted from the second and the remainder added to the first, as XIV = 14, LIX = 59.

Ro·ma·nov (rō′mə·nôf, *Russian* rô·mä′nôf) A Russian dynasty founded in 1613, and ended in 1918 with the execution of Nicholas II. Also **Ro′ma·noff**.

Ro·mans (rō′mənz *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) One of the books of the New Testament, a letter from the apostle Paul to the Christians at Rome: in full **Epistle to the Romans**.

ro·man·tic (rō·man′tik *adj.* 1. Of, characterized by, or of the nature of romance. 2. Characterized by or given to feelings or thoughts of love or romance. 3. Suitable for or conducive to love or amorousness. 4. Visionary; impractical. 5. Not based on fact; imaginary; fictitious. 6. Of or pertaining to romanticism in art, literature, and music. — *n.* One who is romantic. [< F *romant* romance, novel] — **ro·man′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

ro·man·ti·cism (rō·man′tə·siz′əm) *n.* 1. *Usu. cap.* A movement in art, music, and literature originating in Europe in the late 18th century, characterized by a revolt against the neoclassic adherence to rules, forms, and traditions, an exalting of the feelings, and a marked preference for individualism, etc.: distinguished from *classicism*. Also **Romantic Movement**. 2. Romantic quality. — **ro·man′ti·cist** *n.*

ro·man·ti·cize (rō·man′tə·siz) *v.* **·cized, ·ciz·ing** *v.t.* To regard or interpret in a romantic manner.

Rom·a·ny (rom′ə·nē, rō′mə·) *n.* *pl.* **·nies** 1. A Gypsy (def. 1). 2. The Indic language of the Gypsies: also called *Gypsy*. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Gypsies or their language. Also **Rom′ma·ny** (rom′ə·nē). [< Romany < *rom* man]

Rome (rōm) 1. Capital of the former Roman republic, the Roman Empire, and the States of the Church: Italian and Latin *Roma*. 2. The Roman Catholic Church.

Ro·me·o (rō′mē·ō) The hero of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

romp (romp) *v.i.* 1. To play boisterously. 2. To win easily. — *n.* 1. One who romps, esp. a girl. 2. Noisy, exciting frolic or play. 3. *Informal* An easy win. — **romp′ish** *adj.* — **romp′ish·ly** *adv.* — **romp′ish·ness** *n.*

romp·er (rom′pər) *n.* 1. One who romps. 2. *pl.* A garment combining a waist and bloomers, worn by young children.

Rom·u·lus (rom′yə·ləs) In Roman mythology, a son of Mars and founder of Rome, who with his twin brother Remus was reared by a she-wolf. Later Romulus slew his brother to become the first ruler of Rome.

ron·deau (ron′dō, ron·dō′) *n.* *pl.* **·deaux** (-dōz, -dōz′) A poem of thirteen (or sometimes ten) lines with only two rhymes, and in which the opening words are repeated in two places as an unrhymed refrain. [< F *rond* round]

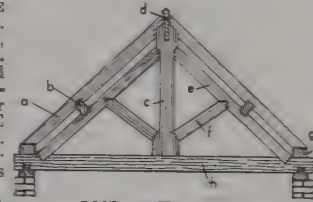
ron·del (ron′dəl, -del) *n.* A verse form consisting of 13 or 14 lines, the first two lines being repeated, as a refrain, in the seventh and eighth lines, and again in the thirteenth and fourteenth. [< F *rond* round]

ron·do (ron′dō, ron·dō′) *n.* *Music* A composition or movement having a main theme and several contrasting episodes, the main theme being repeated after each subordinate theme. [< Ital. < F *rond* round]

rönt·gen (rent′gən, runt′-; *Ger.* rœnt′gən) See ROENTGEN.

rood (rōōd) *n.* 1. A cross or crucifix; esp., a large crucifix or representation of the Crucifixion over the altar screen of a church. 2. A land measure equivalent to one-fourth of an acre, or 40 square rods: also **square rood**. [OE *rōd* rod, measure of land, cross]

roof (rōōf, rŏŏf) *n.* 1. The exterior upper covering of a building. For other illustrations see GABLE ROOF, GAMBREL ROOF. 2. Any top covering, as of a car or oven. 3. The most elevated part of anything. — *v.t.* To cover with or as with a roof. [OE *hrōf*] — **roof′less** *adj.*



ROOF, KINGPOST TYPE
a Common rafter. *b* Purlin. *c* Kingpost. *d* Ridge pole. *e* Principal rafter. *f* Strut. *g* Pole plate. *h* Tie beam.

roof·er (rōō′fər, rŏŏf′·ər) *n.* One who makes or repairs roofs.

roof garden 1. A garden on the roof of a building. 2. A space on a roof including a garden and used as a restaurant, etc.

roof·ing (rōō′fing, rŏŏf′ing) *n.* 1. The act of covering with a roof. 2. Material for roofs. 3. A roof; covering.

roof-tree (rōōf′trē′, rŏŏf′-) *n.* 1. The ridgepole of a roof; also, the roof itself. 2. A home or dwelling.

rook[1] (rook) *n.* 1. An Old World crow noted for its gregariousness. 2. A trickster or cheat; a sharper. — *v.t. & v.i.* To cheat; defraud. [OE *hrōc*]

rook[2] (rŏŏk) *n.* A castle-shaped chessman that can move any number of unoccupied squares parallel to the sides of the board: also called *castle*. [< OF *roc* ult. < Persian *rukh*]

rook·er·y (rŏŏk′ər·ē *n.* *pl.* **·er·ies** 1. A colony or breeding place of rooks. 2. A breeding place of sea birds, seals, etc.

rook·ie (rŏŏk′ē) *n.* *Slang* 1. A raw recruit in the army, etc. 2. Any novice, as in baseball. [Prob. alter. of RECRUIT]

room (rōōm, rŏŏm) *n.* 1. An extent of space used for some implied or specified purpose. 2. A space for occupancy or use enclosed on all sides, as in a building. 3. *pl.* Lodgings. 4. Warrantable occasion: opportunity: *room* for doubt. — *v.i.* To occupy a room; lodge. [OE *rūm* space]

room·er (rōō′mər, rŏŏm′ər) *n.* A lodger; esp., one who rents a room and eats elsewhere.

room·ette (rōō·met′, rŏŏm·et′) *n.* A small compartment in a railroad sleeping car furnished with a folding bed.

room·ful (rōōm′fŏŏl′, rŏŏm′-) *n.* *pl.* **·fuls** 1. As many or as much as a room will hold. 2. A number of persons present in a room.

room·ing house (rōō′ming, rŏŏm′ing) *U.S.* A house for roomers.

room·mate (rōōm′māt′, rŏŏm′-) *n.* *U.S.* One who shares lodgings with another or others.

room·y (rōō′mē, rŏŏm′ē *adj.* **room·i·er, room·i·est** Having abundant room; spacious. — **room′i·ness** *n.*

roor·back (rōōr′bak *n.* *U.S.* A slanderous report circulated for political purposes. [after *Roorback*, purported author of a (nonexistent) book of travel that was cited as authority for certain defamatory charges made against President Polk in the 1844 campaign]

roost (rōōst) *n.* 1. A perch upon which fowls rest at night; also, any place where birds resort to spend the night. 2. Any temporary resting place. — *v.i.* 1. To sit or perch upon a roost. 2. To come to rest; settle. [OE *hrōst*]

roost·er (rōōs′tər) *n.* The male of the chicken; cock.

root[1] (rōōt, rŏŏt) *n.* 1. The underground portion of a plant, that absorbs moisture, obtains or stores nourishment, and provides support. 2. Any underground growth, as a tuber or bulb. 3. That from which anything derives origin, growth, or support, or life and vigor: Money is the *root* of evil. 4. An ancestor. 5. A rootlike part of an organ or structure: the *root* of a tooth or nerve. 6. *Ling.* A base to which affixes and thematic vowels may be added to form words, as *know* in *unknown*, *knowable*, and *unknowingly*. See STEM. 7. *Math.* A quantity that, multiplied by itself a specified number of times, will give a given quantity: 3 is the square *root* of 9 and the cube *root* of 27. 8. *Music* The fundamental tone of a chord. — *v.i.* 1. To put forth roots and begin to grow. 2. To be or become firmly fixed. — *v.t.* 3. To fix by or as by roots. 4. To pull, dig, or tear up by or as by the roots: with *up* or *out*. [OE *rōt* < ON] — **root′less** *adj.* — **root′y** *adj.*

root[2] (rōōt, rŏŏt *v.t.* 1. To dig with the snout, as swine. — *v.i.* 2. To turn up the earth with the snout. 3. To search; rummage. 4. To toil. [OE *wrōtan* to root up] — **root′er** *n.*

root[3] (rōōt, rŏŏt) *v.i. U.S. Informal* To cheer for or encourage a contestant, team, etc., with *for*. [Prob. var. of ROUT[2]] **— root'er** *n.*

root beer A beverage made with yeast and root extracts.

root hair *Bot.* Hairlike outgrowths of plant roots, having an absorbent and protective function.

root·let (rōōt'lit, rŏŏt'-) *n.* A small root.

root·stalk (rōōt'stôk', rŏŏt'-) *n. Bot.* A rhizome.

root·stock (rōōt'stok', rŏŏt'-) *n.* **1.** Original source; origin. **2.** *Bot.* A rhizome.

rope (rōp) *n.* **1.** A construction of twisted fibers, as of hemp, cotton, flax, etc., so intertwined in several strands as to form a thick cord. **2.** A collection of things plaited or united in a line. **3.** A slimy or glutinous filament or thread. **4.** A cord or halter used in hanging. **5.** Execution or death by hanging: to die by the *rope*. **6.** *U.S.* A lasso. **— to give (one) plenty of rope** To allow (a person) to pursue unchecked a course that will end in disaster. **— to know the ropes** *Informal* To be familiar with all the conditions in any sphere of activity. **—** *v.* **roped, rop·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To tie or fasten with or as with rope. **2.** To enclose or divide with a rope: usu. with *off*. **3.** *U.S.* To catch with a lasso. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To become drawn out or extended into a filament or thread. [OE *rāp*]

rope-danc·er (rōp'dan'sər, -dän'-) *n.* A tightrope walker.

rope-walk (rōp'wôk') *n.* A long alley or building used for the spinning of rope yarn.

rope-walk·er (rōp'wô'kər) *n.* A tightrope walker.

rop·y (rō'pē) *adj.* **rop·i·er, rop·i·est** **1.** That may be drawn into threads, as a glutinous substance; stringy. **2.** Resembling ropes or cordage. **— rop'i·ly** *adv.* **— rop'i·ness** *n.*

Roque·fort cheese (rōk'fərt, *Fr.* rôk·fôr') A strong cheese with a blue mold, made from ewe's and goat's milk in the town of Roquefort, France.

ror·qual (rôr'kwəl) *n.* A whalebone whale of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans: also called *finback, razorback*. [< F < Norw. *røyrkval*]

Ror·schach test (rôr'shäk, -shäkh, rōr'-) *Psychol.* A test in which personality characteristics are made capable of analysis by the subject's interpretation of a series of standard inkblot patterns. [after Hermann *Rorschach*, 1884–1922, Swiss psychiatrist]

ro·sa·ceous (rō·zā'shəs) *adj.* **1.** *Bot.* Of, pertaining to, or designating the rose family of trees, shrubs, and herbs. **2.** Resembling a rose. [< L < *rosa* rose]

ro·sa·ry (rō'zə·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** *Eccl.* **a** A series of prayers. **b** A string of beads for keeping count of these prayers. **2.** A garden or bed of roses. [< L *rosa* rose]

rose[1] (rōz) *n.* **1.** Any of a large genus of hardy, erect or climbing shrubs, with rodlike, prickly stems: the national flower of England and the State flower of New York, North Dakota, and Iowa. **2.** The flower of such a shrub, usu. having five sepals and exhibiting a wide range of colors, principally white, yellow, pink, or red. **3.** Any of various other plants or flowers likened to the true rose. **4.** A light pinkish red. **5.** An ornamental knot; a rosette. **6.** A form in which gems, esp. diamonds, are often cut; also, a diamond so cut. **— bed of roses** A peaceful or carefree time, place, or condition. **—** *v.t.* **rosed, ros·ing** To cause to blush; redden; flush. [OE < L *rosa*, prob. < Gk. *rhodea*]

rose[2] (rōz) Past tense of RISE.

ro·se·ate (rō'zē·it, -āt) *adj.* **1.** Rosy; rose-colored. **2.** Cheerful; optimistic. [< L *roseus*] **— ro'se·ate·ly** *adv.*

rose·bud (rōz'bud') *n.* The bud of a rose.

rose·bush (rōz'bŏŏsh') *n.* A rose-bearing shrub or vine.

rose campion An herbaceous plant, cultivated for its pink or crimson flowers.

rose chafer A hairy, fawn-colored beetle injurious to roses: also called *rose beetle*. Also **rose bug**.

rose-col·ored (rōz'kul'ərd) *adj.* Pink or crimson, as a rose. **— to see through rose-colored glasses** To see things in an unduly favorable light.

rose fever *Pathol.* A variety of hay fever, assumed to be caused by rose pollen. Also **rose cold**.

rose·mar·y (rōz'mâr'ē) *n. pl.* **·mar·ies** An evergreen, fragrant Old World shrub of the mint family, commonly with blue flowers, cultivated for use in making perfume and in cookery. [ME < L < *ros* dew + *marinus* of the sea]

rose of Sharon **1.** A hardy shrub of the mallow family: also called *shrub althea*. **2.** A species of St. Johnswort having large, yellow flowers.

rose quartz A semitransparent variety of quartz, pink or rose in color and often used for ornament and as a gemstone.

Ro·set·ta stone (rō·zet'ə) A tablet of basalt inscribed with two forms of Egyptian hieroglyphics and in Greek, found near Rosetta, Egypt, in 1799. It supplied the key to the ancient inscriptions of Egypt.

ro·sette (rō·zet') *n.* **1.** An ornament or badge having some resemblance to a rose; esp., an architectural ornament with parts circularly arranged. **2.** A flowerlike cluster of leaves, organs, or markings, arranged in circles, as in certain plants. [< F, dim. of *rose*]

rose water A fragrant preparation made variously by the distillation of rose petals or rose oil with water, used as a toilet water and in cooking.

rose window A circular window filled with tracery, often radiating from the center like spokes.

rose·wood (rōz'wŏŏd') *n.* **1.** A hard, close-grained, dark-colored, fragrant wood yielded by certain tropical American trees. **2.** Any of various other woods resembling true rosewood. **3.** Any tree yielding such a wood.

Rosh Ha·sha·na (rosh hə·shä'nə, rōsh) The Jewish New Year, celebrated in September or early October. Also **Rosh Ha·sho'nah** (-shō'-). [< Hebrew *rōsh* head + *hash-shānāh* of the year]

ros·in (roz'in) *n.* **1.** The hard, amber-colored resin forming the residue after the distillation of oil from crude turpentine: also called *resin*. **2.** Resin (defs. 1 & 2). **—** *v.t.* To apply rosin to. [Alter. of RESIN] **— ros'in·y** *adj.*

ros·ter (ros'tər) *n.* **1.** A list of officers and men enrolled for duty; also, a list of active military organizations. **2.** Any list of names. [< Du. *rooster* list, lit. gridiron]

ros·trum (ros'trəm) *n. pl.* **·trums** or **·tra** (-trə) *for defs. 1 & 3*, **·tra** *for def. 2* **1.** A pulpit or platform. **2.** In ancient Rome: **a** A beaklike part on the prow of a ship. **b** The orators' platform in the Roman forum, embellished with such parts. **3.** *Biol.* A beaklike process or part. [< L *rostrum* beak] **— ros'tral, ros'trate** (-trāt) *adj.*

ros·y (rō'zē) *adj.* **ros·i·er, ros·i·est** **1.** Like a rose; rose red; blushing. **2.** Bright, pleasing, or flattering. **3.** Made of or ornamented with roses. **4.** Auguring success; optimistic. **— ros'i·ly** *adv.* **— ros'i·ness** *n.*

rot (rot) *v.* **rot·ted, rot·ting** *v.i.* **1.** To undergo decomposition; decay. **2.** To become morally rotten. **—** *v.t.* **3.** To cause to decompose; decay. **4.** To ret. **— Syn.** See DECAY. **—** *n.* **1.** The process of rotting or the state of being rotten. **2.** That which is rotten. **3.** Any of various diseases involving decay in humans, plants, and animals, esp., sheep. **4.** *Informal* Trashy and nonsensical opinions or expressions. **—** *interj.* Nonsense. [OE *rotian*]

Ro·tar·i·an (rō·târ'ē·ən) *n.* A member of a Rotary Club. **—** *adj.* Of or pertaining to Rotary Clubs or their members. **— Ro·tar'i·an·ism** *n.*

ro·ta·ry (rō'tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Turning or designed to turn around its axis, like a wheel. **2.** Having some part that turns on its axis. **3.** Characterized by movement around an axis; rotatory. **—** *n. pl.* **·ries** A rotary device or part. [< LL < L *rota* wheel]

Rotary Club A club belonging to an international association of clubs, **Rotary International**, whose aim is to improve civic service.

rotary engine *Mech.* **1.** An engine in which rotary motion is directly produced, as in a turbine. **2.** In internal-combustion engines, a radial engine revolving about a fixed crankshaft.

rotary press A printing press using curved type plates that revolve against the paper.

ro·tate (rō'tāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** **1.** To turn or cause to turn on or as on its axis. **2.** To alternate in a definite order or succession. [< L < *rotare* to turn < *rota* wheel] **— ro'tat·a·ble, ro·ta·tive** (rō'tə·tiv) *adj.* **— ro'ta·tor** *n.*

— Syn. (verb) **1.** spin, whirl, twirl, turn, gyrate. See REVOLVE.

ro·ta·tion (rō·tā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act or state of rotating; rotary motion. **2.** Change or alternation in a particular sequence; regular variation. [< L *rotatio, -onis*] **— ro·ta'tion·al** *adj.*

ro·ta·to·ry (rō'tə·tôr'ē, -tō'rē) *adj.* **1.** Having, pertaining to, or producing rotation. **2.** Following in succession. **3.** Alternating or recurring.

rote (rōt) *n.* **1.** Mechanical routine. **2.** Repetition of words as a means of learning them, with slight attention to the sense. **— by rote** Mechanically, without intelligent attention: to learn *by rote*. [ME; origin uncertain]

ro·te·none (rō'tə·nōn) *n. Chem.* A crystalline compound, $C_{23}H_{22}O_6$, the effective principle in insecticides and fish poisons, obtained from the roots of various plants. [Origin unknown]

rot·gut (rot'gut') *U.S.* An inferior raw whisky.

ro·ti·fer (rō'tə·fər) *n.* One of a division of microscopic organisms usu. found in stagnant fresh water, having rings of cilia that in motion resemble revolving wheels. [< NL < L *rota* wheel + *ferre* to bear] **— ro·tif'er·al** (rō·tif'ər·əl), **ro·tif'er·ous** *adj.*

ro·tis·se·rie (rō·tis'ər·ē) *n.* **1.** A restaurant where patrons select uncooked food and have it roasted and served. **2.** A shop where food is roasted and sold. **3.** A rotating device for roasting meat, etc. [< F < *rôtir* to roast]

ro·to·gra·vure (rō'tə·grə·vyŏŏr', -grāv'yər) *n.* **1.** The process of printing photographs, letters, etc., from cylinders etched from photographic plates and run through a rotary press. **2.** A picture printed by this process. **3.** The section of a newspaper containing such pictures. [< L *rota* wheel + GRAVURE]

ro·tor (rō′tər) *n.* **1.** The rotating section of a motor, dynamo, turbine, or other power generator: distinguished from *stator*. **2.** *Aeron.* The horizontally rotating unit of a helicopter or autogiro, consisting of the airfoils and hub. [Contraction of ROTATOR]

rot·ten (rot′n) *adj.* **1.** Decomposed by natural process; putrid. **2.** Untrustworthy; treacherous. **3.** Corrupt; venal. **4.** Liable to break; unsound. **5.** *Informal* Worthless. [< ON *rotinn*] — **rot′ten·ly** *adv.* — **rot′ten·ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** decayed, putrefied, putrescent, carious, fetid. Compare DECAY. — **Ant.** fresh, sweet, sound, wholesome, healthy.

rot·ter (rot′ər) *n. Chiefly Brit. Slang* A worthless or objectionable person; scoundrel.

ro·tund (rō·tund′) *adj.* **1.** Rounded out; spherical; plump. **2.** Full-toned, as a voice or utterance; sonorous. [< L *rotundus* round] — **ro·tun′di·ty** *n.* — **ro·tund′ly** *adv.* — **ro·tund′ness** *n.*

ro·tun·da (rō·tun′də) *n.* A circular building or an interior hall, surmounted with a dome. [< Ital. < L *rotundus*. See ROTUND.]

rou·ble (rōō′bəl) See RUBLE.

rou·é (rōō·ā′) *n.* A sensualist; debauchee. [< F < *rouer* to break on the wheel]

rouge (rōōzh) *n.* **1.** Any cosmetic used for coloring the cheeks or lips pink or red. **2.** A ferric oxide used in polishing metals and glass. — *v.* **rouged, roug·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To color with rouge. — *v.i.* **2.** To apply rouge. [< F < L *rubeus* ruby]

rough (ruf) *adj.* **1.** Having an uneven surface; not smooth or polished. **2.** Coarse in texture; shabby. **3.** Disordered or ragged; shaggy. **4.** Having the surface broken; uneven. **5.** Characterized by rude or violent action. **6.** Boisterous or tempestuous; stormy. **7.** Characterized by harshness of spirit; brutal. **8.** Lacking the finish and polish bestowed by art or culture; crude. **9.** Done or made hastily and without attention to details, as a drawing. **10.** Harsh to the ear; grating; inharmonious. — *n.* **1.** A low, rude, and violent fellow; a rowdy. **2.** A crude, incomplete, or unpolished object, material, or condition. **3.** Any part of a golf course on which tall grass, bushes, etc., grow. — **in the rough** In a crude or unpolished state. — *v.t.* **1.** To make rough; roughen. **2.** To treat roughly. **3.** To make, cut, or sketch roughly: with *in* or *out*. — *v.i.* **4.** To become rough. **5.** To behave roughly. — **to rough it** To live, camp, or travel under rough, hard, or impoverished conditions. — *adv.* In a rude manner; roughly. [OE *rūh*] — **rough′ly** *adv.* — **rough′ness** *n.*

rough·age (ruf′ij) *n.* **1.** Any coarse or tough substance. **2.** Food material containing a high percentage of indigestible constituents, as cellulose.

rough-and-read·y (ruf′ən·red′ē) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or acting with rude but effective promptness. **2.** Unpolished but good enough.

rough-and-tum·ble (ruf′ən·tum′bəl) *adj.* **1.** Marked by the disregard of all rules, as a fight. **2.** Scrambling; disorderly. — *n.* A rough-and-tumble fight or scuffle.

rough·cast (ruf′kast′, -käst′) *v.t.* **·cast, ·cast·ing** **1.** To shape or prepare in a preliminary or incomplete form. **2.** To coat, as a wall, with coarse plaster, and cover with thin mortar by dashing it on. — *n.* **1.** Very coarse plaster for the outside of buildings. **2.** A form or model of something in its first rough stage. — **rough′cast′er** *n.*

rough·draw (ruf′drô′) *v.t.* **·drew, ·drawn, ·draw·ing** To sketch hastily or crudely.

rough·dry (ruf′drī′) *v.t.* **·dried, ·dry·ing** To dry without ironing, as washed clothes.

rough·en (ruf′ən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become rough.

rough·hew (ruf′hyōō′) *v.t.* **·hewed, ·hewed** or **·hewn, ·hew·ing** **1.** To hew or shape roughly or irregularly. **2.** To make crudely; roughcast.

rough·house (ruf′hous′) *Slang* *n.* A noisy, boisterous, or violent game; rough play. — *v.* **·housed, ·hous·ing** — *v.i.* **1.** To make a disturbance; engage in horseplay or violence. — *v.t.* **2.** To handle or treat roughly but without hostile intent.

rough-neck (ruf′nek′) *n. U.S. Slang* A rowdy.

rough·rid·er (ruf′rī′dər) *n. U.S.* One skilled in breaking broncos or performing dangerous feats in horsemanship.

Rough Riders The 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry in the Spanish-American War of 1898, mainly organized and subsequently commanded by Theodore Roosevelt.

rough·shod (ruf′shod′) *adj.* Shod with rough shoes to prevent slipping, as a horse. — **to ride roughshod (over)** To act overbearingly; domineer without consideration.

rou·lette (rōō·let′) *n.* **1.** A game played at a table divided into spaces numbered and colored red and black, and having a rotating disk (**roulette wheel**) on which a ball is rolled until it drops into one of 37 or 38 correspondingly marked spaces. **2.** An engraver's disk of tempered steel, as for tracing points on a copperplate; also, a draftsman's wheel for making dotted lines. — *v.t.* **·let·ted, ·let·ting** To perforate or mark with a roulette. [< F < *roue* wheel]

round (round) *adj.* **1.** Having a contour that is circular or approximately so; spherical, ring-shaped, or cylindrical. **2.** Having a curved contour or surface; not angular or flat; convex or concave. **3.** Liberal; ample; large. **4.** Easy and free, as in motion; brisk. **5.** Of full cadence; well-balanced; full-toned. **6.** Made without reserve; outspoken. **7.** Open; just. **8.** Formed or moving in rotation or a circle. **9.** Returning to the point of departure: a *round* trip. **10.** Of a number, increased or decreased by a relatively small amount for the sake of simplicity: 3,992 is 4,000 in *round* numbers. **11.** Semicircular: a *round* arch. **12.** *Phonet.* Labialized; rounded. — *n.* **1.** Something round, as a globe, ring, or cylinder, a rung of a ladder, a portion of the thigh of a beef, etc. **2.** *Often pl.* A circular course or range; circuit; beat. **3.** A single revolution; also revolving motion. **4.** A series of recurrent movements; routine; order: the daily *round* of life. **5.** One of a series of concerted actions performed in succession: a *round* of applause. **6.** One of the divisions of a boxing match; a bout. **7.** In golf, a number of holes or an interval of play in a match. **8.** *Music* A short canon in the octave or unison, in which each voice enters in turn and returns to the beginning upon reaching the end. **9.** A firing by a company or squad in which each soldier fires once; volley. **10.** A single shot or complete unit of ammunition. **11.** The state of being carved out on all sides: sculpture in the *round*. **12.** The state or condition of being circular; roundness. **13.** A thick slice from a haunch. — **to go** (or **make**) **the rounds** **1.** To take a usual walk or tour, as of inspection. **2.** To pass from person to person of a certain group. — *v.t.* **1.** To make round. **2.** To bring to completion; perfect: usually with *off* or *out*. **3.** To free of angularity; fill out to fullness of form. **4.** *Phonet.* To utter (a vowel) with the lips in a rounded position; labialize. **5.** To travel or go around; make a circuit of. — *v.i.* **6.** To become round. **7.** To come to completeness or perfection. **8.** To fill out; become plump. **9.** To make a circuit; travel a circular course. **10.** To turn around. — **to round off** **1.** To make round or rounded. **2.** To make into a round number. — **to round up** **1.** To collect (cattle, etc.) in a herd, as for driving to market. **2.** *Informal* To assemble. — *adv.* **1.** On all sides; in such a manner as to encircle. **2.** With a circular or rotating motion. **3.** Through a circle or circuit, as from person to person or point to point: provisions enough to go *round*. **4.** In circumference: a log 3 feet *round*. **5.** From one view or position to another; to and fro. **6.** In the vicinity: to hang *round*. — *prep.* **1.** Enclosing; encircling. **2.** On every side of, or from every side toward; surrounding. **3.** Toward every side from; about. [< OF < L *rotundus* round] — **round′ish** *adj.* — **round′ish·ness** *n.* — **round′ness** *n.*

round·a·bout (round′ə·bout′) *adj.* **1.** Circuitous; indirect. **2.** Encircling. — *n.* **1.** An outer garment reaching to the waist; a jacket. **2.** *Brit.* A merry-go-round.

round·ed (roun′did) *adj.* **1.** Round or spherical. **2.** *Phonet.* Formed or uttered with the lips rounded; labialized.

roun·de·lay (roun′də·lā) *n.* **1.** A simple melody. **2.** A musical setting of a poem with a recurrent refrain. [< OF < *rond* round]

round·er (roun′dər) *n.* **1.** A tool for rounding. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A drunkard, drifter, or petty criminal. **3.** *pl.* (*construed as sing.*) An English game somewhat resembling baseball.

Round·head (round′hed′) *n.* A member of the parliamentary party in England in the civil war of 1642–49.

round·house (round′hous′) *n.* **1.** A cabin on the after part of the quarter-deck of a vessel. **2.** A round building with a turntable in the center for housing and switching locomotives. **3.** In pinochle, a meld of four kings and four queens.

round·ly (round′lē) *adv.* **1.** In a round manner or form; circularly; spherically. **2.** Severely; vigorously: to be *roundly* denounced. **3.** Frankly; bluntly. **4.** Thoroughly.

round number A number expressed to the nearest ten, hundred, thousand, etc. Also **round figure.**

round robin **1.** A tournament, as in tennis or chess, in which each player meets every other player. **2.** A letter circulated among the members of a group. **3.** A number of signatures, as to a petition, written in a circle so as to avoid giving prominence to any one name.

round-shoul·dered (round′shōl′dərd) *adj.* Having the back rounded or the shoulders stooping.

round table **1.** A meeting place for conference. **2.** Any discussion group. — **round-ta·ble** (round′tā′bəl) *adj.*

Round Table **1.** The table around which King Arthur and his knights sat. **2.** King Arthur and his knights.

round-the-clock (round′thə·klok′) *adj.* Through all twenty-four hours of the day.

round trip A trip to a place and back again; a two-way trip. — **round′-trip′** *adj.*

round·up (round′up′) *n. U.S.* **1.** The bringing together of cattle scattered over a range, as for inspection or branding. **2.** The cowboys, horses, etc., employed in this work. **3.** *Informal* A bringing together of persons or things.

round·worm (round′wûrm′) *n.* A nematode worm, esp. one parasitic in the human intestines.

rouse (rouz) *v.* **roused, rous·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to awaken from slumber, repose, unconsciousness, etc. **2.** To excite to vigorous thought or action; stir up. **3.** To startle or drive (game) from cover. — *v.i.* **4.** To awaken. **5.** To become active. **6.** To start from cover: said of game. — *n.* The act of rousing. [Orig. technical term in hawking and hunting] — **rous′er** *n.*

rous·ing (rou′zing) *adj.* **1.** Able to rouse or excite: a *rousing* speech. **2.** Lively; active; vigorous: a *rousing* trade. **3.** *Informal* Outrageous; astonishing: a *rousing* lie.

roust (roust) *v.t. & v.i. Informal* To arouse and drive (a person or thing); stir up: usu. with *out*. [< ROUSE]

roust·a·bout (rous′tə·bout′) *n.* **1.** A laborer on river craft or on the waterfront. **2.** One who is employed for casual work; esp., a transient laborer on a cattle ranch, etc. **3.** A laborer in a circus.

rout[1] (rout) *n.* **1.** A disorderly and overwhelming defeat or flight. **2.** A boisterous crowd. — *v.t.* To defeat disastrously; put to flight. [< OF < L *rumpere* to break]

rout[2] (rout) *v.i.* **1.** To root, as swine. **2.** To search; rummage. — *v.t.* **3.** To dig or turn up with the snout. **4.** To turn up as if with the snout; disclose to view: with *out*. **5.** To hollow, gouge, or scrape, as with a scoop. **6.** To drive or force out. [Var. of ROOT[2]]

route (rōōt, rout) *n.* **1.** A course, road, or way taken in traveling from one point to another. **2.** The specific course over which mail is sent. **3.** The territory covered by a newsboy. — *v.t.* **rout·ed, rout·ing** To dispatch or send by a certain way, as passengers, goods, etc. [< OF < L *rupta* (*via*) broken (road), fem. of *ruptus*. See ROUT[1].]

rout·er (rou′tər) *n.* **1.** One who scoops or routs. **2.** A tool for routing. **3.** A plane devised for working a molding around a circular sash. [< ROUT[2]]

rou·tine (rōō·tēn′) *n.* **1.** A detailed method of procedure, regularly followed: an official *routine*. **2.** Habitual methods of action induced by circumstances. — *adj.* Customary; habitual. [< F < *route* way, road] — **rou·tine′ly** *adv.*

rou·tin·ism (rōō·tē′niz·əm) *n.* Adherence to routine or routine methods in general. — **rou·tin′ist** *n.*

rou·tin·ize (rōō·tē′nīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·i·zing** To reduce or fit to a routine.

roux (rōō) *n. French* Butter and an equal portion of flour mixed and browned together, used for sauces, etc.

rove[1] (rōv) *v.* **roved, rov·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To wander from place to place; go or move without any definite destination. — *v.t.* **2.** To roam over, through, or about. — *n.* The act of roving; a ramble. [ME *roven*] — **rov′er** *n.*

rove[2] (rōv) Alternate past tense and past participle of REEVE[1].

row[1] (rō) *n.* **1.** An arrangement or series of persons or things in a continued line; a rank; file. **2.** A street lined with houses on both sides. **3.** A line of seats, as in a theater. — **a long row to hoe** A hard task or undertaking. — *v.t.* To arrange in a row: with *up*. [OE *rāw*, var. of *ræw* line]

row[2] (rō) *v.i.* **1.** To use oars, etc., in propelling a boat. — *v.t.* **2.** To propel across the surface of the water with oars, as a boat. **3.** To transport by rowing. **4.** To be propelled by (a specific number of oars): said of boats. **5.** To make use of (oars or rowers), esp. in a race. **6.** To row against in a race. — *n.* **1.** The act of rowing. **2.** A turn at the oars. **3.** A trip in a rowboat. [OE *rōwan*]

row[3] (rou) *n.* **1.** A noisy disturbance or quarrel; a brawl. **2.** Any dispute or disturbance. — *v.t. & v.i.* To engage in a row or brawl. [Origin uncertain]

row·an (rō′ən, rou′-) A small tree native to Europe, having clusters of bright orange berries: also called *mountain ash*.

row·boat (rō′bōt′) *n. U.S.* A boat propelled by oars.

row·dy (rou′dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** One inclined to create disturbances; a rough, disorderly person. — *adj.* **·di·er, ·di·est** Rough and loud; disorderly. [Origin unknown] — **row′dy·ish** *adj.* — **row′dy·ism, row′di·ness** *n.*

row·el (rou′əl) *n.* A spiked or toothed wheel, as on a spur. — *v.t.* **row·eled** or **·elled, row·el·ing** or **·el·ling** To prick with a rowel; spur. [< OF *roele* < L *rota* wheel]

row·lock (rō′lok′) *n. Brit.* An oarlock.

roy·al (roi′əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a monarch; kingly. **2.** Under the patronage or authority of a king, or connected with a monarchical form of government: a *royal* governor. **3.** Like or befitting a king; regal. **4.** Of superior quality or size. **5.** *Informal* Extraordinarily good, large, impressive, etc. — *n.* **1.** A size of paper, 19 x 24 inches for writing, 20 x 25 inches for printing. **2.** *Naut.* A sail next above the topgallant. [< OF < L < *rex* king] — **roy′al·ly** *adv.*

royal blue A brilliant blue, often with reddish overtones.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police The federal police force of Canada.

roy·al·ist (roi′əl·ist) *n.* A supporter of a royal dynasty. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to royalists: also **roy′al·is′tic.**

Roy·al·ist (roi′əl·ist) *n.* **1.** In English history, a Cavalier or adherent of King Charles I. **2.** In French history, a supporter of the Bourbon or Orléans claims to the throne since 1793. **3.** In the American Revolution, a supporter of the king; Loyalist; Tory.

roy·al·mast (roi′əl·mast′, -məst′) *n. Naut.* The section of a mast next above the topgallant mast.

royal palm Any of various palms native in tropical America, noted for their height and striking appearance.

royal purple **1.** A very deep violet color verging toward blue. **2.** Originally, a rich crimson.

roy·al·ty (roi′əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The rank, birth, or lineage of a king or queen. **2.** A royal personage; also, royal persons collectively. **3.** A share of proceeds paid to a proprietor, author, or inventor. **4.** A tax paid to the crown on the produce of royal mines, or on gold and silver coinage. **5.** A royal possession or domain. **6.** Any domain or province. [< OF *roialte*]

-rrhagia *combining form Pathol.* An abnormal or violent discharge or flow; an eruption: also *-rhage, -rhagia, -rhagy.* Also **-rrhage, -rrhagy.** Corresponding adjectives are formed with **-rrhagic.** [< Gk. < *rrhag-*, root of *rrhēgnynai* to burst]

-rrhaphy *combining form* A sewing together; a suture. [< F *-rrhaphie* < Gk. *rhaptein* to sew together]

-rrhea *combining form Pathol.* An abnormal or excessive flow or discharge: also spelled *-rhea, -rhoea.* Also **-rrhoea.** [< Gk. *-rrhoia* < *rheein* to flow]

rub (rub) *v.* **rubbed, rub·bing** *v.t.* **1.** To move or pass over the surface of with pressure and friction. **2.** To cause (something) to move or pass with friction; scrape; grate. **3.** To cause to become frayed, worn, or sore from friction. **4.** To clean, shine, burnish, etc., by means of pressure and friction. **5.** To apply or spread with pressure and friction. **6.** To remove or erase by friction: with *off* or *out*. — *v.i.* **7.** To move along a surface with friction; scrape. **8.** To exert pressure and friction. **9.** To become frayed, worn, or sore from friction; chafe. **10.** To undergo rubbing or removal by rubbing: with *off, out*, etc. — **to rub it in** *Slang* To harp on someone's errors, faults, etc. — **to rub out** *Slang* To kill. — **to rub the wrong way** *Slang* To irritate; annoy. — *n.* **1.** A rubbing: Give it a *rub*. **2.** A hindrance, doubt, etc.: There's the *rub*. **3.** Something that rubs or is rough to the feelings; a sarcasm. **4.** A roughness or unevenness of surface, quality, or character. [ME *rubben*, prob. < LG]

ru·ba·to (rōō·bä′tō) *Music adj.* Denoting the lengthening of one note at the expense of another. — *n. pl.* **·tos** A rubato modification. — *adv.* In a rubato manner. [< Ital., robbed]

rub·ber[1] (rub′ər) *n.* **1.** A resinous elastic material obtained by coagulating the milky latex of certain tropical plants, and also made synthetically: sometimes called *India rubber*. **2.** Anything used for rubbing, erasing, polishing, etc. **3.** An article made of rubber, as an elastic band or an overshoe. **4.** In baseball, the pitcher's plate. **5.** *Slang* A condom. **6.** One who or that which rubs. — *adj.* Made of rubber. [< RUB] — **rub′ber·y** *adj.*

rub·ber[2] (rub′ər) *n.* In bridge, whist, and other card games, a series of two or three games terminated when one side has won two games; also, the odd game that breaks a tie between the players. [Origin unknown]

rubber check *U.S. Slang* A worthless check.

rub·ber·ize (rub′ər·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To coat, impregnate, or cover with a preparation of rubber.

rub·ber·neck (rub′ər·nek′) *U.S. Slang* *n.* One who cranes his neck in order to see something; a sightseer; tourist. — *v.i.* To stretch or crane one's neck; gape.

rubber plant **1.** Any of several plants yielding rubber. **2.** A house plant of the mulberry family, having large, glossy, leathery leaves.

rub·ber-stamp (rub′ər·stamp′) *v.t.* **1.** To endorse, initial, or approve with the mark made by a rubber stamping device. **2.** *Informal* To pass or approve as a matter of routine.

rub·bish (rub′ish) *n.* **1.** Waste refuse, or broken matter; trash. **2.** Nonsense; rot. [ME *rubbous*] — **rub′bish·y** *adj.*

rub·ble (rub′əl; *for def. 3, also* rōō′bəl) *n.* **1.** Rough, irregular pieces of broken stone. **2.** The debris to which buildings of brick, stone, etc., are reduced by violent actions, as by earthquakes or bombings. **3.** Rough pieces of stone for use in construction; also, masonry composed of such pieces. [Origin uncertain] — **rub′bly** *adj.*

rub·down (rub′doun′) *n.* A type of massage.

rube (rōōb) *n. Slang* A farmer; rustic. [Abbreviation of *Reuben*, a personal name]

ru·bel·la (rōō·bel′ə) *n. Pathol.* German measles. [< NL, neut. pl. of L *rubellus* reddish, dim. of *ruber* red]

ru·be·o·la (rōō·bē′ə·lə) *n. Pathol.* **1.** Measles (def. 1). **2.** German measles. [< NL, neut. pl. dim. of L *rubeus* red] — **ru·be′o·lar** *adj.*

Ru·bi·con (rōō′bi·kon) A river in north central Italy, forming the boundary separating Caesar's province of Gaul from Italy, and by crossing it he committed himself to war with Pompey. — **to cross the Rubicon** To be committed definitely to some course of action.

ru·bi·cund (rōō′bə·kənd) *adj.* Red, or inclined to redness; rosy. [< L *rubicundus* red] — **ru′bi·cun′di·ty** *n.*

ru·bid·i·um (rōō·bid′ē·əm) *n.* A soft, rare, silvery white, metallic element (symbol Rb) resembling potassium. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L *rubidus* red]

ru·ble (rōō′bəl) *n.* **1.** A standard monetary unit of the U.S.S.R.: in 1960 worth about 25 U.S. cents: also spelled *rouble.* **2.** Formerly, a Russian silver coin.

ru·bric (rōō′brik) *n.* **1.** A part of an early manuscript or a book that appears in red, used to indicate initial letters, headings, etc. **2.** *Eccl.* A direction or rule printed in a devotional or liturgical office. **3.** A heading or title, as of a chapter, statute, etc. **4.** Any direction or rule of conduct. — *adj.* **1.** Red or reddish. **2.** Written in red. [< F < L *rubrica* red earth] — **ru′bri·cal** *adj.* — **ru′bri·cal·ly** *adv.*

ru·bri·cate (rōō′brə·kāt) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To mark or tint with red; illuminate with red, as a book. [< L *rubricare* to redden] — **ru′bri·ca′tion** *n.* — **ru′bri·ca′tor** *n.*

ru·by (rōō′bē) *n. pl.* **·bies** **1.** A translucent, deep purplish red variety of corundum, highly valued as a gemstone: also called *Oriental ruby.* **2.** A rich red color like that of a ruby. — *adj.* Pertaining to or like a ruby; being of a rich crimson. — *v.t.* **·bied, ·by·ing** To tint with the color of a ruby; redden. [< OF *rubi*, ult. < L *rubeus* red]

ruche (rōōsh) *n.* A quilted or ruffled strip of fine fabric, worn about the neck or wrists of a woman's costume. [< F, beehive, frill]

ruch·ing (rōō′shing) *n.* Material for ruches; also, ruches collectively.

ruck·sack (ruk′sak′, rōōk′-) *n.* A canvas knapsack. [< G < *rucken*, var. of *rücken* back + *sack* sack]

ruck·us (ruk′əs) *n. U.S. Slang* An uproar; commotion; rumpus. [Prob. blend of RUMPUS and RUCTION]

rud·der (rud′ər) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* A broad, flat, movable device hinged vertically at the stern of a vessel to direct its course. **2.** Anything that guides or directs a course. **3.** *Aeron.* A hinged or pivoted surface, used to control the position of an aircraft about its vertical axis. [OE *rōthor* oar, scull]

rud·dy (rud′ē) *adj.* **·di·er, ·di·est** **1.** Tinged with red. **2.** Having a healthy glow; rosy: a *ruddy* complexion. **3.** *Brit. Slang* Bloody: a euphemism. [OE *rudig*] — **rud′di·ly** *adv.* — **rud′di·ness** *n.*

ruddy duck A small North American duck having stiffened tail feathers and, in the adult male, a bright chestnut-colored body.

rude (rōōd) *adj.* **rud·er, rud·est** **1.** Offensively blunt or uncivil; rough or abrupt; impudent. **2.** Characterized by lack of polish or refinement; uncultivated; uncouth. **3.** Unskillfully made or done; crude; rough. **4.** Robust; strong. **5.** Barbarous; savage. [< OF, or < L *rudis* rough] — **rude′ly** *adv.* — **rude′ness** *n.*

ru·di·ment (rōō′də·mənt) *n.* **1.** A first principle, step, stage, or condition. **2.** That which is as yet undeveloped or only partially developed. **3.** *Biol.* An undeveloped or functionless organ or part. [< F < L *rudiment* first attempt]

ru·di·men·ta·ry (rōō′də·men′tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or of the nature of a rudiment or first principle; elementary. **2.** Being or remaining in an imperfectly developed state; vestigial; abortive. Also **ru′di·men′tal.** — **ru′di·men′ta·ri·ly** *adv.* — **ru′di·men′ta·ri·ness** *n.*

rue[1] (rōō) *v.* **rued, ru·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To feel sorrow or remorse for. — *v.i.* **2.** To feel sorrow or remorse; be regretful. — **Syn.** See MOURN. — *n.* Sorrowful remembrance; regret. [OE *hrēowan* to be sorry] — **ru′er** *n.*

rue[2] (rōō) *n.* **1.** A small, bushy herb with bitter, acrid leaves, formerly much used in medicine. **2.** Any bitter draft. [< F < L *ruta* < Gk. *rhytē*]

rue·ful (rōō′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Feeling or causing sorrow, regret, or pity; deplorable; sorrowful. **2.** Expressing sorrow or pity. — **rue′ful·ly** *adv.* — **rue′ful·ness** *n.*

ruff[1] (ruf) *n.* **1.** A pleated, round, heavily starched collar popular in the 16th century. **2.** Ruffle[1] (defs. 1 and 2). **3.** A natural collar of projecting feathers or hair around the neck of a bird or mammal. **4.** An Old World sandpiper of which the male in the breeding season has an erectile frill of feathers about the neck. [Short for RUFFLE[1]]

ruff[2] (ruf) *n.* The playing of a trump upon another suit when one has no cards of that suit. — *v.t. & v.i.* To trump when unable to follow suit. [< OF *roffle, rouffle, ronfle*]

ruffed (ruft) *adj.* Having a ruff, ruffle, or frill; ruffled.

ruffed grouse A North American grouse: called *partridge* in the northern and *pheasant* in the southern U.S.

ruf·fi·an (ruf′ē·ən, ruf′yən) *n.* A lawless, brutal fellow; a tough. — *adj.* Lawlessly or recklessly brutal or cruel. [< OF *ruffian*] — **ruf′fi·an·ism** *n.* — **ruf′fi·an·ly** *adj.*

ruf·fle[1] (ruf′əl) *n.* **1.** A pleated strip or frill of fabric, lace, etc., used as trim or ornament. **2.** Anything resembling such a strip. Also called *ruff.* **3.** A temporary discomposure. **4.** A slight disturbance, as a ripple. — *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.t.* **1.** To disturb or destroy the smoothness or regularity of. **2.** To draw into folds or ruffles; gather. **3.** To furnish with ruffles. **4.** To erect (the feathers) in a ruff. **5.** To disturb or irritate; upset. **6.** To riffle (the pages of a book). **7.** To shuffle (cards). — *v.i.* **8.** To be or become rumpled or disordered. **9.** To become disturbed or irritated. [< RUFFLE[2]]

ruf·fle[2] (ruf′əl) *n.* A low continuous beat of a drum, not as loud as a roll. — *v.t.* **·fled, ·fling** To beat a ruffle upon, as a drum. [< earlier *ruff*; prob. imit.]

ru·fous (rōō′fəs) *adj.* Dull red. [< L *rufus* red]

rug (rug) *n.* **1.** A heavy textile fabric, made in one piece, to cover a portion of a floor. **2.** A covering made from the skins of animals. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* A heavy coverlet or lap robe. [< Scand. Cf. Norw. *rugga* coarse coverlet.]

rug·by football (rug′bē) **1.** *Usu. cap. Brit.* A form of football in which the ball is propelled toward the opponents' goal by kicking or carrying. **2.** *Canadian* Football (def. 3).

rug·ged (rug′id) *adj.* **1.** Having a surface full of abrupt inequalities; broken into irregular points or crags; rough; uneven. **2.** Shaggy; unkempt; ragged. **3.** Rough in temper, character, or action. **4.** Having strongly marked features; wrinkled. **5.** Lacking culture or refinement; rude. **6.** Rough to the ear; grating. **7.** Robust; sturdy; hale. **8.** Tempestuous; stormy. [< Scand.] — **rug′ged·ly** *adv.* — **rug′ged·ness** *n.*

ru·gose (rōō′gōs) *adj.* Full of wrinkles, as some leaves. Also **ru′gous** (-gəs). [< L < *ruga* wrinkle]

ru·in (rōō′in) *n.* **1.** Total destruction of value or usefulness. **2.** Loss of honor, position, wealth, etc.; degradation. **3.** *Often pl.* That which remains of something demolished or decayed. **4.** A condition of desolation or destruction. **5.** That which causes destruction, downfall or injury. — *v.t.* **1.** To bring to ruin; destroy. **2.** To bring to bankruptcy or poverty. **3.** To deprive of chastity; seduce. — *v.i.* **4.** To fall into ruin. — **Syn.** See DEMOLISH. [< OF < L < *ruere* to fall] — **ru′in·a·ble** *adj.* — **ru′in·er** *n.*

ru·in·a·tion (rōō′in·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of ruining, or the state of being ruined. **2.** Something that ruins.

ru·in·ous (rōō′in·əs) *adj.* **1.** Causing or tending to ruin. **2.** Falling to ruin; decayed. — **ru′in·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ru′in·ous·ness** *n.*

rule (rōōl) *n.* **1.** Controlling power, or its possession and exercise; government; dominion; authority. **2.** A method or principle of action: I make early rising my *rule.* **3.** An authoritative direction or enactment respecting the doing or method of doing something: the *rules* of a game. **4.** A regulation or body of directions laid down by or for a religious order. **5.** A prescribed form, method, or set of instructions for solving a given class of mathematical problems. **6.** An established usage or law, fixing the form or use of words or the construction of sentences. **7.** Something belonging to the ordinary course of events or condition of things. **8.** Regular or proper method; propriety, as of conduct; regularity. **9.** *Law* A judicial decision on some motion or special application: a *rule* to show cause. **10.** A straightedged instrument for use in measuring, or as a guide in drawing lines. **11.** *Printing* A strip of type-high metal for handling type or for printing a rule or line. — **as a rule** Ordinarily; usually. — *v.* **ruled, rul·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To have authority or control over; govern. **2.** To influence greatly; dominate. **3.** To decide or determine judicially or authoritatively. **4.** To restrain; keep in check. **5.** To mark with straight, parallel lines. **6.** To make (a straight line) with or as with a ruler. — *v.i.* **7.** To have authority or control; be in command. **8.** To maintain a standard of rates. **9.** To form and express a decision. [< OF < L *regula* ruler, rule] — **rul′a·ble** *adj.*

rule of thumb **1.** Measurement by the thumb. **2.** Roughly practical rather than scientifically accurate measure.

rul·er (rōō′lər) *n.* **1.** One who rules or governs, as a sovereign. **2.** A straight-edged instrument for use in measuring, or as a guide in drawing lines, usu. marked in inches.

rul·ing (rōō′ling) *adj.* Exercising dominion; controlling; predominant. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who rules or governs. **2.** A decision, as of a judge or presiding officer.

rum[1] (rum) *n.* **1.** An alcoholic liquor distilled from fermented molasses or cane juice. **2.** Any alcoholic liquor. [Origin uncertain; ? short for obs. *rumbullion* rum]

rum[2] (rum) *adj. Brit. Slang* Queer; strange; peculiar. [? < Romany *rom* man]

Ru·ma·ni·an (rōō·mā′nē·ən, -mān′yən) *adj.* Of Rumania, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Rumania. **2.** The Romance language of the Rumanians.

rum·ba (rum′bə, *Sp.* rōōm′bä) *n.* **1.** A dance having its origin among Cuban Negroes. **2.** A modern ballroom dance based on this; also, music for or in the manner of such a dance. Also spelled *rhumba.* [< Am.Sp.]

rum·ble (rum′bəl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.i.* **1.** To make a low, heavy, rolling sound, as thunder. **2.** To move or proceed with such a sound. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to make a low, heavy, rolling sound. **4.** To utter with such a sound. — *n.* **1.** A continuous low, heavy, rolling sound. **2.** A seat or baggage compartment in the rear of a carriage. **3.** A folding seat in the back of a coupé or roadster: in full **rumble seat.** **4.** *U.S. Slang* A gang fight, usu. involving teenagers. [ME *rombler*] — **rum′bler** *n.* — **rum′bling·ly** *adv.* — **rum′bly** *adj.*

ru·men (rōō′men) *n. pl.* **ru·mi·na** (rōō′mə·nə) The first stomach or the cud of a ruminant. [< L gullet]

ru·mi·nant (rōō′mə·nənt) *n.* One of a division or suborder of even-toed, cud-chewing mammals, as the deer, sheep, cow, camel, etc., having a stomach with four cavities, the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. — *adj.* **1.** Chewing the cud. **2.** Of or pertaining to a ruminant. **3.** Meditative or contemplative. [< L < *ruminare* to chew over]

ru·mi·nate (rōō′mə·nāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** **1.** To chew (food previously swallowed and regurgitated) over again; chew (the cud). **2.** To meditate or reflect (upon); ponder. [See RUMINANT.] — **ru′mi·nat′ing·ly** *adv.* — **ru′mi·na′tion** *n.* — **ru′mi·na′tive** *adj.* — **ru′mi·na′tive·ly** *adv.* — **ru′mi·na′tor** *n.*

rum·mage (rum′ij) *v.* **·maged, ·mag·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To search through (a place, box, etc.) by turning over and disarranging the contents; ransack. **2.** To find or bring out by searching: with *out* or *up.* — *v.i.* **3.** To make a thorough search. — *n.* **1.** Any act of rummaging. **2.** An upheaval or stirring up; bustle. [< MF < *arrumer* to stow cargo] — **rum′mag·er** *n.*

rummage sale **1.** A sale of second-hand objects to obtain money for some charitable purpose. **2.** A sale of unclaimed articles, or a sale for clearing out articles prior to restocking.

rum·my[1] (rum′ē) *n.* A card game in which each player draws a card and discards another card, the object being to combine or get rid of one's hand in sequences of three cards or more of the same suit. [? < Brit. slang *rummy,* queer]

rum·my[2] (rum′ē) *n. pl.* **·mies** *Slang* A drunkard. — *adj.* **·mi·er, ·mi·est** Of or resembling rum: a *rummy* flavor.

ru·mor (rōō′mər) *n.* **1.** An unverified or unfounded report, story, etc., circulating from person to person. **2.** Common gossip; hearsay. — *v.t.* To tell or spread as a rumor; noise about. Also *Brit.* **ru′mour.** [< OF < L]

rump (rump) *n.* **1.** The rounded or fleshy upper part of the hind quarters of an animal. **2.** The analogous region in man; the buttocks. **3.** A cut of beef between the loin and the round. **4.** A legislative group, representative body, etc., having only a remnant of its original membership, and therefore regarded as unauthoritative. **5.** A last, often undesirable remnant. [ME *rumpe* < Scand.]

rum·ple (rum′pəl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To form into creases or folds; wrinkle; ruffle. — *n.* **1.** An irregular fold; untidy wrinkling. **2.** The condition of being rumpled. [< MDu. *rumpelen*]

rum·pus (rum′pəs) *n. Informal* A row; wrangle; to-do. [Origin uncertain]

rumpus room A room for games, informal gatherings, etc.

rum·run·ner (rum′run′ər) *n.* A person or ship illicitly transporting alcoholic liquors across a border.

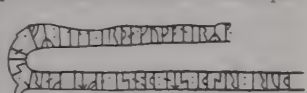
run (run) *v.* **ran** (*Archaic* or *Dial.* **run**), **run, run·ning** *v.i.* **1.** To move by rapid steps, faster than walking, in such a manner that both feet are off the ground for a portion of each step. **2.** To move rapidly; go swiftly. **3.** To flee; take flight. **4.** To make a brief or rapid journey. **5.** To make regular trips; ply. **6.** To be a candidate or contestant. **7.** To finish a race in a specified position. **8.** To move or pass easily: The rope *runs* through the block. **9.** To elapse: The hours *run* by. **10.** To proceed in direction or extent: This road *runs* north. **11.** To move in or as in a stream; flow. **12.** To become liquid and flow, as wax; also, to spread or mingle confusedly, as colors when wet. **13.** To move or pass into a specified condition: to *run* into trouble. **14.** To climb or grow in long shoots, as vines. **15.** To become torn by unraveling, as a knitted fabric. **16.** To suppurate. **17.** To leak. **18.** To continue or proceed: The conversation *ran* on and on. **19.** To be in operation; be operative; work: Will the engine *run*? **20.** To continue in existence or effect; extend in time: Genius *runs* in her family. **21.** To be reported or expressed: The story *runs* as follows. **22.** To migrate, as salmon from the sea. **23.** To occur or return, as to the mind. **24.** To incline; tend: Her taste *runs* to luxuries. **25.** To be performed or repeated in continuous succession, as a play. **26.** To make a rapid succession of demands for payment, as on a bank. **27.** To continue unexpired or unpaid, as a debt; become payable. — *v.t.* **28.** To go along by running, as a route, course, or path. **29.** To make one's way over, through, or past: to *run* rapids. **30.** To perform or accomplish by or as by running: to *run* an errand. **31.** To compete against in or as in a race. **32.** To enter (a horse, etc.) for a race. **33.** To present and support as a candidate. **34.** To hunt or chase, as game. **35.** To bring to a specified condition by or as by running: to *run* oneself out of breath. **36.** To drive or force: with *out of, off, into, through,* etc. **37.** To cause (a vessel) to move rapidly or freely. **38.** To move (the eye, hand, etc.) quickly or lightly. **39.** To cause to move, slide, etc., as into a specified position. **40.** To cause to go or ply: to *run* a train. **41.** To transport or convey in a vessel or vehicle. **42.** To smuggle. **43.** To cause to flow. **44.** To give forth a flow of, emit: Her eyes *ran* tears. **45.** To mold, as from melted metal. **46.** To sew or stitch in a continuous line. **47.** To maintain or control the motion or operation of, as a machine. **48.** To direct or control; manage; oversee. **49.** To allow to continue or mount up, as a bill: often with *up.* **50.** To become liable to; incur: to *run* a risk. **51.** In games, to make (a number of points, strokes, etc.) successively. **52.** To publish in a magazine or newspaper: to *run* an ad. **53.** To mark, set down, or trace, as a boundary line. **54.** To suffer from (a fever, etc.). — **to run across** To meet by chance. — **to run down** **1.** To pursue and overtake, as a fugitive. **2.** To strike down while moving. **3.** To speak of disparagingly; decry. — **to run in** **1.** To insert; include. **2.** *Printing* To print without a paragraph or break. **3.** *Slang* To arrest and place in confinement. — **to run into** **1.** To meet by chance. **2.** To collide with. — **to run off** **1.** To produce on a typewriter, printing press, etc. **2.** To decide (a tied race, game, etc.) by the outcome of another, subsequent race, game, etc. **3.** To flee or escape; elope. — **to run out** To come to an end; be exhausted, as supplies. — **to run out of** To exhaust one's supply of. — **to run over** **1.** To ride or drive over; run down. **2.** To overflow. **3.** To go over or examine hastily or quickly; rehearse. — **to run through** **1.** To spend wastefully; squander. **2.** To stab or pierce. **3.** To run over (def. 3). — **to run up** To produce; make hurriedly, as on a sewing machine. — *n.* **1.** An act or instance of running or going rapidly. **2.** The movement or gait of running: to break into a *run.* **3.** A distance covered by running. **4.** A distance traveled between two points, as by a train or vessel. **5.** A rapid, brief journey. **6.** A course or route followed, as in reaching a destination. **7.** The privilege of free use or access: to have the *run* of the place. **8.** A series, succession, or sequence, as of playing cards in consecutive order. **9.** A continuous spell of a specified condition: a *run* of luck. **10.** A continuous period of consecutive performances, as of a theatrical production. **11.** A trend or tendency: the *run* of the market. **12.** A broadly inclusive category, type, or class: the general *run* of readers. **13.** A period of continuous operation, as of a machine or factory. **14.** The output during such a period. **15.** A continuous length or extent of something: a *run* of pipe. **16.** A lengthwise rip in knitted fabric. **17.** Characteristic direction, tendency, or linear form: the *run* of the grain in wood. **18.** Flowing movement, as of a stream. **19.** The period of such flow. **20.** A swift stream or current. **21.** Mass migration or movement of animals, esp. of fish to spawn. **22.** A trail, burrow, or terrain frequented by a specific kind of animal. **23.** An enclosure for animals or poultry. **24.** A steep course or runway, as for skiing or sledding. **25.** An unusually large number of demands for payment, as on a bank. **26.** Any great sustained demand, as for a commodity. **27.** *Music* A rapid succession of tones. **28.** In baseball, the scoring of a point by a player's making a complete circuit of the bases; also, a point so scored. **29.** In football, the ball carrier's attempt to run through or around the line of the opposing team. **30.** In cricket, the scoring of a point by both batsmen successfully reaching opposite popping creases after a hit. **31.** *Naut.* The after part of a ship's bottom. **32.** *Mining* A vein of ore or rock. **33.** An approach to a target made by a bombing plane: also *bomb run.* — **a run for one's money** A successful or satisfactory instance of activity, esp. in competition. — **in the long run** As the ultimate outcome of any train of circumstances. — *adj.* **1.** Made liquid; melted. **2.** Made by a process of melting and casting or molding: *run* metal; *run* butter. [OE *rinnan*]

run·a·bout (run′ə·bout′) *n.* **1.** A small, open automobile. **2.** A light, open wagon. **3.** A small motorboat.

run·a·round (run′ə·round′) *n.* **1.** *Slang* Artful deception; evasion. **2.** *Printing* Type set narrower than the body of the text, as around illustrations.

run·a·way (run′ə·wā′) *adj.* **1.** Escaping or escaped from restraint or control; fugitive. **2.** Brought about by running away: a *runaway* marriage. **3.** Easily won as a horse race. **4.** Of, pertaining to, or characterized by a rapid price rise. — *n.* **1.** One who or that which runs away; also, a horse whose driver has lost control. **2.** An act of running away. **3.** *Informal* An easily won victory, as in a race.

run·down (run′doun′) *n.* A summary; resumé.
run-down (run′doun′) *adj.* **1.** Debilitated; physically weak; tired out. **2.** Dilapidated; shabby. **3.** Stopped because not wound: said of a timepiece.
rune (rōōn) *n.* **1.** Any of the characters in the runic alphabet. **2.** A Finnish poem or one of its cantos. **3.** *pl.* Old Norse lore expressed in or as in runes. **4.** Any obscure or mystic song, poem, verse, or saying. [< OE and ON *rūn* mystery, secret conversation] — **ru′nic** *adj.*



RUNES
(Tomb inscription, Sweden, 11th century)

rung[1] (rung) *n.* **1.** A round crosspiece forming one of the steps of a ladder. **2.** A crosspiece used in chairs to strengthen or support the legs or back. **3.** The spoke of a wheel. [OE *hrung* staff, pole]
rung[2] (rung) Past participle of RING[2].
runic alphabet An old Germanic alphabet, probably originating in both the Latin and Greek, consisting originally of 24 characters, or runes.
run-in (*n.* run′in′; *adj.* run′in′) *n.* **1.** A quarrel; bicker. **2.** *Printing* Inserted or added matter. — *adj. Printing* Inserted or added.
run·nel (run′əl) *n.* A rivulet. [OE *rynel* < *rinnan* to run]
run·ner (run′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which runs, as one who runs a race. **2.** One who operates or manages anything. **3.** One who runs errands or goes about on any kind of business. **4.** That part on which an object runs or slides: the *runner* of a skate. **5.** *Mech.* A device to assist sliding motion. **6.** Any of various fishes of warm and temperate seas. **7.** *Bot.* **a** A slender, procumbent stem rooting at the end and nodes, as in the strawberry. **b** Any of various twining plants. **8.** A smuggler. **9.** A long, narrow rug or carpeting, used in hallways, etc. **10.** A narrow strip of cloth, used on tables, dressers, etc.
run·ner-up (run′ər·up′) *n.* A contestant or team finishing in second place.
run·ning (run′ing) *adj.* **1.** Moving or going rapidly. **2.** Inclined or trained to run rather than to pace or trot: said of horses. **3.** Creeping or clinging, as a plant. **4.** Flowing: *running* water. **5.** Slipping or untying easily: a *running* knot. **6.** Moving or pulling easily and freely: a *running* rope. **7.** Being or able to be in operation: a *running* engine. **8.** Cursive: a *running* handwriting. **9.** Liquid or fluid. **10.** Discharging, as pus from a sore. **11.** In a straight line: three feet *running*. **12.** Current, as an account. **13.** Continuous; repeated: a *running* design. **14.** Kept up continuously. **15.** Passing; cursory: a *running* glance. **16.** Following one another without intermission; successive: He talked three hours *running*. **17.** Accomplished or performed with a run. **18.** Of or pertaining to a trip or run: the train's *running* time. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which runs. **2.** That which runs or flows. **3.** The amount or quantity that runs. **4.** Ability or power to run. **5.** Competition or race: He is out of the *running*.
running board A footboard on the side of a locomotive, street car, automobile, etc.
running gear *Mech.* The wheels and axles of any vehicle and their immediate attachments, as distinguished from the body that they support.
running knot A knot made so as to slip along a noose and tighten when pulled upon: also called *slipknot*.
running light *Aeron.* A navigation light.
running mate The candidate for the lesser of two offices closely linked by constitutional provisions, as the vice-presidency with the presidency.
running title *Printing* A title or headline repeated at the head of every page or every other page throughout a book or chapter. Also **running head.**
Run·ny·mede (run′i·mēd) A meadow in Surrey, England, where King John is said to have signed the Magna Carta.
run-off (run′ôf′, -of′) *n.* **1.** The part of the rainfall that is not absorbed directly by the soil but is drained off in rills or streams. **2.** A special contest held to break a tie.
run-of-the-mill (run′əv·thə·mil′) *adj.* Not special in any way; average; ordinary. Also **run-of-the-mine.**
run-on (run′on′, -ôn′) *n. Printing* Appended matter.
runt (runt) *n.* **1.** An unusually small, weak, or stunted animal or plant. **2.** A small person: often a contemptuous term. [< Scot. *runt* old cow]
runt·y (runt′ē) *adj.* **runt·i·er, runt·i·est** Dwarfish; stunted. — **runt′i·ness** *n.*
run·way (run′wā′) *n.* **1.** A way or path over or through which something runs. **2.** A pathway extending from a stage into the audience, used for certain types of theatrical entertainment. **3.** The channel or bed of a stream. **4.** In lumbering, a chute. **5.** Any track specially laid for wheeled vehicles. **6.** *Aeron.* An improved or unimproved roadlike surface, used for the takeoff and landing of aircraft.
ru·pee (rōō·pē′) *n.* **1.** The standard monetary unit of various countries; esp., the rupee of India and Pakistan, in 1960 worth about 21 U.S. cents. **2.** A coin of this denomination. [< Hind. < Skt. *rūpya* coined silver]
rup·ture (rup′chər) *n.* **1.** The act of breaking apart, or the state of being broken apart. **2.** *Pathol.* Hernia. **3.** Breach of friendship or concord between individuals or nations. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·tured, ·tur·ing 1.** To break apart; separate into parts. **2.** To affect with or suffer a rupture. [< Med.L *ruptura* < *rumpere* to break] — **rup′tur·a·ble** *adj.*
ru·ral (rōōr′əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the country as distinguished from the city or the town; rustic. **2.** Of or pertaining to farming or agriculture. [< MF < L < *rus, ruris* country] — **ru′ral·ism** *n.* — **ru′ral·ist** *n.* — **ru′ral·ly** *adv.*
— **Syn. 1.** Rustic, pastoral, bucolic. — **Ant.** urban.
rural free delivery A government service of house-to-house free mail delivery in rural districts.
ru·ral·i·ty (rōō·ral′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties 1.** The condition or quality of being rural. **2.** A rural characteristic.
ru·ral·ize (rōōr′əl·iz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make rural. — *v.i.* **2.** To go into or live in the country; rusticate. — **ru′ral·i·za′tion** *n.*
ruse (rōōz) *n.* An action intended to mislead or deceive; a stratagem; trick. [< MF *ruser* to turn aside.]
rush[1] (rush) *v.t.* **1.** To move or go swiftly or with violence. **2.** To make an attack; charge: with *on* or *upon*. **3.** To proceed recklessly or rashly; plunge: with *in* or *into*. **4.** To come, surge, flow, etc., suddenly. — *v.t.* **5.** To drive or push with haste or violence; hurry. **6.** To do or perform hastily or hurriedly. **7.** To make a sudden assault upon; also, to capture by such an assault. **8.** *Slang* To seek the favor of with assiduous attentions. **9.** In football, to move (the ball) toward the goal of the other team by a rush or rushes. **10.** *U.S.* To consider for membership in a fraternity or sorority. — *n.* **1.** The act of rushing; a sudden turbulent movement, drive, or onset. **2.** A state of pressed or impatient activity; hurry. **3.** A sudden surge, flow, or outpouring. **4.** A sudden pressing demand. **5.** A sudden or urgent press of traffic, business, etc. **6.** A sudden flocking of people to a new region, esp. to an area rumored to be rich in a precious mineral: a gold *rush*. **7.** *U.S.* A general contest or scrimmage between students, as between sophomores and freshmen. **8.** In football, an attempt to take the ball through the opposing linemen and toward the goal. **9.** *pl.* In motion pictures, the first film prints of a scene or series of scenes, before editing or selection. — *adj.* **1.** Requiring urgency or haste: a *rush* order. **2.** Characterized by much traffic, business, etc. **3.** *U.S.* Denoting a time or function set aside for fraternity or sorority members to meet new students to consider them for membership: *rush* week. [< AF < OF *ruser, reuser* to push back < L *recusare* to refuse] — **rush′er** *n.*
rush[2] (rush) *n.* **1.** Any one of various grasslike, usu. aquatic herbs, growing in marshy ground and having pliant, cylindrical, leafless stems, often used for making mats, etc. **2.** A thing of little or no value. **3.** A rushlight. [OE *risc*]
rush hour A time when traffic or business is at its height. — **rush-hour** (rush′our′) *adj.*
rush·light (rush′lit′) *n.* A candle made by dipping a rush in tallow. Also **rush candle.**
rush·y (rush′ē) *adj.* **rush·i·er, rush·i·est 1.** Abounding in, covered with, or made of rushes. **2.** Like a rush.
rusk (rusk) *n.* **1.** A light, sweetened bread or biscuit. **2.** Bread or cake that has been crisped and browned in an oven. [< Sp. *rosca*, twisted loaf of bread]
rus·set (rus′it) *n.* **1.** A reddish or yellowish brown. **2.** Coarse homespun cloth or clothing of this color. **3.** Russet leather. **4.** A winter apple of greenish color, mottled with brown. — *adj.* **1.** Of a reddish or yellowish brown color. **2.** Made of russet cloth; also, coarse; homespun. **3.** Finished, but not blacked: said of leather. [< OF < L *russus* red]
Rus·sian (rush′ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Russia, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** A native or citizen of the Soviet Union or the former Russian Empire; esp., a Great Russian, Ukrainian, or Byelorussian. **2.** The East Slavic language of Russia, including Great Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian.
Russian dressing Mayonnaise dressing to which chili sauce, pimientos, chopped pickles, etc., have been added.
Rus·sian·ize (rush′ən·iz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make Russian in manner, character, etc.
Russian leather A smooth, well-tanned, high-grade leather of calfskin or light cattle hide, dressed with birch oil.

Russian Orthodox Church An autonomous branch of the Eastern Orthodox Church in the Soviet Union, under the patriarch of Moscow.
Russian Revolution See under REVOLUTION.
Russian roulette A suicidal stunt in which one aims a revolver containing one cartridge at one's head and pulls the trigger, with one chance in six of being shot.
Russian wolfhound The borzoi.
Russo- *combining form* Russia; pertaining to the Russians.
Russo-Japanese War (rus/ō·jap/ə·nēz/, -nēs/) See table for WAR.
Rus·so·pho·bi·a (rus/ə·fō/bē·ə) *n.* Fear of the policy or influence of Russia. — **Rus/so·phobe** *n.*
rust (rust) *n.* **1.** The reddish or yellow coating formed on iron and steel by exposure to air and moisture, consisting of ferric hydroxide, $Fe(OH)_3$, and ferric oxide, Fe_2O_3. **2.** Any film formed on the surface of a metal by oxidation. **3.** A disease caused by a parasitic fungi living on the tissues of higher plants and characterized by the appearance of orange or reddish brown spots on the host plant. **4.** Any coating or accretion formed by a corrosive or degenerative process. **5.** A condition or tendency that destroys or weakens energy or active qualities: the *rust* of idleness. **6.** Any of several shades of reddish brown, somewhat like the color of rust, but containing more orange. — *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To become or cause to become rusty. **2.** To contract or cause to contract rust. **3.** To become or cause to become weakened or impaired because of inactivity or disuse. **4.** To make or become rust-colored. [OE *rūst*]
rus·tic (rus/tik) *adj.* **1.** Typical of or appropriate to simple country life. **2.** Plain; simple; homely: *rustic* garments. **3.** Uncultured; rude; awkward. **4.** Unaffected; artless: *rustic* simplicity. **5.** Of or pertaining to any irregular style of work or decoration appropriate to the country; also, of or pertaining to work in natural, unpolished wood. — **Syn.** See RURAL. — *n.* **1.** One who lives in the country. **2.** A country person of simple manners or character; also, a coarse or clownish person. **3.** Rusticwork. **4.** Country dialect. [< L < *rus* country] — **rus/ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
rus·ti·cate (rus/tə·kāt) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To go to the country. **2.** To stay or live in the country. — *v.t.* **3.** To send or banish to the country. **4.** To make rustic. **5.** To construct (masonry) with rusticwork. — **rus/ti·ca/tion** *n.* — **rus/ti·ca/tor** *n.*
rus·tic·i·ty (rus·tis/ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Rustic condition, character, or manners; simplicity; homeliness; awkwardness. **2.** A rustic trait or peculiarity.
rus·tic·work (rus/tik·wûrk/) *n.* **1.** Ashlar masonry having rough surfaces, and often deeply sunk grooves at the joints. **2.** Furniture, etc., made of the natural limbs and roots of trees. Also **rustic work.**
rus·tle[1] (rus/əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To fall, move, or cause to move with a quick succession of small, light, rubbing sounds, as dry leaves or sheets of paper. — *n.* A rustling sound. [ME *rustel*, alter. of OE *hrūxlian* to make a noise] — **rus/tler** *n.* — **rus/tling·ly** *adv.*
rus·tle[2] (rus/əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** **1.** *Informal* To act with or obtain by energetic or vigorous action. **2.** *U.S. Informal* To steal (cattle, etc.). [Blend of RUSH and HUSTLE]
rus·tler (rus/lər) *n. U.S. Informal* **1.** A cattle or horse thief. **2.** A pushing, energetic person.
rust·y (rus/tē) *adj.* **rust·i·er, rust·i·est** **1.** Covered or affected with rust. **2.** Consisting of or produced by rust. **3.** Having the reddish or yellowish appearance of rust: said often of salted fish or meat that has become rancid. **4.** Impaired by inaction or want of exercise; also, stiff. **5.** Ineffective or weakened through neglect; also, having lost skill for want of practice. **6.** *Biol.* Appearing as if covered with rust; brownish red. — **rust/i·ly** *adv.* — **rust/i·ness** *n.*
rut[1] (rut) *n.* **1.** A sunken track worn by a wheel, as in a road; also, a groove forming a path for anything. **2.** A settled habit or course of procedure; routine. — *v.t.* **rut·ted, rut·ting** To wear or make a rut or ruts in. [Var. of ROUTE]
rut[2] (rut) *n.* **1.** The sexual excitement of various animals, esp. of deer and other ruminants; estrus. **2.** The period during which this excitement lasts. — *v.* **rut·ted, rut·ting** *v.i.* To be in rut. [< MF < L < *rugire* to roar]
ru·ta·ba·ga (rōō/tə·bā/gə) *n.* **1.** A cultivated plant allied to the turnip. **2.** Its edible root. [< dial. Sw. *rotabagge*]
ruth (rōōth) *n. Archaic* **1.** Compassion; pity. **2.** Grief; repentance; regret. [ME < OE *hrēow* sad]
Ruth (rōōth) A widow of Moab who left her own people and went with her mother-in-law Naomi to Bethlehem. — *n.* The book of the Old Testament in which this story is told.
Ru·the·ni·an (rōō·thē/nē·ən) *n.* **1.** One of a group of Ukrainians living in eastern Czechoslovakia and the Transcarpathian Oblast, formerly Ruthenia. **2.** The Ukrainian language. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Ruthenians or their language.
ru·the·ni·um (rōō·thē/nē·əm) *n.* A gray, brittle, rare metallic element (symbol Ru) of the platinum group. See ELEMENT. [< NL, after *Ruthenia*]
ruth·less (rōōth/lis) *adj.* Having no compassion; merciless. [< RUTH] — **ruth/less·ly** *adv.* — **ruth/less·ness** *n.*
rut·tish (rut/ish) *adj.* Disposed to rut; lustful; libidinous.
rut·ty (rut/ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** Full of ruts. — **rut/ti·ness** *n.*
-ry Var. of -ERY.
rye (rī) *n.* **1.** The grain or seeds of a hardy cereal grass closely allied to wheat, used in the making of flour and whisky, and as a feed for livestock. **2.** The plant. **3.** Whisky distilled from rye or partly from rye. [OE *ryge*]
rye grass Darnel.

S

s, S (es) *n. pl.* **s's** or **ss, S's** or **Ss, ess·es** (es/iz) **1.** The 19th letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *s*, usu. a voiceless sibilant, but often voiced between vowels, as in *easy*. — *symbol* **1.** Anything shaped like an S. **2.** *Chem.* Sulfur (symbol S).
s- *Chem.* Symmetrical.
-s[1] A variant of *-es*[1], inflectional ending of the plurals of nouns, attached to nouns not ending in a sibilant or an affricate: *books, words, cars.* It represents (s) after a voiceless consonant, and (z) after a voiced consonant or a vowel. Compare *-es*[1].
-s[2] An inflectional ending used to form the third person singular present indicative of verbs not ending in a sibilant, affricate, or vowel: *reads, walks, sings.* Compare *-es*[2].
-s *suffix* On; of a; at: often used in adverbs without appreciable force: *nights, Mondays, always, towards.* [OE *-es*, forming adverbial genitives]
-'s[1] An inflectional ending used to form the possessive of singular nouns and of plural nouns not ending in *-s*: a *man's* world, *women's* fashions. In plurals ending in *-s* (or *-es*) a simple apostrophe is used as a sign of the possessive: a *girls'* school, the *churches'* steeples.
-'s[2] Contraction of: **a** Is: *He's* here. **b** Has: *She's* left. **c** Us: *Let's* go.
Sa *Chem.* Samarium.
Sab·ba·tar·i·an (sab/ə·târ/ē·ən) *adj.* Pertaining to the Sabbath or its strict observance. — *n.* **1.** A Christian who observes Sunday strictly. **2.** A Christian who observes the seventh day as the Sabbath. — **Sab/ba·tar/i·an·ism** *n.*
Sab·bath (sab/əth) *n.* **1.** The seventh day of the week, appointed in the Decalogue as a day of rest to be observed by the Jews; now, Saturday. **2.** The first day of the week as observed by Christians; Sunday. **3.** The institution or observance of a day of rest; a time of rest, peace, or quiet. **4.** The sabbatical year of the Jews. *Lev.* xxv 4. [Fusion of OE *sabat* and OF *sabbat, sabat*, both < L *sabbatum* < Gk. < Hebrew *shābath* to rest] — **Sab·bat/ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **Sab·bat/i·cal·ly** *adv.*
sab·bat·i·cal (sə·bat/i·kəl) *adj.* Of the nature of the Sabbath as a day of rest; offering rest at regular intervals. Also **sab·bat/ic.** — *n.* A sabbatical year. [See SABBATH]
sabbatical year **1.** In the ancient Jewish economy, every seventh year, in which the people were required to refrain from tillage. **2.** A year's vacation awarded to teachers in some American educational institutions every seven years.
sa·ber (sā/bər) *n.* **1.** A heavy one-edged cavalry sword with a thick-backed blade, often curved. **2.** In fencing, a light swordlike instrument, used for both thrusting and slashing, hits being scored with the point or either edge. — *v.t.* To strike, wound, or kill with a saber. Also, *Brit.*, *sabre*. [< F < G, prob. < Hung. *szabni* to cut]
Sa·bine (sā/bīn) *n.* One of an ancient central Italian people

conquered and absorbed by Rome in 290 B.C. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Sabines.

sa·ble (sā′bəl) *n.* **1.** A carnivore of northern Asia and Europe, related to the marten and prized for its valuable fur. **2.** The dressed fur of a sable, esp. of the Asian sable. **3.** *pl.* Garments made wholly or partly of this fur. **4.** The color black; also, mourning or a mourning garment. — *adj.* **1.** Black, esp. as the color of mourning. **2.** Made of or having the color of sable fur; dark brown. [< OF < Med.L *sabelum*]

sa·bot (sab′ō, *Fr.* sà·bō′) *n.* **1.** A wooden shoe. **2.** A shoe having a wooden sole but flexible shank. [< F < OF *savate*, ult. < Arabic *sabbat* sandal]

sab·o·tage (sab′ə·täzh, *Fr.* sà·bô·tàzh′) *n.* An act of malicious damage or destruction, as one intended to obstruct the production of war materiel by the enemy. — *v.* **·taged, ·tag·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To engage in sabotage. — *v.t.* **2.** To damage or destroy by sabotage. [< F < *sabot* sabot; with ref. to damage done to machinery with sabots]

sab·o·teur (sab′ə·tûr′, *Fr.* sà·bô·tœr′) *n.* One who engages in sabotage. [< F]

sa·bra (sä′brə) *n.* A native Israeli. [< Hebrew, cactus]

sa·bre (sā′bər) See SABER.

sac (sak) *n. Biol.* A membranous pouch or receptacle in an animal or plant, as for containing a liquid: the ink *sac* of a squid. [< F < L *saccus* sack[1]]

Sac (sak, sôk) See SAUK.

sac·cha·ride (sak′ə·rīd, -rid) *n. Chem.* Any of a large group of carbohydrates containing sugar, usu. classified as *monosaccharide*, *disaccharide*, etc.

sac·cha·rin (sak′ər·in) *n. Chem.* A white crystalline coal-tar compound, $C_7H_5O_3NS$, from 300 to 500 times sweeter than cane sugar, used as a noncaloric sweetening agent. [< L < Gk. ult. < Skt. *sharkarā* grit, sugar]

sac·cha·rine (sak′ər·in, -ə·rīn) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of sugar; sweet. **2.** Cloyingly sweet: a *saccharine* manner. — *n.* Saccharin. — **sac′cha·rine·ly** *adv.* — **sac′cha·rin′i·ty** *n.*

saccharo- *combining form* Sugar; of or pertaining to sugar. Also, before vowels, **sacchar-**. [See SACCHARIN]

sac·cha·rose (sak′ə·rōs) *n.* Sucrose.

sac·er·do·tal (sas′ər·dōt′l) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a priest or priesthood; priestly. **2.** Believing in the divine authority of the priesthood. [< MF < L *sacerdos*, *-dotis* priest] — **sac′·er·do′tal·ly** *adv.*

sac·er·do·tal·ism (sas′ər·dōt′l·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The character and methods of the priesthood; priestcraft. **2.** Zeal for priestly things.

sa·chem (sā′chəm) *n.* A North American Indian hereditary chief. [< Algonquian (Narraganset)]

sa·chet (sa·shā′, *esp. Brit.* sash′ā) *n.* A small ornamental bag for perfumed powder. [< MF, dim. of *sac* sack]

sack[1] (sak) *n.* **1.** A bag for holding bulky articles. **2.** A measure or weight of varying amount. **3.** A loose jacket-like garment, worn by women and babies: also **sacque.** **4.** *Slang* Dismissal: esp. in the phrases **to get the sack, to give (someone) the sack.** **5.** In baseball slang, a base. **6.** *U.S. Slang* A bed; mattress. — **to hit the sack** *U.S. Slang* To go to bed. — **to sack out** *U.S. Slang* To go to bed. — *v.t.* **1.** To put into a sack or sacks. **2.** To dismiss, as a servant. [OE < L < Gk. < Hebrew *saq* sack, sackcloth]

sack[2] (sak) *v.t.* To plunder or pillage (a town or city) after capturing. — *n.* **1.** The pillaging of a captured town or city. **2.** Loot or booty obtained by pillage. [< MF *sac* < Ital. *sacco*, orig., plunder < Med.L < L *saccus* sack[1]] — **sack′er** *n.*

sack[3] (sak) *n.* Light-colored Spanish dry wine; also, any strong white wine from southern Europe. [Earlier (*wyne*) *seck* < F (*vin*) *sec* dry (wine) < L *siccus* dry]

sack·but (sak′but) *n.* **1.** An early instrument resembling the trombone. **2.** In the Bible, a stringed instrument. [< MF < OF *saquer* to draw + *bouter* to push]

sack·cloth (sak′klôth′, -kloth′) *n.* **1.** A coarse cloth used for making sacks. **2.** Coarse cloth or haircloth worn in penance. — **in sackcloth and ashes** **1.** In the Bible, wearing garments of sackcloth and sprinkling ashes on one's head as marks of penance or sorrow. **2.** In any state of sorrow, penance, or self-abasement.

sack coat A short, loose-fitting coat with no waist seam.

sack·ful (sak′fo͝ol′) *n. pl.* **·fuls** Enough to fill a sack.

sack·ing (sak′ing) *n.* A coarse cloth made of hemp or flax and used for sacks.

sack race A race run with the feet in a sack.

sa·cral[1] (sā′krəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or situated near the sacrum. — *n.* A sacral vertebra or nerve.

sa·cral[2] (sā′krəl) *adj.* Pertaining to sacred rites. [< L *sacrum* rite < *sacer* sacred]

sac·ra·ment (sak′rə·mənt) *n.* **1.** *Eccl.* Any of certain rites ordained by Christ or by the church, as baptism, the Eucharist, confirmation, etc. **2.** *Often cap. Eccl.* **a** The Eucharist; the Lord's Supper. **b** The consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist: often with *the*. **3.** Any sign or token of a solemn covenant or pledge. **4.** Anything considered to have a secret or mysterious meaning. [< OF < L *sacrare* to consecrate]

sac·ra·men·tal (sak′rə·men′təl) *n.* **1.** One of certain rites, such as the use of holy water, oil, or salt, employed as adjuncts to sacraments, or regarded as analogous to a sacrament. **2.** *pl.* The objects, words, or ceremonies used in administering a sacrament. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a sacrament. **2.** Constituting or composing a sacrament. **3.** Having the influence or efficacy of a sacrament. **4.** Consecrated, as by sacred vows. — **sac′ra·men′tal·ism** *n.* — **sac′ra·men′tal·ist** *n.* — **sac′ra·men′tal·ly** *adv.*

sa·cred (sā′krid) *adj.* **1.** Set apart or dedicated to religious use; hallowed. **2.** Pertaining or related to deity, religion, or hallowed places or things. **3.** Consecrated or dedicated to a person or purpose. **4.** Entitled to reverence or respect; not to be profaned; inviolable. [< OF < L *sacrare* to treat as sacred] — **sa′cred·ly** *adv.* — **sa′cred·ness** *n.*

Sacred College The College of Cardinals.

sacred cow **1.** *U.S. Informal* Something or someone regarded as above criticism or reproach. **2.** A cow when considered sacred, as by the Hindus.

sac·ri·fice (sak′rə·fīs) *n.* **1.** The act of making an offering to a deity, in worship or atonement; also, that which is so offered. **2.** A giving up of some cherished or desired object, person, idea, etc., usu. for the sake of something else; also, that which is so given up. **3.** Loss incurred or suffered without return. **4.** A reduction of price that leaves little or no profit or involves loss. **5.** In baseball, a sacrifice hit. — *v.* **·ficed, ·fic·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make an offering or sacrifice of, as to a god or deity. **2.** To give up, yield, permit injury to, or relinquish (something valued) for the sake of something else, as a person, thing, or idea. **3.** To sell at a reduced price; part with at a loss. **4.** In baseball, to advance (one or more runners) by means of a sacrifice hit. — *v.i.* **5.** To make a sacrifice. **6.** To make a sacrifice hit. [< OF < L < *sacer* sacred + *facere* to perform, do] — **sac′ri·fic′er** *n.* — **sac′·ri·fic′ing·ly** *adv.*

sacrifice fly In baseball, a fly ball hit with less than two out that enables a runner on third base to score after the catch.

sacrifice hit In baseball, a bunt made with less than two out that enables a runner or runners to advance a base while the batter is being retired. Also **sacrifice bunt.**

sac·ri·fi·cial (sak′rə·fish′əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, performing, or like a sacrifice. — **sac′ri·fi′cial·ly** *adv.*

sac·ri·lege (sak′rə·lij) *n.* The act of violating or profaning anything sacred, including sacramental vows. [< OF < L < *sacer*, *sacris* sacred + *legere* to gather, steal] — **sac′ri·le′gist** (-lē′jist) *n.*

sac·ri·le·gious (sak′rə·lij′əs, -lē′jəs) *adj.* **1.** Having committed sacrilege; impious. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or like sacrilege. — **sac′ri·le′gious·ly** *adv.* — **sac′ri·le′gious·ness** *n.*

sac·ris·tan (sak′ris·tən) *n.* An officer having charge of the sacristy of a church. [< Med.L < L *sacer*, *sacris* sacred]

sac·ris·ty (sak′ris·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** A room in a religious house for the sacred vessels and vestments; vestry.

sacro- *combining form Med.* Near, or related to the sacrum. [< L (*os*) *sacrum* the sacral (bone)]

sac·ro·il·i·ac (sak′rō·il′ē·ak) *adj. Anat.* Pertaining to the sacrum and the ilium and to the joints or ligaments connecting them. [< SACRO- + ILIAC]

sac·ro·sanct (sak′rō·sangkt) *adj.* Peculiarly and exceedingly sacred; inviolable: sometimes used ironically. [< L < *sacro*, ablative of *sacrum* rite + *sanctus*, pp. of *sancire* to make holy, inviolable] — **sac′ro·sanc′ti·ty** *n.*

sa·crum (sā′krəm) *n. pl.* **·cra** (-krə) *Anat.* A composite bone formed by the union of the five vertebrae between the lumbar and caudal regions, constituting the dorsal part of the pelvis. For illus. see PELVIS. [< NL < L (*os*) *sacrum* sacred (bone); from its use in sacrifices]

sad (sad) *adj.* **sad·der, sad·dest** **1.** Sorrowful or depressed in spirits. **2.** Causing sorrow or pity; unfortunate. **3.** *Informal* Pitifully inadequate; bad; contemptible. **4.** Dark-hued; somber. [OE *sæd*, orig., sated] — **sad′ly** *adv.* — **sad′ness** *n.*

sad·den (sad′n) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become sad.

sad·dle (sad′l) *n.* **1.** A seat or pad for a rider, as on the back of a horse or on a bicycle. **2.** A padded cushion for a horse's back, used as part of a harness or to support a pack, etc. **3.** A part of an animal that is similar to a saddle in shape, position, etc.; esp., the lower part of the back of a fowl. **4.** The two hindquarters of a carcass, as of mutton, veal, or venison; also, the undivided loins of such a carcass. **5.** Something resembling a saddle in form or position, as a bearing for a car axle. — **in the saddle** In control. — *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.*

1. To put a saddle on. 2. To load, as with a burden. 3. To place as a burden or responsibility: with *upon*. — *v.i.* 4. To get into a saddle. [OE *sadol*]

sad·dle-backed (sad′l·bakt) *adj.* 1. Concave, as a saddle, in the back or upper part. 2. Having a saddlelike mark, as some birds.

sad·dle·bag (sad′l·bag) *n.* One of a pair of pouches connected by a strap or band and slung over an animal's back or attached to a saddle.

sad·dle·cloth (sad′l·klôth′, -kloth′) *n.* A cloth placed under and attached to a saddle.

saddle horse A horse used with or trained for the saddle.

sad·dler (sad′lər) *n.* 1. A maker of saddles, harness, etc. 2. A saddle horse.

saddle roof A ridge roof having two gables.

sad·dler·y (sad′lər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·dler·ies** 1. Saddles, harnesses, etc., collectively. 2. A shop where such articles are sold. 3. The craft or business of a saddler.

saddle shoe A white sport shoe having a dark band of leather across the instep.

saddle soap A softening and preserving soap for leather, containing pure white soap, as Castile, and neat's-foot oil.

Sad·du·cee (saj′ŏŏ·sē, sad′yŏŏ·sē) *n.* A member of an ancient Jewish sect that adhered to the written Mosaic law but repudiated oral tradition, rejecting the resurrection of the body, etc. Compare PHARISEE. [Appar. ult. after *Zadok*, a high priest (*Ezek.* xl 46)] — **Sad′du·ce′an, Sad′du·cae′an** *adj.* — **Sad′du·cee′ism** *n.*

sad·i·ron (sad′ī′ərn) *n.* An iron for pressing clothes.

sad·ism (sā′diz·əm, sad′iz·əm) *n.* 1. *Psychol.* A condition in which sexual gratification depends largely on the infliction of pain upon others. 2. A tendency to take delight in being cruel. Compare MASOCHISM. [after Comte Donatien de *Sade*, 1740–1814, who described such sexual aberrations in his writings] — **sad·ist** (sā′dist, sad′ist) *n.* & *adj.* — **sa·dis·tic** (sə·dis′tik, sā-) *adj.* — **sa·dis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

sad sack *U.S. Slang* A blundering, pitiable person.

sa·fa·ri (sə·fä′rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ris** An expedition or journey, often on foot, as for hunting. [< Swahili < Arabic *safara* to travel]

safe (sāf) *adj.* **saf·er, saf·est** 1. Free or freed from danger or evil. 2. Having escaped injury or damage; unharmed. 3. Not involving risk or loss. 4. Conferring safety. 5. Prudent or trustworthy. 6. Not likely to cause or do harm or injury. 7. In baseball, having reached base without being retired. — *n.* 1. A strong metal receptacle for protecting valuables. 2. Any place of safe storage. [< OF < L *salvus* whole, healthy] — **safe′ly** *adv.* — **safe′ness** *n.*

safe·break·er (sāf′brā′kər) *n.* A safecracker.

safe-con·duct (sāf′kon′dukt) *n.* 1. An official document assuring protection on a journey or voyage, as in time of war; a passport. 2. The act of conducting in safety.

safe·crack·er (sāf′krak′ər) *n.* One who breaks into safes to rob them. — **safe′crack′ing** *n.*

safe-de·pos·it box (sāf′di·poz′it) A box or other fireproof receptacle for valuables, generally in a bank.

safe·guard (sāf′gärd′) *n.* One who or that which guards or protects against accident or injury. — *v.t.* To defend; protect; guard.

safe·keep·ing (sāf′kē′ping) *n.* The act or state of keeping or being kept in safety; protection.

safe·ty (sāf′tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** 1. Freedom from danger or injury. 2. A device or catch designed as a safeguard; as in a firearm. 3. In football, the act or play of touching the ball to the ground behind the player's own goal line when the impetus that sent the ball over the goal line was given to it by one of his own side. Also **safe′ty-touch′down′** (-tuch′·doun′). [< OF < Med.L < L *salvus* sound]

safety belt 1. A strap or strip of strong belting encircling the user and fastened to a fixed object, worn by linemen, window cleaners, etc., as a safeguard against falling. 2. A strap fixed to the seat of an aircraft or vehicle, by which the occupant is secured against sudden shocks or turning movements: also called *seat belt*.

safety glass Two sheets of glass having a film of transparent, adhesive plastic tightly pressed between them: also called *shatterproof glass*.

safety lamp A miner's lamp having the flame surrounded by fine wire gauze that prevents the ignition of explosive gases: also called *davy*.

safety match A match that will ignite only when struck upon a chemically prepared surface.

safety pin A pin whose point springs into place within a protecting sheath.

safety razor A razor provided with a guard or guards for the blade to prevent accidental gashing of the skin.

safety valve 1. *Mech.* A valve in a steam boiler, etc., for automatically relieving excessive pressure. 2. Any outlet for pent-up energy or emotion.

saf·fron (saf′rən) *n.* 1. An autumn-flowering species of crocus. 2. The dried orange-colored stigmas of this plant, used for coloring confectionery, etc., and as a flavoring in cookery. 3. A deep yellow-orange: also **saffron yellow**. — *adj.* Yellow-orange. [< OF < Med.L < Arabic *za'farān*]

sag (sag) *v.* **sagged, sag·ging** *v.i.* 1. To bend or sink downward from weight or pressure, esp. in the middle. 2. To hang unevenly. 3. To lose firmness or determination; weaken, as from exhaustion, age, etc. 4. To decline, as in price or value. — *v.t.* 5. To cause to sag. — *n.* 1. A sagging. 2. A sagging or sunken place or part. [ME *saggen*]

sa·ga (sä′gə) *n.* 1. A medieval Scandinavian prose narrative dealing with legendary or historical exploits, usu. of a single hero or family. 2. A long story, sometimes poetic, often chronicling the history of a family. [< ON]

sa·ga·cious (sə·gā′shəs) *adj.* 1. Characterized by discernment, shrewdness, and wisdom. 2. Ready and apt to apprehend. [< L *sagax*] — **sa·ga′cious·ly** *adv.* — **sa·ga′cious·ness** *n.*

sa·gac·i·ty (sə·gas′ə·tē) *n.* The quality of being sagacious; discernment and judgment; shrewdness.

sag·a·more (sag′ə·mōr, -mōr) *n.* A chief among the Algonquian Indians of North America, usu. inferior to sachem. [< Algonquian (Penobscot) *sagamo* he prevails]

sage[1] (sāj) *n.* A venerable man of recognized wisdom, experience, prudence, and foresight. — *adj.* **sag·er, sag·est** 1. Characterized by or proceeding from calm, far-seeing wisdom and prudence. 2. Profound; learned. — **Syn.** See WISE[1]. [< OF, ult. < LL *sapius* prudent, wise] — **sage′ly** *adv.* — **sage′ness** *n.*

sage[2] (sāj) *n.* 1. A plant of the mint family, having gray-green leaves used for flavoring meats. 2. The leaves of this plant. 3. The sagebrush. [< F < L *salvus* safe]

sage·brush (sāj′brush′) *n.* An aromatic, bitter, typically perennial herb or small shrub, widely distributed on the alkali plains of the western U.S.

Sagebrush State Nickname of Nevada.

sage hen A large grouse of the western U.S.

sag·it·tal (saj′ə·təl) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or resembling an arrow or arrowhead. 2. *Anat.* Of or pertaining to the longitudinal plane dividing an animal into right and left halves. [< L *sagitta* arrow] — **sag′it·tal·ly** *adv.*

Sag·it·ta·ri·us (saj′ə·târ′ē·əs) *n.* A constellation, the Archer; also, the ninth sign of the zodiac. See ZODIAC. [< L *sagitta* arrow]

sag·it·tate (saj′ə·tāt) *adj.* *Bot.* Shaped like an arrowhead, as certain leaves. [< L *sagitta* arrow]

sa·go (sā′gō) *n.* *pl.* **·gos** 1. Any of several varieties of East Indian palm. 2. The pith of this palm, used as a thickening agent in puddings, etc. [< Malay *sāgū*]

sa·gua·ro (sə·gwä′rō, -wä′-) *n.* *pl.* **·ros** A large desert cactus with an erect, columnar trunk, strong spines, and flowering tops. Also **sa·hua′ro** (-wä′-). [< Sp. < Piman]

Sa·hib (sä′ib) *n.* Master; sir: used in India and Pakistan for people of rank and, esp. formerly, for Europeans. Also **Sa′heb**. [< Urdu < Arabic *sāhib* lord, companion]

said (sed) Past tense and past participle of SAY. — *adj.* *Law* Previously mentioned; aforesaid.

sail (sāl) *n.* *pl.* **sails**; *for def. 3, often* **sail** 1. *Naut.* A piece of canvas, or other strong material, attached to a vessel so that it may be spread to the wind and aid in the vessel's propulsion. 2. Sails collectively. 3. A sailing vessel or craft. 4. A trip or passage in any watercraft. 5. Anything resembling a sail in form or use, as the broad part of the arm of a windmill. — **to make sail** 1. To unfurl a sail or sails. 2. To set out on a voyage. — **to set sail** To begin a voyage; get under way. — **under sail** Sailing; with sails spread. — *v.i.* 1. To move across the surface of water by the action of wind or mechanical power. 2. To travel over water in a ship or boat. 3. To begin a voyage. 4. To manage a sailing craft. 5. To glide or float in the air. 6. To move along in a stately or dignified manner. 7. *Informal* To pass rapidly. 8. *Informal* To proceed boldly into action: with *in*. — *v.t.* 9. To move or travel across the surface of (a body of water) in a ship or boat. 10. To navigate (a ship, etc.). — **to sail into** 1. To begin with energy. 2. To attack violently. [OE *segl*] — **sail′a·ble** *adj.*

sail·boat (sāl′bōt′) *n.* *U.S.* A small boat propelled by a sail or sails.

sail·cloth (sāl′klôth′, -kloth′) *n.* A very strong, firmly woven cotton canvas suitable for sails.

sail·er (sā′lər) *n.* A vessel that sails; a ship having a specified sailing power: a fast *sailer*.

sail·fish (sāl′fish′) *n.* *pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** A marine fish allied to the spearfish, having a large or conspicuous dorsal fin likened to a sail.

sail·or (sā′lər) *n.* 1. A seaman; mariner. 2. A sailor hat.

sailor hat A low-crowned, flat-topped straw hat with a brim, worn by both sexes: also called *sailor*.

saint (sānt) *n.* 1. A holy or godly person. 2. In certain churches, such a person who has died and been canonized. 3. Any one of the blessed in heaven. 4. A very patient, unselfish person. — *v.t.* To canonize; venerate as a saint. —

adj. Holy; canonized. [< OF < L *sancire* to make sacred] — **saint'hood, saint'ship** *n.*

Saint For entries not found under *Saint*, see under ST.

Saint (sānt) *n.* A member of one of the religious bodies known as **Saints**: Latter-day *Saint*.

SAINT BERNARD (About 27 inches high at shoulder)

Saint Bernard A working dog of great size and strength, characterized by a massive head, and a thick, white, red, or brindled coat, used to rescue travelers by the hospice at Great St. Bernard Pass in the Swiss Alps.

saint·ed (sān'tid) *adj.* **1.** Canonized. **2.** Of holy character; saintly.

saint·ly (sānt'lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Like, concerned with, or suitable for a saint. — **saint'li·ness** *n.*

Saint Patrick's Day March 17, a day traditionally celebrated by the Irish in honor of their patron saint.

Saint Valentine's Day February 14, the anniversary of the beheading of St. Valentine by the Romans, and also a day when valentines are exchanged.

saith (seth) *Archaic* Present indicative third person singular of SAY.

sake[1] (sāk) *n.* **1.** Purpose of obtaining or accomplishing: to speak slowly for the *sake* of clarity. **2.** Interest; account; advantage: for your own *sake*. [OE *sacu* lawsuit]

— **Syn. 2.** Something done for the *sake* of a person, or on his *behalf*, is intended to promote his welfare. But *sake* suggests the benevolence of a parent or friend, while *behalf* suggests a somewhat less personal relationship, as that of an attorney or patron.

sa·ke[2] (sä'kē) *n.* A fermented liquor made in Japan from rice. Also **sa'ki.** [< Japanese]

sal (sal) *n.* Salt. [< L]

sa·laam (sə·läm') *n.* An oriental salutation or obeisance made with a low bow, the palm of the right hand being held to the forehead; also, a respectful or ceremonious verbal greeting. — *v.t. & v.i.* To greet with or make a salaam. [< Arabic *salām* peace, a salutation]

sal·a·ble (sā'lə·bəl) *adj.* Such as can be sold; marketable: also spelled *saleable*. — **sal'a·bil'i·ty, sal'a·ble·ness** *n.*

sa·la·cious (sə·lā'shəs) *adj.* **1.** Lustful; lewd. **2.** Obscene: a *salacious* joke. [< L < *salire* to leap] — **sa·la'cious·ly** *adv.* — **sa·la'cious·ness, sa·lac'i·ty** (-las'ə·tē) *n.*

sal·ad (sal'əd) *n.* Green herbs or vegetables, usu. uncooked and served with a dressing, sometimes mixed with chopped cold meat, fish, etc.; also, a similar dish made with fruit. [< OF < Provençal < L *sal* salt]

sal·a·man·der (sal'ə·man'dər) *n.* **1.** Any of a variety of tailed, lizardlike amphibians having a smooth, moist skin and two pairs of limbs. **2.** A mythical lizard or other creature fabled to live in fire. **3.** Any person or thing that can stand great heat. **4.** A large poker or other implement used around or in fire, or when red-hot. [< OF < L *salamandra* < Gk.] — **sal'a·man'drine** (-drin) *adj.*

sa·la·mi (sə·lä'mē) *n.* A salted, spiced sausage, originally Italian. [< Ital., < L *sal* salt]

sal ammoniac *Chem.* A white, crystalline, soluble compound, NH_4Cl, used in medicine and industry. [< L *sal Ammoniacum*, lit. salt of Ammon]

sal·a·ried (sal'ər·ēd, sal'rēd) *adj.* **1.** In receipt of a salary. **2.** Yielding a salary.

sal·a·ry (sal'ər·ē, sal'rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** A periodic, fixed payment for services, esp. for official or professional services as distinguished from manual or menial labor. — *v.t.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** To pay or allot a salary to. [< AF < L *salarium* money paid Roman soldiers for their salt]

sale (sāl) *n.* **1.** The act of selling; the exchange or transfer of property of any kind for money or its equivalent. **2.** An auction. **3.** The selling of something at bargain prices. **4.** Opportunity of selling; market. — **for sale** (or **on sale**) Offered or ready for sale. [OE *sala* < ON]

sale·a·ble (sā'lə·bəl) See SALABLE.

sal·e·ra·tus (sal'ə·rā'təs) *n.* Sodium bicarbonate, for use in cookery; baking soda. [< NL *sal aëratus* aerated salt]

sales·girl (sālz'gûrl') *n.* *U.S.* A woman or girl hired to sell merchandise, especially in a store.

sales·la·dy (sālz'lā'dē) *n.* *pl.* **·dies** *Informal* A woman or girl hired to sell merchandise, esp. in a store.

sales·man (sālz'mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man hired to sell goods, stock, etc., in a store or by canvassing.

sales·man·ship (sālz'mən·ship) *n.* **1.** The work or profession of a salesman. **2.** Ability or skill in selling.

sales·peo·ple (sālz'pē'pəl) *n.pl.* Salespersons.

sales·per·son (sālz'pûr'sən) *n.* A person hired to sell merchandise, esp. in a store.

sales resistance The ability to resist any attempts to induce one to buy certain goods or services.

sales·room (sālz'rōōm', -rŏŏm') *n.* A room where merchandise is displayed for sale.

sales tax A tax on money received from sales of goods.

sales·wom·an (sālz'wŏŏ'mən) *n.* *pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim'in) A woman or girl hired to sell merchandise, esp. in a store.

sal·ic (sal'ik) *adj.* *Geol.* Belonging to a group of igneous rocks composed chiefly of silica and alumina, as the feldspars, quartz, etc. [< S(ILICA) + AL(UMINUM) + -IC]

sal·i·cyl·ate (sal'ə·sil'āt, sə·lis'ə·lāt) *n.* *Chem.* A salt or ester of salicylic acid.

sal·i·cyl·ic acid (sal'ə·sil'ik) *Chem.* A white crystalline compound, $C_7H_6O_3$, occurring in many plants and also made synthetically, one acetyl form of which is widely known as aspirin. [< SALIC(IN) + -YL + -IC]

sa·li·ent (sā'lē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Standing out prominently; striking; conspicuous. **2.** Protruding; projecting. **3.** Leaping; springing. — *n.* The part of a fortification, etc., that most protrudes towards the enemy. [< L < salire to leap] — **sa'li·ence** *n.* — **sa'li·ent·ly** *adv.* — **sa'li·ent·ness** *n.*

sa·line (sā'līn) *adj.* **1.** Of, constituting, or characteristic of salt. **2.** Containing salt; salty. — *n.* **1.** A metallic salt. **2.** A salt solution used in the investigation of biological and physiological processes, and also in medicine. [< F < LL < L *sal, salis* salt] — **sa·lin·i·ty** (sə·lin'ə·tē) *n.*

Salisbury steak Hamburger (def. 2).

sa·li·va (sə·lī'və) *n.* *Physiol.* The slightly alkaline fluid secreted by the glands of the mouth, considered a promoter of digestion. [< L] — **sal·i·var·y** (sal'ə·ver'ē) *adj.*

sal·i·vate (sal'ə·vāt) *v.* **·vat·ed, ·vat·ing** *v.i.* To secrete saliva. — *v.t.* To produce salivation in. [< L < *saliva* saliva] — **sal'i·va'tion** *n.*

sal·low (sal'ō) *adj.* Of an unhealthy yellowish color: said chiefly of the human skin. [OE *salu*] — **sal'low·ish** *adj.* — **sal'low·y** *adv.* — **sal'low·ness** *n.*

sal·ly (sal'ē) *v.i.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** **1.** To rush out suddenly. **2.** To set out energetically. **3.** To go out, as from a room or building. — *n.* *pl.* **·lies** **1.** A rushing forth, as of troops against besiegers; sortie. **2.** Any sudden rushing forth. **3.** A going forth, as on a walk. **4.** A bantering remark or witticism. [< OF < L *salire* to leap]

sal·ma·gun·di (sal'mə·gun'dē) *n.* **1.** A saladlike dish of chopped meat, anchovies, eggs, onions, oil, etc. **2.** Any medley or mixture. Also **sal'ma·gun'dy.** [< F *salmigondis*]

salm·on (sam'ən) *n.* **1.** Any of various food fishes inhabiting the North Atlantic coastal waters and ascending to adjacent rivers to spawn, having a brownish color above, silvery sides, black spots, and a delicate pink flesh. **2.** Any of various other salmonoid fishes. **3.** A reddish or pinkish orange color: also **salmon pink.** — *adj.* Having a salmon color. [< OF < L *salmo, -onis*, prob. akin to *salire* to leap] — **sal·mo·noid** (sal'mə·noid) *adj. & n.*

salmon trout **1.** The European brown trout. **2.** The lake trout. **3.** The steelhead.

Sa·lo·me (sā·lō'mē) The daughter of Herodias, who asked Herod for the head of John the Baptist in return for her dancing. *Matt.* xiv 8.

sa·lon (sə·lon', *Fr.* sà·lôn') *n.* **1.** A room in which guests are received; a drawing room. **2.** The periodic gathering of noted persons, under the auspices of some distinguished figure. **3.** A hall or gallery used for exhibiting works of art. **4.** An establishment devoted to some specific purpose: a beauty *salon*. [< F < Ital. < *sala* hall < Gmc.]

sa·loon (sə·lōōn') *n.* **1.** A place where alcoholic drinks are sold; a bar. **2.** A large apartment or room for assemblies, public entertainment, exhibitions, etc. **3.** The main cabin of a passenger ship. [< F *salon* salon]

sa·loon-keep·er (sə·lōōn'kē'pər) *n.* One who owns or manages a saloon (def. 1).

sal·si·fy (sal'sə·fē, -fī) *n.* *pl.* **·fies** An Old World plant with a white, edible root and an oysterlike flavor: also called *oyster plant*. [< F < Ital. *sassefrica*]

sal soda Sodium carbonate.

salt (sôlt) *n.* **1.** Sodium chloride, NaCl, a compound found in sea water and as a mineral, used as a seasoning and as a preservative. ◆ Collateral adjective: *saline*. **2.** *Chem.* Any compound consisting of the cation of a base and the anion of an acid, combined in proportions that give a balance of electropositive and electronegative charges. **3.** *pl.* A salt used as a laxative or cathartic; also, smelling salts. **4.** Piquant humor; dry wit; repartee. **5.** That which preserves or purifies. **6.** *Informal* A sailor: an old *salt*. **7.** A saltcellar. — **to take with a grain of salt** To have doubts about. — *adj.* **1.** Flavored with salt; briny. **2.** Cured or preserved with salt. **3.** Containing, or growing or living in or near, salt water. — *v.t.* **1.** To season with salt. **2.** To preserve or cure with salt. **3.** To furnish with salt: to *salt* cattle. **4.** To add zest or piquancy to. **5.** To add something to so as to increase the value fraudulently: to *salt* a mine with gold. — **to salt away**

1. To pack in salt for preserving. **2.** *Informal* To store up; save. [OE *sealt*] — **salt'ness** *n.*

salt·cel·lar (sôlt'sel'ər) *n.* A small receptacle for salt; a saltshaker. [ME < *salt* + F *salière* saltcellar]

salt·ed (sôl'tid) *adj.* **1.** Treated with salt; preserved. **2.** *Informal* Experienced or expert in some occupation.

sal·tine (sôl·tēn') *n.* A crisp, salty cracker.

salt lick A place to which animals go to lick salt from superficial deposits; a salt spring or dried salt pond.

salt·pe·ter (sôlt/pē'tər) *n.* Potassium nitrate. — **Chile saltpeter** Mineral sodium nitrate, found chiefly in Chile. [< OF < Med.L < L *sal* salt + *petra* a rock < Gk.]

salt·shak·er (sôlt'shā'kər) *n.* A container with small holes for sprinkling table salt.

salt-wa·ter (sôlt'wô'tər, -wot'ər) *adj.* Of, composed of, or living in salty water.

salt·works (sôlt'wûrks') *n. pl.* **·works** An establishment where salt is made on a commercial scale.

salt·wort (sôlt'wûrt') *n.* **1.** Any of various maritime plants of the goosefoot family. **2.** Any of various glassworts.

salt·y (sôl'tē) *adj.* **salt·i·er, salt·i·est** **1.** Of, containing, or tasting like salt. **2.** Reminiscent of the sea; smelling of the sea. **3.** Piquant; sharp; pungent, as literature or speech. — **salt'i·ly** *adv.* — **salt'i·ness** *n.*

sa·lu·bri·ous (sə·lōō'brē·əs) *adj.* Conducive to health; healthful; wholesome. [< L < *salus* health] — **sa·lu'bri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **sa·lu'bri·ous·ness, sal·u'bri·ty** *n.*

sal·u·tar·y (sal'yə·ter'ē) *adj.* **1.** Calculated to bring about a sound condition by correcting evil or promoting good; beneficial. **2.** Salubrious. [< F < L < *salus, salutis* health] — **sal'u·tar'i·ly** *adv.* — **sal'u·tar'i·ness** *n.*

sal·u·ta·tion (sal'yə·tā'shən, -yōō-) *n.* **1.** The act of saluting. **2.** Any form of greeting. **3.** The opening words of a letter, as *Dear Sir.* [< MF < L < *salus, salutis* health]

sa·lu·ta·to·ri·an (sə·lōō'tə·tôr'ē·ən, -tō'rē-) *n. U.S.* In schools, the graduating student, usu. receiving second highest honors, who delivers the salutatory. [< SALUTATORY]

sa·lu·ta·to·ry (sə·lōō'tə·tôr'ē, -tō'rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** An opening oration, as at a school commencement. — *adj.* Of or consisting in greeting; esp., relating to a salutatory address. [< L < *salutare.* See SALUTE.]

sa·lute (sə·lōōt') *n.* **1.** A greeting by display of military or other official honors, as by presenting arms, firing cannon, etc. **2.** The act of or attitude assumed in giving a military salute. **3.** A gesture of greeting, compliment, etc. — *v.* **·lut·ed, ·lut·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To greet with a sign of welcome, respect, etc. **2.** To honor in some prescribed way, as by raising the hand to the cap. — *v.i.* **3.** To make a salute. [< F < L *salus, salutis* health] — **sa·lut'er** *n.*

sal·va·ble (sal'və·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being saved or salvaged. [< LL < L *salvus* safe] — **sal'va·bil'i·ty** *n.*

sal·vage (sal'vij) *v.t.* **·vaged, ·vag·ing** To save, as a ship or its cargo, from wreck, capture, etc. — *n.* **1.** The saving of a ship, cargo, etc., from loss. **2.** Any act of saving property. **3.** Compensation to persons who save a vessel, her cargo, or the lives of those belonging to her. **4.** That which is saved from a wrecked or abandoned vessel or from a fire. **5.** Anything saved from destruction. [< MF < Med.L < L *salvus* safe] — **sal'vage·a·ble** *adj.* — **sal'vag·er** *n.*

sal·va·tion (sal·vā'shən) *n.* **1.** The process or state of being saved. **2.** *Theol.* Deliverance from sin and penalty, realized in a future state. **3.** Any means of deliverance from danger, evil, or ruin. [< OF < LL < L *salvus* safe]

Salvation Army A religious and charitable organization on semimilitary lines, founded by William Booth in 1865.

salve[1] (sav, säv) *n.* **1.** A thick, adhesive ointment for local ailments. **2.** Anything that heals, soothes, or mollifies. **3.** Praise or flattery. — *v.t.* **salved, salv·ing** **1.** To dress with ointment. **2.** To soothe; appease. [OE *sealf*]

salve[2] (salv) *v.t.* **salved, salv·ing** To save from loss; salvage. [< Med.L *salvare*]

sal·ve[3] (sal'vē) *interj.* Hail. [< L < *salvere* to be well]

sal·ver (sal'vər) *n.* A tray, as of silver. [< OF < Sp. < *salvar* to taste]

sal·vi·a (sal'vē·ə) *n.* Any of a genus of ornamental plants of the mint family, as the sage. [< L. See SAGE[2].]

sal·vo (sal'vō) *n. pl.* **·vos** or **·voes** **1.** A simultaneous discharge of artillery, or of two or more bombs. **2.** A salute given by firing all the guns. **3.** Any salute or simultaneous outburst: a *salvo* of applause. [< Ital. *salva* salute]

sal vo·lat·i·le (sal vō·lat'ə·lē) Ammonium carbonate; also, an aromatic solution of ammonium carbonate, used as smelling salts. [< NL, volatile salt < L]

sam·a·ra (sam'ər·ə, sə·mâr'ə) *n. Bot.* A one-seeded fruit, as of the elm, ash, or maple, provided with a membrane or wing. [< L, elm seed]

Sa·mar·i·a (sə·mâr'ē·ə) In the Bible, a city of Palestine, capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, or, later, a restricted portion of central Palestine west of the Jordan occupied by the Samaritans.

Sa·mar·i·tan (sə·mar'ə·tən) *n.* **1.** One of the people of Samaria. II *Kings* xvii. **2.** Good Samaritan (which see). — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Samaria.

sa·mar·i·um (sə·mâr'ē·əm) *n.* A hard, brittle, yellowish gray, metallic element (symbol Sm) of the lanthanide series. See ELEMENT. [< NL < *samarskite,* an orthorhombic, vitreous, black mineral]

sam·ba (sam'bə, säm'bä) *n.* **1.** A popular dance of Brazilian origin. **2.** Music for this dance, in duple meter. — *v.i.* To dance the samba. [< Pg. < native African name]

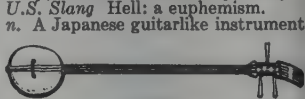
Sam Browne belt (sam' broun') A military belt with a shoulder strap running diagonally across the chest. [after Sir *Samuel J. Browne,* 1824–1901, British general]

same (sām) *adj.* **1.** Having individual or specific identity or quality; identical; equal: with *the.* **2.** Similar in kind or quality. **3.** Similar in quantity or measure; equivalent. **4.** Aforesaid; identical: said of a person or thing just mentioned. — **all the same** **1.** Nevertheless; yet. **2.** Equally acceptable or unacceptable. — **just the same** **1.** Nevertheless; yet. **2.** Unchanged. — *pron.* The identical person, thing, etc. — *adv.* In like manner; equally: with *the.* [< ON *samr*]

same·ness (sām'nis) *n.* **1.** Lack of change or variety; monotony. **2.** Close similarity; likeness. **3.** Identity; unity.

Sam Hill (sam' hil') *U.S. Slang* Hell: a euphemism.

sam·i·sen (sam'i·sen) *n.* A Japanese guitarlike instrument with three strings, played with a plectrum. [< Japanese < Chinese *san hsien* three strings]



SAMISEN

sa·mite (sā'mīt, sam'-it) *n.* A rich medieval fabric of silk, often interwoven with gold or silver. [< OF < Med.L < Gk. *hex* six + *mitos* thread]

Sa·mo·an (sə·mō'ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Samoa, to its aboriginal Polynesian inhabitants, or to their language. — *n.* **1.** A native of the Samoan islands. **2.** The Polynesian language of the Samoans.

sam·o·var (sam'ə·vär, sam'ə·vär') *n.* A metal urn for heating water, as for making tea. [< Russian, lit., self-boiler]

Sam·o·yed (sam'ə·yed') *n.* **1.** One of a Mongoloid people inhabiting the Arctic coasts of Siberia. **2.** A large dog having a thick white coat of long hair. — *adj.* Of the Samoyeds or their language; Samoyedic. Also **Sam'o·yede'** (-yed'). [< Russian, lit., self-eater]

Sam·o·yed·ic (sam'ə·yed'ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Samoyeds or their language. — *n.* A subfamily of the Uralic languages, including the language of the Samoyeds.

samp (samp) *n.* Coarse Indian corn; also, a porridge made of it. [< Algonquian *nasaump* softened with water]

sam·pan (sam'pan) *n.* A small flat-bottomed boat or skiff used along rivers and coasts of China and Japan. [< Chinese *san* three + *pan* board, plank]

sam·ple (sam'pəl) *n.* A portion, part, or piece taken or shown as a representative of the whole. — *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To test or examine by means of a sample. [See EXAMPLE.]

sam·pler[1] (sam'plər) *n.* One who tests by sampling.

sam·pler[2] (sam'plər) *n.* A piece of needlework, originally designed to show a beginner's skill. [See EXAMPLE.]

sam·pling (sam'pling) *n.* **1.** A small part of something or a number of items from a group selected for examination or analysis in order to estimate the quality or nature of the whole. **2.** The act or process of making such a selection.

Sam·son (sam'sən) A Hebrew judge of great strength, betrayed to the Philistines by Delilah. *Judges* xii–xvi.

Sam·u·el (sam'yōō·əl) A Hebrew judge and prophet. — *n.* Either of two historical books, I and II Samuel, of the Old Testament.

sam·u·rai (sam'ōō·rī) *n. pl.* **·rai** Under the Japanese feudal system, a member of the soldier class of the lower nobility; also, the class itself. [< Japanese]

san·a·tive (san'ə·tiv) *adj.* Healing; sanatory; health-giving. [< OF < Med.L < L *sanare* to heal]

san·a·to·ri·um (san'ə·tôr'ē·əm, -tō'rē-) *n. pl.* **·ri·ums** or **·ri·a** (-tôr'ē·ə, -tō'rē·ə) **1.** An institution for the treatment and care of invalids and convalescents. **2.** A health resort. Also called *sanitarium.* [< NL < LL < L *sanare* to heal]

sanc·ti·fied (sangk'tə·fīd) *adj.* **1.** Made holy; freed from sin; consecrated. **2.** Sanctimonious; self-righteous.

sanc·ti·fy (sangk'tə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To set apart as holy or for holy purposes; consecrate. **2.** To purify or make holy. **3.** To render sacred or inviolable, as a vow. [< OF < LL < L *sanctus* holy + *facere* to make] — **sanc'ti·fi·ca'tion** *n.* — **sanc'ti·fi'er** *n.*

sanc·ti·mo·ni·ous (sangk'tə·mō'nē·əs) *adj.* Making an ostentatious display or pretense of sanctity. — **sanc'ti·mo'ni·ous·ly** *adv.* — **sanc'ti·mo'ni·ous·ness** *n.*

sanc·ti·mo·ny (sangk'tə·mō'nē) *n.* Assumed or outward sanctity; a show of holiness or devoutness. [< OF < L *sanctimonia* holiness]

sanc·tion (sangk'shən) *v.t.* **1.** To approve authoritatively; confirm; ratify. **2.** To countenance; allow. — *n.* **1.** Final

and authoritative confirmation or ratification. **2.** A formal decree. **3.** A provision for securing conformity to law, as by the enactment of rewards or penalties or both. **4.** *Usu. pl.* In international law, coercive measures adopted to force a nation that is violating international law to desist. **5.** In ethics, that which makes virtue morally obligatory. [< L < *sancire* to render sacred, inviolable]

sanc·ti·ty (sangk′tə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being sanctified; holiness. **2.** Sacredness; solemnity.

sanc·tu·ar·y (sangk′chōō·er′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ar·ies** **1.** A holy or sacred place. **2.** The most sacred part of a place in a sacred structure. **3.** A place of refuge; asylum; also, immunity. [< OF < LL < L *sanctus* holy]

sanc·tum (sangk′təm) *n.* *pl.* **·tums** or **·ta** (-tə) **1.** A sacred place. **2.** A private room where one is not to be disturbed. [< L, neut. of *sanctus* holy]

sanc·tum sanc·to·rum (sangk′təm sangk·tôr′əm, -tō′rəm) **1.** The holy of holies. **2.** A place of great privacy: often used humorously.

Sanc·tus (sangk′təs) *n.* *Eccl.* **1.** An ascription of praise to God, occurring at the end of the Preface in many eucharistic liturgies. **2.** A musical setting for this. [< L *sanctus* holy]

sand (sand) *n.* **1.** A hard, granular rock material finer than gravel and coarser than dust. **2.** *pl.* Stretches of sandy beach, desert, etc. **3.** *pl.* Sandy grains in an hourglass. **4.** *pl.* Moments of time or life. **5.** A reddish yellow color. — *v.t.* **1.** To sprinkle or cover with sand. **2.** To smooth or abrade with sand or sandpaper. **3.** To mix sand with. **4.** To fill with sand. [OE] — **sand′er** *n.*

san·dal (san′dəl) *n.* **1.** A foot covering, consisting usu. of a sole only, held to the foot by thongs. **2.** A light slipper. **3.** An overshoe of rubber, cut very low. [< OF < Gk. *sandalon*] — **san′daled, san′dalled** *adj.*

san·dal·wood (san′dəl·wŏŏd′) *n.* **1.** The fine-grained, dense, fragrant wood of any of several East Indian trees. **2.** The similar wood of other trees, whose dark red wood is used as a dyestuff. [< Med.L < Skt. *çandana*]

sand·bag (sand′bag′) *n.* **1.** A bag filled with sand, used for building fortifications, for ballast, etc. **2.** A long, narrow bag filled with sand and used as a club or weapon. — *v.t.* **·bagged, ·bag·ging** **1.** To fill or surround with sandbags. **2.** To strike with a sandbag. — **sand′bag′ger** *n.*

sand·bar (sand′bär′) *n.* A ridge of silt or sand in rivers, along beaches, etc., formed by the action of currents or tides.

sand·blast (sand′blast′, -bläst′) *n.* **1.** A fine jet of sand, propelled under pressure and used to clean, grind, or decorate hard surfaces. **2.** The apparatus used in applying this blast. — *v.t.* To clean or engrave by means of a sandblast.

sand·box (sand′boks′) *n.* **1.** A box on a locomotive or streetcar filled with sand to be poured on the rail treads to prevent slipping. **2.** A box of sand for children to play in.

sand-cast (sand′kast′, -käst′) *v.t.* **-cast, -cast·ing** To make (a casting) by pouring metal into a mold of sand.

sand crack *Vet.* A crack running down from the coronet of a horse's hoof and apt to cause lameness if neglected.

sand flea Any of various fleas that live in sand, as the chigoe.

sand·hog (sand′hôg′, -hog′) *n.* One who works under air pressure, as in caisson sinking, tunnel building, etc.

sand-lot (sand′lot′) *adj.* Of or in a vacant lot in or near an urban area: *sand-lot* baseball.

sand·man (sand′man′) *n.* In nursery lore, a person supposed to make children sleepy by casting sand in their eyes.

sand painting A form of painting by the American Indians in which fine colored sand is trickled on a ground base.

sand·pa·per (sand′pā′pər) *n.* Heavy paper coated with sand for smoothing or polishing. — *v.t.* To rub or polish with sandpaper.

sand·pi·per (sand′pī′pər) *n.* Any of certain small wading birds related to the snipes and frequenting seashores. Also **sand′peep′** (-pēp′).

sand·stone (sand′stōn′) *n.* A rock consisting chiefly of quartz sand cemented with silica, feldspar, lime, or clay.

sand·storm (sand′stôrm′) *n.* A high wind by which sand or dust is carried along.

sand·wich (sand′wich, san′-) *n.* **1.** Two thin slices of bread, having between them meat, cheese, etc. **2.** Any combination of alternating dissimilar things pressed together. — *v.t.* **1.** To place between two layers or objects. **2.** To insert between dissimilar things. [after John Montagu, fourth Earl of *Sandwich*, 1718–92, who originated it in order to eat without leaving the gaming table]

sandwich man *n.* *pl.* **men** *Informal* A man carrying advertising boards (**sandwich boards**) slung in front and behind.

sand·y (san′dē) *adj.* **sand·i·er, sand·i·est** **1.** Consisting of or characterized by sand; containing, covered with, or full of sand. **2.** Yellowish red: a *sandy* beard. — **sand′i·ness** *n.*

sane (sān) *adj.* **1.** Mentally sound; not deranged. **2.** Proceeding from a sound mind. [< L *sanus* whole, healthy] — **sane′ly** *adv.* — **sane′ness** *n.*

San·for·ize (san′fə·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To treat (cloth) so as to prevent shrinkage: a trade name. Also **san′for·ize.** [after *Sanford* L. Cluett, 1874–1968, U.S. inventor]

sang (sang) Past tense of SING.

sang-froid (säN·frwȧ′) *n.* Calmness amid trying circumstances; coolness; composure. [< F, lit., cold blood]

san·gri·a (säng·grē′ə) *n.* Red wine mixed with fruit and/or fruit juices. [< Sp. *sangría*, lit., bleeding]

sangui- *combining form* Blood. [< L *sanguis* blood]

san·gui·nar·y (sang′gwə·ner′ē) *adj.* **1.** Attended with bloodshed. **2.** Bloodthirsty. **3.** Consisting of blood. — **san′gui·nar′i·ly** *adv.* — **san′gui·nar′i·ness** *n.*

san·guine (sang′gwin) *adj.* **1.** Of cheerful, hopeful disposition. **2.** Ruddy; robust. **3.** Of, like, or full of blood. **4.** *Obs.* Bloodthirsty; sanguinary. [< OF < L < *sanguis, -inis* blood] — **san′guine·ly** *adv.* — **san′guine·ness** *n.*

san·i·tar·i·um (san′ə·târ′ē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·tar·i·ums** or **·tar·i·a** (-târ′ē·ə) A sanatorium. [< NL < L *sanitas* health]

san·i·tar·y (san′ə·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Relating to the preservation of health. **2.** Favorable to health; hygienic. [< F < L *sanitas* health] — **san′i·tar′i·ly** *adv.*

sanitary napkin An absorbent pad worn by women during menstruation.

san·i·ta·tion (san′ə·tā′shən) *n.* The use and practical application of sanitary measures; the removal or neutralization of elements injurious to health.

san·i·ta·tion·man (san′i·tā′shən·man′) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A person, esp. a municipal employee, whose work is the collection of refuse and trash.

san·i·tize (san′ə·tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** **1.** To make sanitary. **2.** To make acceptable or unobjectionable.

san·i·ty (san′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being sane; soundness of mind. **2.** Sane moderation or reasonableness.

San Jo·sé scale (san′ hō·zā′) A scale insect destructive to various fruit trees.

sank (sangk) Past tense of SINK.

sans (sanz, *Fr.* säN) *prep.* Without. [< OF *sanz*]

sans-cu·lotte (sanz′kyōō·lot′, *Fr.* säN·kü·lôt′) *n.* **1.** A revolutionary: originally a term of contempt applied by the aristocrats to the French revolutionaries in 1789. **2.** Any revolutionary or radical. [< F, lit., without knee breeches] — **sans-cu·lot′tic** *adj.* — **sans′-cu·lot′tism** *n.*

San·sei (sän·sā) *n.* *pl.* **·sei** or **·seis** An American citizen of Japanese descent whose grandparents settled in the U.S. [< Japanese, third generation]

san·se·vi·e·ri·a (san′sə·vi·ir′ē·ə) *n.* Any of several perennial herbs of the lily family, cultivated as an ornamental plant. [after the Prince of *Sanseviero*, 1710–71]

San·skrit (san′skrit) *n.* The ancient and classical language of the Hindus of India, belonging to the Indic branch of the Indo-Iranian subfamily of Indo-European languages. Also **San′scrit.** [< Skt. *samskrita* artificial, highly cultivated]

San·skrit·ic (san·skrit′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or written in Sanskrit. **2.** Designating a group of some 30 to 40 ancient and modern languages and dialects of India.

sans ser·if (sanz ser′if) *Printing* A type face without serifs: also called *gothic.*

San·ta Claus (san′tə klôz′) In nursery lore, a fat, jolly old man who brings presents at Christmas time. [< Du. *Sant Nikolaas* Saint Nicholas]

San·ta Ma·ri·a (san′tə mə·rē′ə) One of the three ships of Columbus on his maiden voyage to America.

sap[1] (sap) *n.* **1.** The juices of plants, that contain and transport the materials necessary to growth. **2.** Any vital fluid; vitality. **3.** *Slang* A foolish or gullible person. [OE *sæp*]

sap[2] (sap) *v.* **sapped, sap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To weaken or destroy gradually and insidiously; enervate; exhaust. **2.** To approach or undermine (an enemy fortification) by digging a sap. — *v.i.* **3.** To dig a sap or saps. — *n.* A deep, narrow trench or tunnel dug so as to approach or undermine a fortification. [< MF < Ital. *zappa* spade, goat]

sap·head (sap′hed′) *n.* *Slang* A simpleton; sap. — **sap′·head′ed** *adj.*

sa·pi·ent (sā′pē·ənt) *adj.* Wise; sagacious: often used ironically. [< OF < L < *sapere* to have good taste] — **sa′pi·ence, sa′pi·en·cy** *n.* — **sa′pi·ent·ly** *adv.*

sap·less (sap′lis) *adj.* **1.** Destitute of sap; withered. **2.** Wanting vitality, spirit, or vivacity; insipid; dull.

sap·ling (sap′ling) *n.* **1.** A young tree. **2.** A youth. [Dim. of SAP[1]]

sap·o·dil·la (sap′ə·dil′ə) *n.* **1.** A large evergreen tree of the West Indies and tropical America. **2.** Its edible, apple-shaped fruit, a source of chicle: also **sapodilla plum.** Also **sa·po·ta** (sə·pō′tə), **sap′a·dil′lo, sap′o·dil′lo.** [< Sp. < Nahuatl *tzapotl*]

sap·o·na·ceous (sap′ə·nā′shəs) *adj.* Soapy.
sa·pon·i·fy (sə·pon′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *Chem.* To convert (a fat or oil) into soap by the action of an alkali. [< F < L *sapo, saponis* soap + *facere* to make] — **sa·pon′i·fi′a·ble** *adj.* — **sa·pon·i·fi·ca·tion** (sə·pon′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* — **sa·pon′i·fi′er** *n.*
sap·per (sap′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which saps. **2.** A soldier employed in making a sap[2]. [< SAP[2] + -ER]
Sap·phic (saf′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or in the manner of Sappho. **2.** In prosody, denoting a line of trochaic pentameter with a dactyl in the third foot, much used by Sappho. [after *Sappho*]
sap·phire (saf′īr) *n.* **1.** Any of the hard, translucent, colored varieties of corundum other than the red variety, that when cut are used as gems; esp., a deep blue corundum. **2.** Deep pure blue. [< OF < L < Gk. *sappheiros*]
sap·py (sap′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est 1.** Full of sap; juicy. **2.** *Slang* Immature; silly. — **sap′pi·ly** *adv.* — **sap′pi·ness** *n.*
sapro- *combining form* **1.** Decomposition or putrefaction. **2.** Saprophytic. [< Gk. *sapros* rotten]
sap·ro·phyte (sap′rə·fīt) *n.* A vegetable organism that lives on dead or decaying organic matter, as certain funguses, various bacteria, etc. — **sap′ro·phyt′ic** (-fit′ik) *adj.*
sap·suck·er (sap′suk′ər) *n.* Any of various small black and white woodpeckers that damage orchard trees by exposing and drinking the sap.
sap·wood (sap′wŏŏd′) *n.* *Bot.* The new wood next to the bark of an exogenous tree.
sar·a·band (sar′ə·band) *n.* **1.** A slow, stately dance of the 17th and 18th centuries. **2.** Music for this dance, in triple meter. Also **sar′a·bande.** [< F < Sp. < Persian *sarband* a kind of dance and song]
Sar·a·cen (sar′ə·sən) *n.* **1.** Originally, a nomad Arab of the Syrian-Arabian desert. **2.** A Moslem, esp. during the Crusades. **3.** Any Arab. [< LL < LGk. *Sarakēnos*] — **Sar′·a·cen′ic** (-sen′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*
Sar·ah (sâr′ə) The wife of Abraham. *Gen.* xvii 15.
sa·ran (sə·ran′) *n.* Any of a class of synthetic fibers and textile materials obtained by the polymerization of vinyl chloride. [Coined by Dow Chemical Co.]
sa·ra·pe (sə·räp′ē) See SERAPE.
Saratoga trunk A very large traveling trunk used formerly by ladies. [after *Saratoga* Springs]
sar·casm (sär′kaz·əm) *n.* **1.** An ironical or scornful utterance; contemptuous and taunting language. **2.** The use of biting gibes or cutting rebukes. [< LL < Gk. *sarkazein* to tear flesh, sneer < *sarx, sarkos* flesh]
— **Syn. 1.** *Sarcasm* may describe a man's weakness in subtly pejorative terms, or may show the vanity of his pretensions, or his absurdity. *Irony* is more limited, and is sometimes regarded as one of the methods of *sarcasm*; it consists of the assertion of the opposite of what is really meant.
sar·cas·tic (sär·kas′tik) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or of the nature of sarcasm; taunting. **2.** Given to the use of sarcasm. Also **sar·cas′ti·cal.** — **sar·cas′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
sarce·net (särs′nit) See SARSENET.
sarco- *combining form* Flesh; of or related to flesh. Also, before vowels, **sarc-**. [< Gk. *sarx, sarkos* flesh]
sar·co·carp (sär′kō·kärp) *n.* *Bot.* The succulent part of a stone fruit, as the fleshy edible part of a plum or peach.
sar·co·ma (sär·kō′mə) *n.* *pl.* **·mas** or **·ma·ta** (-mə·tə) *Pathol.* A tumor, often malignant, made up of cells resembling those of embryonic connective tissue. [< Gk. < *sarx, sarkos* flesh] — **sar·co′ma·toid, sar·co′ma·tous** (-kō′mə·təs, -kom′ə-) *adj.*
sar·coph·a·gus (sär·kof′ə·gəs) *n.* *pl.* **·gi** (-jī) **1.** A stone coffin or tomb. **2.** A large ornamental coffin of marble or stone placed in a crypt or exposed to view. **3.** A kind of limestone, used by the Greeks for coffins. [< L < Gk. < *sarx, sarkos* flesh + *phagein* to eat]
sar·cous (sär′kəs) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or composed of flesh or muscle. [< Gk. *sarx, sarkos* flesh]
sard (särd) *n.* The deep brownish red variety of chalcedony, used as a gem. [< OF < L < Gk. *Sardeis* Sardis]
sar·dine (sär·dēn′) *n.* **1.** A small, herringlike fish commonly preserved in oil as a food delicacy, esp. the pilchard. **2.** Any of various related fishes similarly preserved. [< OF < L < Gk. *sardēnē*, ? < *Sardo* Sardinia]
Sar·dis (sär′dis) An ancient city of Asia Minor, capital of Lydia; destroyed by Tamerlane. Also **Sar′des.**
sar·don·ic (sär·don′ik) *adj.* Scornful or derisive; mocking; cynical. [< F < L < Gk. *sardanios* bitter, scornful] — **sar·don′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **sar·don′i·cism** *n.*
sar·do·nyx (sär′də·niks) *n.* A variety of chalcedony in bands varying from light to reddish brown, with other colors. [< L < Gk., appar. < *sardios* sard + *onyx* onyx]
sar·gas·so (sär·gas′ō) *n.* An olive-brown seaweed having small air bladders on its stalks, native in tropical American waters: also called *gulfweed.* Also **sar·gas′sum.** [< Pg. < *sarga*, ? < L *salicastrum*]
sa·ri (sä′rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ris** A long piece of cotton or silk cloth, constituting the principal garment of Hindu women, worn round the waist, one end falling to the feet, and the other crossed over the bosom and shoulder, and sometimes over the head. Also **sa′ree.** [< Hind. *sarī* < Skt. *śāṭī*]
sa·rong (sə·rong′) *n.* **1.** A skirtlike garment of colored silk or cotton cloth worn by both sexes in the Malay Archipelago, etc. **2.** The material used for this garment. [< Malay *sārung*, prob. < Skt. *sāranga* variegated]
sar·sa·pa·ril·la (sas′pə·ril′ə, sär′sə·pə·ril′ə) *n.* **1.** The dried roots of certain tropical American climbing plants of the lily family. **2.** A medicinal preparation or a beverage made from such roots. [< Sp. < *zarza* bramble + *parilla*, dim. of *parra* vine]
sarse·net (särs′nit) *n.* A fine, thin silk, used for linings: also spelled *sarcenet.* [< AF, dim. of ME *sarzin* Saracen]
sar·to·ri·al (sär·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a tailor or his work. **2.** Pertaining to men's clothes. [< L *sartor* patcher, mender] — **sar·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*
sash[1] (sash) *n.* An ornamental band or scarf, worn as a girdle, or around the waist or over the shoulder. [Orig. *shash* < Arabic *shāsh* muslin, turban]
sash[2] (sash) *n.* A frame, as of a window, in which glass is set. — *v.t.* To furnish with a sash. [Alter. of CHASSIS, taken as a pl.]
sa·shay (sa·shā′) *v.i.* *U.S. Informal* To move with a swinging or gliding motion. [Alter. of *chassé*, a dance motion]
sass (sas) *Informal n.* Impudence; back talk. — *v.t.* To talk to impudently or disrespectfully. [Dial. alter. of SAUCE]
sas·sa·fras (sas′ə·fras) *n.* **1.** An aromatic, deciduous tree of the laurel family. **2.** The root bark of this tree, used for flavoring, and yielding a volatile oil. [< Sp. *sasafrás*, prob. < N. Am. Ind. name]
sas·sy[1] (sas′ē) *adj.* **·si·er, ·si·est** *U.S. Dial.* Saucy; impertinent; cheeky.
sas·sy[2] (sas′ē) *n.* A West African tree having a bark that yields a poisonous alkaloid. Also **sas′sy·bark′** (-bärk′), **sas′sy·wood′** (-wŏŏd′). [< native W. African name]
sat (sat) Past tense of SIT.
Sa·tan (sā′tən) In the Bible, the great adversary of God and tempter of mankind; the Devil: identified with *Lucifer. Luke* iv 5–8; *Rev.* xii 7–9. Also **Sa′than** (sā′thən), **Sath·a·nas** (sath′ə·nəs). [< Hebrew *sātān* enemy]
sa·tan·ic (sā·tan′ik) *adj.* Devilish; infernal; wicked. Also **sa·tan′i·cal.** — **sa·tan′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
satch·el (sach′əl) *n.* A small handbag or suitcase. [< OF < L *sacellus*, dim. of *saccus* sack]
sate (sāt) *v.t.* **sat·ed, sat·ing** To satisfy the appetite of; satiate. [Appar. alter. of obs. *sade* to sate, OE *sadian*; refashioned after L *sat, satis* enough]
sa·teen (sa·tēn′) *n.* A cotton fabric woven so as to give it a satin surface. [Alter. of SATIN]
sat·el·lite (sat′ə·līt) *n.* **1.** *Astron.* A smaller body attending upon and revolving round a larger one; a moon. **2.** One who attends upon a person in power. **3.** Any obsequious attendant. **4.** A small nation that is politically, economically, or militarily dependent on a great power. **5.** A town or community whose activities are largely determined by those of a neighboring metropolis. **6.** Any manmade object launched from and revolving around the earth. [< F < L *satelles, satellitis* attendant, guard]
sa·ti·a·ble (sā′shē·ə·bəl, -shə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being satiated. — **sa′ti·a·bil′i·ty, sa′ti·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **sa′ti·a·bly** *adv.*
sa·ti·ate (sā′shē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing 1.** To satisfy the appetite or desire of; gratify. **2.** To fill or gratify beyond natural desire; glut. — **Syn.** See SATISFY. — *adj.* Filled to satiety; satiated. [< L < *satis* enough] — **sa′ti·a′tion** *n.*
sa·ti·e·ty (sə·tī′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** The state of being satiated.
sat·in (sat′ən) *n.* A silk, cotton, rayon, or acetate fabric of thick texture, with glossy face and dull back. — *adj.* Of or resembling satin; glossy; smooth. [< OF < Med.L *satinus, setinus*, ult. < L *seta* silk] — **sat′in·y** *adj.*
sat·i·net (sat′ə·net′) *n.* **1.** A strong fabric with cotton warp and woolen filling. **2.** A thin satin. Also **sat′i·nette′.** [< F, dim. of *satin* satin]
sat·in·wood (sat′ən·wŏŏd′) *n.* **1.** The satinlike wood of an East Indian tree of the mahogany family. **2.** The tree.
sat·ire (sat′īr) *n.* **1.** The use of sarcasm, irony, or wit in exposing abuses or follies; ridicule. **2.** A written composition in which vice, folly, etc., is held up to ridicule. [< MF < L *satira, satura* satire, orig. medley < (*lanx*) *satura* fruit salad, lit., full (dish), fem. of *satur* full]
— **Syn. 1.** chaff, raillery, mockery, derision.
sa·tir·ic (sə·tir′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or resembling satire, esp. literary satire: *satiric* verse. Also *satirical.*
sa·tir·i·cal (sə·tir′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Given to or characterized by satire. **2.** Severely sarcastic; caustic: a *satirical* laugh. **3.** Satiric. — **sa·tir′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **sa·tir′i·cal·ness** *n.*
sat·i·rist (sat′ə·rist) *n.* **1.** A writer of satire. **2.** A satirical person.
sat·i·rize (sat′ə·rīz) *v.t.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** To criticize by means of satire; subject to satire. — **sat′i·riz′er** *n.*

at·is·fac·tion (sat′is·fak′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of satisfying or the state of being satisfied; gratification. **2.** The making of amends, reparation, or payment, as of a claim or obligation. **3.** That which satisfies; atonement; compensation.

at·is·fac·to·ry (sat′is·fak′tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Giving satisfaction; answering fully all desires, expectations, or requirements. **2.** Atoning; expiatory. — **Syn.** See ADEQUATE. — **sat′is·fac′to·ri·ly** *adv.* — **sat′is·fac′to·ri·ness** *n.*

at·is·fy (sat′is·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To supply fully with what is desired, expected, or needed; gratify. **2.** To free from doubt or anxiety; convince. **3.** To give what is due to. **4.** To pay or discharge (a debt, obligation, etc.). **5.** To answer sufficiently or convincingly, as a question or objection. **6.** To fulfill the conditions or requirements of, as an equation. **7.** To make reparation for; expiate. — *v.i.* **8.** To give satisfaction. [< OF < L < *satis* enough + *facere* to do] — **sat′is·fi′er** *n.* — **sat′is·fy′ing·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Satisfy* suggests the giving of just enough, and no more, and a state of mind that is merely content. To *gratify* is to please, hence to give liberally, while *satiate* is now chiefly used to indicate an excess or oversupply.

a·to·ri (sä·tôr′ē) *n.* The illumination of spirit sought by Zen Buddhists. [< Japanese]

a·trap (sā′trap, sat′rap) *n.* **1.** A governor of a province in ancient Persia. **2.** A subordinate, often despotic, ruler or governor. [< L < Gk. < OPersian *shathraparan*, lit., protector of a province]

a·trap·y (sā′trə·pē, sat′rə·pē) *n. pl.* **·trap·ies** The territory or the jurisdiction of a satrap. Also **sa·trap·ate** (sā′trə·pit, sat′rə-).

at·u·rate (sach′ə·rāt; *for adj., also* sach′ə·rit) *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** **1.** To soak or imbue thoroughly. **2.** To fill, impregnate, or charge (a substance or material) to its full capacity. — *adj.* **1.** Filled to repletion; saturated. **2.** Very intense; deep: said of colors. [< L *saturatus*, pp. of *saturare* to fill up] — **sat·u·ra·ble** (sach′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* — **sat′u·ra′ter** or **·tor** *n.* — **sat′u·ra′tion** *n.*

at·u·rat·ed (sach′ə·rā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Incapable of holding more of a substance or material; completely satisfied; replete: *saturated* vapor. **2.** *Chem.* Designating an organic compound, as paraffin or methane, having no free valences and without double or triple bonds. **3.** Designating a color or hue exhibiting high saturation.

at·ur·day (sat′ər·dē, -dā) *n.* The seventh or last day of the week. [OE *Sæterdæg, Sæternesdæg*]

at·urn (sat′ərn) In Roman mythology, the god of agriculture: identified with the Greek *Cronus.* — *n.* The second largest planet of the solar system and sixth in order from the sun. See PLANET. [< L *Saturnus*] — **Sa·tur·ni·an** (sə·tûr′nē·ən) *adj.*

at·ur·na·li·a (sat′ər·nā′lē·ə) *n.pl.* (*Usu. construed as sing.*) Any season or period of general license or revelry.

at·ur·na·li·a (sat′ər·nā′lē·ə) *n.pl.* The feast of Saturn, held at Rome in mid-December, and marked by wild reveling and licentious abandon. — **Sat′ur·na′li·an** *adj.*

at·ur·nine (sat′ər·nīn) *adj.* Having a grave, gloomy, or morose disposition or character. [< OF < Med.L *Saturnus* lead, Saturn]

at·yr (sat′ər, sā′tər) *n.* **1.** In Greek mythology, a lecherous woodland diety in human form, having pointed ears, goat's legs, and budding horns. **2.** A very lascivious man. [< L < Gk. *satyros*] — **sa·tyr·ic** (sə·tir′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

at·y·ri·a·sis (sat′ə·rī′ə·sis) *n. Psychiatry* An excessive and uncontrollable sexual desire in men. [< NL < Gk. < *satyros* satyr]

auce (sôs) *n.* **1.** An appetizing dressing or liquid relish for food. **2.** Any appetizing garnish of a meal. **3.** Formerly, any condiment, as salt or pepper. **4.** A dish of fruit pulp stewed and sweetened. **5.** *Informal* Pert or impudent language. — *v.t.* **sauced, sauc·ing** **1.** To flavor with sauce; season. **2.** To give zest or piquancy to. **3.** *Informal* To be saucy to. [< OF < LL *salsa*, orig. fem. of L *salsus* salted]

auce·pan (sôs′pan′) *n.* A metal or enamel pan with projecting handle, for cooking food.

au·cer (sô′sər) *n.* **1.** A small dish for holding a cup. **2.** Any small, round, shallow vessel of similar shape. [< OF < *sauce* sauce]

au·cy (sô′sē) *adj.* **·ci·er, ·ci·est** **1.** Disrespectful to superiors; impudent. **2.** Piquant; sprightly; amusing. — **sau′ci·ly** *adv.* — **sau′ci·ness** *n.*

auer·bra·ten (sour′brätn, *Ger.* zou′ər·brätn′) *n.* Beef marinated in vinegar before being braised. [< G < *sauer* sour + *braten* to roast]

auer·kraut (sour′krout′) *n.* Shredded and salted cabbage fermented in its own juice: also called *kraut.* [< G < *sauer* sour + *kraut* cabbage]

auk (sôk) *n.* One of a tribe of North American Indians of Algonquian stock, formerly occupying Michigan, later Wisconsin and the Mississippi valley, now on reservations in Oklahoma, Iowa, and Kansas. Also spelled *Sac.*

Saul (sôl) **1.** The first king of Israel. I *Sam.* ix 2. **2.** The Hebrew name of the Apostle Paul (*Acts* xiii 9): also **Saul of Tarsus.**

sau·na (sou′nə) *n.* A room or house for taking steam baths by the Finnish method, in steam produced by throwing water on hot stones; also, such a steam bath. [< Finnish]

saun·ter (sôn′tər) *v.i.* To walk in a leisurely or lounging way; stroll. — *n.* **1.** A slow, aimless manner of walking. **2.** An idle stroll. [ME *santren* to muse, meditate]

sau·ri·an (sôr′ē·ən) *n.* One of a suborder of reptiles, including the lizards, geckos, and chameleons. — *adj.* Pertaining to saurians. [< NL < Gk. *sauros* lizard]

sauro- *combining form* Lizard. Also, before vowels, **saur-**. [< Gk. *sauros* lizard]

-saurus *combining form Zool.* Lizard: used to form genus names: *Brontosaurus.* [< Gk. *sauros* lizard]

sau·sage (sô′sij) *n.* **1.** Finely chopped and highly seasoned meat, commonly stuffed into the cleaned entrails of some animal or into artificial casings. **2.** *Aeron.* A type of barrage or observation balloon, shaped like a sausage. [< AF < LL *salsicia*, ult. < L *salsus* salted]

sau·té (sō·tā′, sô-) *adj.* Fried quickly with little grease. — *v.t.* **·téed, ·té·ing** To fry quickly in a little fat. [< F, pp. of *sauter* to leap < L *saltare*]

sau·terne (sō·tûrn′, sô-; *Fr.* sō·tern′) *n.* A sweet, white French wine. Also **sau·ternes′.** [after *Sauternes*, district in SW France]

sav·age (sav′ij) *adj.* **1.** Having a wild and untamed nature; not domesticated. **2.** Ferocious; fierce. **3.** Living in or belonging to a primitive condition of human life and society; uncivilized: *savage* tribes. **4.** Vicious; cruel; furious. **5.** Rude; uncultivated; rough. — *n.* **1.** A primitive or uncivilized human being. **2.** A brutal, fierce, and cruel person; a barbarian. — *v.t.* **·aged, ·ag·ing** To attack savagely, esp. with the teeth. [< OF < L *salvaticus, silvaticus* < *silva* a wood] — **sav′age·ly** *adv.* — **sav′age·ness** *n.*

sav·age·ry (sav′ij·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The state of being savage. **2.** Cruelty in disposition or action; a cruel or savage act. **3.** Savages collectively: also **sav′age·dom** (-dəm). Also **sav′ag·ism.**

sa·van·na (sə·van′ə) *n.* **1.** A tract of level land covered with low vegetation. **2.** Any large area of tropical or subtropical grassland, covered in part with trees and spiny shrubs. Also **sa·van′nah.** [Earlier *zavana* < Sp. < Carib]

sa·vant (sə·vänt′, sav′ənt; *Fr.* sà·vän′) *n.* A man of exceptional learning. [< F < L *sapere* to be wise]

save[1] (sāv) *v.* **saved, sav·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To preserve or rescue from danger, harm, etc. **2.** To keep from being spent, expended, or lost. **3.** To set aside for future use; accumulate: often with *up.* **4.** To treat carefully so as to avoid fatigue, harm, etc.: to *save* one's eyes. **5.** To prevent by timely action: A stitch in time *saves* nine. **6.** *Theol.* To deliver from spiritual death or the consequences of sin. — *v.i.* **7.** To avoid waste; be economical. **8.** To preserve something from danger, harm, etc. **9.** To admit of preservation, as food. [< OF < LL < L *salvus* safe] — **sav′a·ble** or **save′a·ble** *adj.* — **sav′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **sav′er** *n.*

save[2] (sāv) *prep.* Except; but. — *conj.* **1.** Except; but: usu. with *that.* **2.** *Archaic* Unless. [< OF *sauf* being excepted, orig., safe < L *salvus*]

sav·ing (sā′ving) *adj.* **1.** That saves; preserving, as from destruction. **2.** Redeeming; delivering. **3.** Avoiding needless waste or expense; economical; frugal. **4.** Incurring no loss, if not gainful: a *saving* investment. **5.** Holding in reserve; making an exception; qualifying: a *saving* clause. — *n.* **1.** Preservation from loss or danger. **2.** Avoidance of waste; economy. **3.** The extent of something saved: a *saving* of 16 percent. **4.** *pl.* Sums of money not expended. **5.** That which is saved. — *prep.* **1.** With the exception of; save. **2.** With due respect for: *saving* your presence. — *conj.* Save; but. — **sav′ing·ly** *adv.* — **sav′ing·ness** *n.*

savings account An account drawing interest at a bank.

savings bank **1.** A bank whose chief functions are receiving and investing savings and paying interest on deposits. **2.** A container with a slot for depositing coins.

sav·ior (sāv′yər) *n.* One who saves. Also *Brit.* **sav′iour.** [< OF < LL < L *salvare* to save]

Sav·iour (sāv′yər) *n.* A title sometimes applied directly to God, but chiefly to Jesus Christ, as the Redeemer: usu. with *the.* Also **Sav′ior.**

sa·voir-faire (sà·vwàr·fâr′) *French* Ability to say and do the right thing; tact; literally, to know how to act.

sa·vor (sā′vər) *n.* **1.** The quality of a thing that affects the sense of taste or smell, or both; flavor; odor. **2.** Specific or characteristic quality or approach to a quality; flavor. **3.** Relish; zest: The conversation had *savor.* — *v.i.* **1.** To have

a specified savor; taste or smell: with *of*. **2.** To have a specified quality or character: with *of*. —*v.t.* **3.** To give flavor to; season. **4.** To taste or enjoy with pleasure; relish. **5.** To have the savor or character of. Also *Brit.* **sa′vour.** [< OF < L < *sapere* to taste, know] —**sa′vor·er** *n.* —**sa′vor·ous** *adj.*

sa·vor·less (sā′vər·lis) *adj.* Tasteless; insipid.

sa·vor·y[1] (sā′vər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Of an agreeable taste and odor; appetizing. **2.** Piquant to the taste. **3.** In good repute; respectable. —*n. Brit.* A small, hot serving of food eaten at the end or beginning of a dinner. Also *Brit.* **sa′vour·y.** [< OF *savouré*, pp. of *savourer* to taste] —**sa′vor·i·ly** *adv.* —**sa′vor·i·ness** *n.*

sa·vor·y[2] (sā′vər·ē) *n.* A hardy, annual, aromatic herb of the mint family, used for seasoning. Also **summer savory.** [OE < L *satureia*]

sa·voy (sə·voi′) *n.* A variety of cabbage with wrinkled leaves. [< F (*chou de*) *Savoie* (cabbage of) Savoy]

Sa·voy·ard (sə·voi′ərd, *Fr.* sȧ·vwȧ·yȧr′) *n.* **1.** An actor or actress in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. **2.** An admirer of these operas. [after the *Savoy* Theater in London]

sav·vy (sav′ē) *Slang v.i.* **·vied, ·vy·ing** To understand; comprehend. —*n.* Understanding; good sense. [Alter. of Sp. *¿ Sabe (usted)?* Do (you) know? < L *sapere* to know]

saw[1] (sô) *n.* **1.** A cutting instrument with pointed teeth arranged continuously along the edge of the blade, used to cut or divide wood, bone, metal, etc. **2.** A machine for operating a saw or gang of saws. **3.** Any tool or instrument without teeth used like a saw. —*v.* **sawed, sawed** or **sawn, saw·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cut or divide with a saw. **2.** To shape or fashion with a saw. **3.** To cut or slice (the air, etc.) as if using a saw. **4.** To cause to move with a to-and-fro motion like that of a saw. —*v.i.* **5.** To use a saw. **6.** To cut: said of a saw. **7.** To be cut with a saw: This wood *saws* easily. [OE *sagu*] —**saw′er** *n.*

saw[2] (sô) *n.* A proverbial or familiar saying; old maxim. —**Syn.** See PROVERB. [OE *sagu*]

saw[3] (sô) Past tense of SEE[1].

saw·bones (sô′bōnz′) *n. Slang* A surgeon.

saw·buck (sô′buk′) *n.* **1.** A sawhorse consisting of two X-shaped ends joined by a connecting bar or bars. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A ten-dollar bill: so called from the resemblance of X, Roman numeral ten, to the ends of a sawbuck. [Trans. of Du. *zaagbok*]

saw·dust (sô′dust′) *n.* Small particles of wood produced by the action of sawing.

sawed-off (sôd′ôf′, -of′) *adj.* **1.** Having one end sawed off, as a shotgun. **2.** *U.S. Slang* Short; not of average height.

saw·fish (sô′fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** Any of various elongate, sharklike tropical fish with the snout prolonged into a flat blade with teeth on each edge.

saw·fly (sô′flī′) *n. pl.* **·flies** Any of various winged insects having in the female a sawlike ovipositor for piercing plants, soft wood, etc.

saw·horse (sô′hôrs′) *n.* A frame on which to rest wood, etc., for sawing, usu. consisting of a long wooden bar or plank supported by four extended legs.

saw log A log of suitable size for sawing.

saw·mill (sô′mil′) *n.* **1.** An establishment for sawing logs with power-driven machinery. **2.** A large sawing machine.

sawn (sôn) Alternative past participle of SAW[1].

saw-toothed (sô′tōōtht′) *adj.* Serrate; having teeth or toothlike processes similar to those of a saw.

saw·yer (sô′yər) *n.* **1.** One whose occupation is the sawing of wood, as in lumbering or in a sawmill. **2.** Any of various longicorn beetles having larvae that bore into wood, as the **pine sawyer.** [Alter. of SAWER]

sax (saks) *n. Informal* A saxophone.

sax·horn (saks′hôrn′) *n.* Any of a family of valved brass instruments resembling the bugle, made in a wide series of ranges. [after the inventor, Antoine Joseph *Sax* (called Adolphe), 1814–94, Belgian instrument maker + HORN]

sax·i·frage (sak′sə·frij) *n.* Any of a large, widely distributed genus of herbaceous plants growing in rocky places, bearing small white, yellow, or purplish flowers. [< OF < L (*herba*) *saxifraga*, lit., stone-breaking (herb)]

Sax·on (sak′sən) *n.* **1.** A member of a Germanic tribal group formerly inhabiting what is now Schleswig-Holstein. **2.** A member of any of the offshoots of this group, as those who, with the Angles and Jutes, invaded England in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. **3.** An Anglo-Saxon. **4.** An inhabitant of Saxony. **5.** The modern High German dialect of Saxony. —**Old Saxon** The dialect of Low German current in the valley of the lower Elbe in the early Middle Ages. —*adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Saxons or to their language. **2.** Anglo-Saxon; English. **3.** Of or pertaining to Saxony, Germany. [< F < L *Saxo, Saxonis* < WGmc.]

sax·o·phone (sak′sə·fōn) *n.* Any of a family of metal wind instruments having a single reed and conical bore, made in a wide series of ranges. [after A. J. *Sax* (see SAXHORN) + -PHONE] —**sax′o·phon′ist** *n.*

say (sā) *v.* **said, say·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pronounce or utter speak. **2.** To declare or express in words; tell; state. **3.** T state positively or as an opinion: *Say* which you prefer. To recite: to *say* one's prayers. **5.** To report; allege. **6.** T assume; suppose. —*v.i.* **7.** To make a statement; speak **—that is to say** In other words. —*adv.* **1.** Approximate ly; at a guess: He is worth, *say*, a million. **2.** For example Choose a number, *say*, ten. —*n.* **1.** What one has said o has to say; word. **2.** Right or turn to speak or choose: t have one's *say*. **3.** Authority: to have the *say*. —*inter U.S. Informal* A hail or an exclamation to command atten tion: also *Brit.* **I say.** [OE *secgan*] —**say′er** *n.*

say·ing (sā′ing) *n.* **1.** A maxim; adage. **2.** Something said

says (sez) Third person singular, present indicative of SAY

say-so (sā′sō′) *n. Informal* **1.** An unsupported assertion o decision. **2.** Right or power to make decisions.

scab (skab) *n.* **1.** A crust formed on the surface of a woun or sore. **2.** *Vet.* Scabies. **3.** Any of certain plant disease characterized by a roughened or warty appearance. **4** *Slang* A mean, contemptible fellow. **5.** *Informal* A work man who will not join or act with a labor union; esp., a strike breaker. —*v.i.* **scabbed, scab·bing** **1.** To form or becom covered with a scab. **2.** *Informal* To take the job of a striker [Fusion of ON *skabbr* (assumed) and OE *sceabb*]

scab·bard (skab′ərd) *n.* A sheath for a weapon, as for bayonet or a sword. —*v.t.* To sheathe in or furnish with scabbard. [< OF *escalberc*, prob. < OHG *scar* sword + *bergan* to hide, protect]

scab·by (skab′ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est** **1.** Having, consistin of, or resembling a scab or scabs. **2.** Having scabies. **3.** *In formal* Contemptible. —**scab′bi·ly** *adv.* —**scab′bi·ness** *n.*

sca·bi·es (skā′bi·ēz, -bēz) *n.* **1.** A skin disease caused by th itch mite; itch. **2.** *Vet.* A similar skin disease of sheep: als called *scab*. [< L, roughness, an itch < *scabere* to scratch scrape.] —**sca·bi·et·ic** (skā′bē·et′ik) *adj.*

sca·bi·ous[1] (skā′bē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or resemblin scabies. **2.** Having scabs.

sca·bi·ous[2] (skā′bē·əs) *n.* Any of a genus of herbs allied t the teasel, with heads of variously colored flowers. Als **sca′bi·o′sa** (-ō′sə). [< NL < Med.L (*herba*) *scabiosa*, fem sing. of *scabiosus* scabious[1]]

sca·brous (skab′rəs, skā′brəs) *adj.* **1.** Roughened with mi nute points; scurfy. **2.** Off-color; risqué. **3.** Difficult to han dle tactfully; knotty. [< LL < *scabere* to scratch] —**sca brous·ly** *adv.* —**sca′brous·ness** *n.*

scads (skadz) *n.pl. Informal* A large amount or quantity [? Var. of dial E *scald* a large amount, great number]

scaf·fold (skaf′əld, -ōld) *n.* **1.** A temporary elevated struc ture for the support of workmen, materials, etc., as in build ing. **2.** Any raised wooden framework. **3.** A platform fo the execution of criminals. —*v.t.* To furnish or suppor with a scaffold. [< OF (*e*)*schaffaut*]

scaf·fold·ing (skaf′əl·ding) *n.* A scaffold, or system of scaf folds, or the materials for constructing them. Also **scaf·fold·age** (scaf′əl·dij).

sca·lar (skā′lər) *Math. adj.* Definable by a number on line or scale: said of a quantity having magnitude only, as volume or mass: distinguished from *vector*. [< L < *scala* ladder]

scal·a·wag (skal′ə·wag) *n.* **1.** *Informal* A worthless fellow scamp. **2.** *U.S.* During the Reconstruction period, a nativ Southern white Republican: a contemptuous term. Also called *scallywag*: also spelled *scallawag*. [Origin uncertain]

scald (skôld) *v.t.* **1.** To burn with or as with hot liquid o steam. **2.** To cleanse or treat with boiling water. **3.** T heat (a liquid) to a point just short of boiling. —*v.i.* **4.** T be or become scalded. —*n.* **1.** A burn or injury to the ski by a hot fluid. **2.** A destructive parasitic disease of plants **3.** A discoloration of plant tissue due to improper condition of growth, storage, etc. [< AF < LL < L < *ex-* very + *calidus* hot]

scale[1] (skāl) *n.* **1.** One of the thin, flat, horny, membranou or bony outgrowths of the skin of various animals, as mos fishes, usu. overlapping and forming a nearly complete cov ering. **2.** Any similar thin, flat formation, piece, or part. **3** A scab. **4.** A scale insect. **5.** *Bot.* A rudimentary or meta morphosed leaf, as of a pine cone. **6.** *Metall.* The coating o oxide that forms on heated iron, etc. **7.** An incrustatio formed on the inside of boilers, etc. —*v.* **scaled, scal·in** *v.t.* **1.** To strip or clear of scales. **2.** To form scales on. **3** To take off in layers. —*v.i.* **4.** To come off in scales; peel **5.** To shed scales. **6.** To become incrusted with scales [< OF *escale* husk < Gmc.] —**scal′er** *n.*

scale[2] (skāl) *n.* **1.** Any instrument bearing accurately spaced lines or gradations for use in measurement. **2.** Th series of marks so used. **3.** Any system of designating unit of measurement: the Fahrenheit *scale*. **4.** A fixed propor tion used in determining measurements or dimensions: *scale* of one inch to the mile. **5.** Any progressive or grade classification: wage *scale*. **6.** Relative proportion, degree scope, etc.: with *on*: to live on a grand *scale*. **7.** *Math.*

system of notation in which the successive places determine the value of the figures: the decimal *scale*. **8.** *Music* An arrangement of tones in ascending or descending order through the interval of an octave: a diatonic *scale*. **— major scale** *Music* A scale having semitones after the third and seventh steps, all the other intervals being whole tones. **— minor scale** A scale having semitones after the second and fifth steps (the natural form), or after the second, fifth, and seventh steps (the harmonic form), or after the second and seventh steps when ascending and the sixth and third when descending (the melodic form), all the other intervals being whole tones. **—** *v.* **scaled, scal·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To climb to the top of. **2.** To make according to a scale. **3.** To regulate or adjust according to a scale or ratio: with *up, down,* etc. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To climb; ascend. **5.** To rise in steps or stages. [< Ital. < L *scandere* to climb] **— scal'a·ble** *adj.* **— scal'er** *n.*

cale[3] (skāl) *n.* **1.** Any weighing machine. **2.** A pan, scoop, platform, etc., that holds the object or material to be weighed in a weighing instrument or balance. **3.** *Usu. pl.* A balance (defs. 1 & 2). **— to turn the scales** To determine; decide. **—** *v.* **scaled, scal·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To weigh in scales. **2.** To amount to in weight. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To be weighed. [< ON *skāl* bowl, in pl., a weighing balance]

cale insect One of numerous small insects that feed on plants and as adults have a scalelike, protective shield.

ca·lene (skā'lēn, skā·lēn') *adj. Geom.* Designating a triangle having no two sides equal. [< LL < Gk. *skalēnos* uneven]

cales (skālz) *n.pl.* The constellation and sign of the zodiac Libra.

cal·la·wag (skal'ə·wag) See SCALAWAG.

cal·lion (skal'yən) *n.* **1.** A young, tender onion with a small white bulb. **2.** A shallot or leek. [< OF < L (*caepa*) *Ascalonia* (onion) of Ashkelon, a Palestinian seaport]

cal·lop (skal'əp, skol'-) *n.* **1.** A bivalve mollusk having a rounded, ridged shell whose valves are snapped together in swimming. **2.** The edible adductor muscle of certain species of this mollusk. **3.** The shell of a scallop; esp., one in which seafood is cooked or served. **4.** One of a series of semicircular curves along an edge, as for ornament. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To shape the edge of with scallops. **2.** To bake (food) in a casserole with a sauce, often topped with bread crumbs. Also spelled *escallop, scollop.* [< OF *escalope* < Gmc.] **— scal'lop·er** *n.*

SCALLOP SHELL

cal·ly·wag (skal'ē·wag) *n.* A scalawag.

calp (skalp) *n.* **1.** The skin of the top and back of the human skull, usu. covered with hair. **2.** A portion of this, formerly cut or torn away as a war trophy among certain North American Indians. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To cut or tear the scalp from. **2.** *Informal* To buy and resell (tickets) at prices exceeding the established rate. **3.** *Informal* To buy and sell again quickly in order to make a small profit. **4.** *Informal* To defeat utterly. **—** *v.i.* **5.** *Informal* To scalp bonds, tickets, etc. [ME, prob. < Scand.] **— scalp'er** *n.*

cal·pel (skal'pəl) *n.* A small pointed knife with a very sharp, thin blade, used in dissections and in surgery. [< L *scalpere* to cut]

cal·y (skā'lē) *adj.* **scal·i·er, scal·i·est** Having, resembling, or incrusted with scales. **— scal'i·ness** *n.*

caly anteater A pangolin.

camp[1] (skamp) *n.* A confirmed rogue; good-for-nothing fellow; rascal. [< obs. verb *scamp* to roam, contr. of SCAMPER] **— scamp'ish** *adj.*

camp[2] (skamp) *v.t.* To perform (work) carelessly or dishonestly. [Orig. dial. E] **— scamp'er** *n.*

cam·per (skam'pər) *v.i.* To run quickly or hastily. **—** *n.* A hurried run or departure. [< OF, ult. < L *ex* out from + *campus* plain, battlefield] **— scam'per·er** *n.*

can (skan) *v.* **scanned, scan·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To examine in detail; scrutinize closely. **2.** To pass the eyes over quickly; glance at. **3.** To separate (verse) into metrical feet; ascertain or indicate the rhythm of. **4.** *Telecom.* To pass a beam of light or electrons rapidly over every point of (a surface, etc.) for television, sound, or other reproduction. **—** *v.i.* **5.** To scan verse. **6.** To conform to metrical rules: said of verse. [< LL < L *scandere* climb] **— scan'na·ble** *adj.* **— scan'ner** *n.*

can·dal (skan'dəl) *n.* **1.** Heedless or malicious gossip. **2.** Disgrace or reproach caused by outrageous or improper conduct. **3.** A discreditable circumstance, event, or action. **4.** Censure or open disapproval. **5.** One whose conduct results in disgrace or censure. [< AF < L < Gk. *skandalon* snare]

can·dal·ize (skan'dəl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To shock the moral feelings of, as by improper, frivolous, or offensive conduct; outrage. **— scan'dal·i·za'tion** *n.* **— scan'dal·iz'er** *n.*

can·dal·mong·er (skan'dəl·mung'gər, -mong'-) *n.* One who spreads or repeats scandal.

scan·dal·ous (skan'dəl·əs) *adj.* **1.** Causing or tending to cause scandal; disgraceful. **2.** Consisting of or spreading scandal. **— scan'dal·ous·ly** *adv.* **— scan'dal·ous·ness** *n.*

Scan·di·na·vi·an (skan'də·nā'vē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Scandinavia, its people, or their languages. **—** *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Scandinavia. **2.** The North Germanic group of languages: see under GERMANIC. Also *Norse.* **— Old Scandinavian** Old Norse. See under NORSE.

scan·di·um (skan'dē·əm) *n.* A metallic element (symbol Sc) of the lanthanide series. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L *Scandia* Scandinavia]

scan·sion (skan'shən) *n.* The division or analysis of lines of verse according to a metrical pattern. Compare METER[2] (def. 1). [< F < LL < L *scandere* scan]

scant (skant) *adj.* **1.** Scarcely enough; meager in measure or quantity. **2.** Being just short of the measure specified: a *scant* half-hour; a *scant* five yards. **3.** Insufficiently supplied with: with *of*: We were *scant* of breath. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To restrict or limit in supply; stint. **2.** To treat briefly or inadequately. **—** *adv. Dial.* Scarcely; barely. [< ON *skammr* short] **— scant'ly** *adv.* **— scant'ness** *n.*

scant·ling (skant'ling) *n.* **1.** A piece of lumber of small or moderate cross section, used for studding, etc. **2.** Such lumber collectively. [< OF *eschantillon* cornerpiece]

scant·y (skan'tē) *adj.* **scant·i·er, scant·i·est 1.** Limited in extent. **2.** Restricted in quantity or amount; scarcely sufficient; meager. **— scant'i·ly** *adv.* **— scant'i·ness** *n.*

scape (skāp) *Archaic v.t. & v.i.* To escape. **—** *n.* An escape or means of escape. Also **'scape.**

scape·goat (skāp'gōt') *n.* **1.** In the Bible, the goat upon whose head the high priest symbolically laid the sins of the people on the day of atonement, after which it was led away into the wilderness. *Lev.* xvi. **2.** An animal, person, or group that bears the blame or suffers for the errors or sins of others.

scape·grace (skāp'grās') *n.* A mischievous or incorrigible person; rogue.

scapi- *combining form* A stalk, stem, or shaft. [< L *scapus* stalk]

scap·u·la (skap'yə·lə) *n.* *pl.* **·lae** (-lē) *Anat.* Either of a pair of large, flat, triangular bones in the back of the shoulder in man and having an analogous position in the skeleton of vertebrates: also called *shoulder blade.* [< LL < L *scapulae* shoulder blades]

scap·u·lar (skap'yə·lər) *n.* **1.** An outer garment consisting of two strips of cloth joined across the shoulders, worn by members of certain religious orders. **2.** A badge or sign of devotion worn about the neck by members of certain religious orders and groups. **3.** *pl. Ornithol.* The shoulder feathers of a bird. **—** *adj.* Of or pertaining to the scapula.

scap·u·lar·y (skap'yə·ler'ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** A scapular. **—** *adj.* Scapular.

scar (skär) *n.* **1.** The mark left on the skin after the healing of a wound or sore. **2.** Any mark, damage, or lasting effect resulting from past injury, stress, etc. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* **scarred, scar·ring** To mark or become marked with a scar. [< OF < LL *eschara* scab < Gk.]

scar·ab (skar'əb) *n.* **1.** A large, black beetle held sacred by the ancient Egyptians. **2.** A gem or ornament representing this beetle. [< MF < L *scarabaeus*]

scar·a·bae·us (skar'ə·bē'əs) *n.* *pl.* **·bae·us·es** or **·bae·i** (-bē'ī) A scarab. [< L]

scar·a·mouch (skar'ə·mouch, -mōōsh) *n.* A swaggering rascal. [< *Scaramouch*]

Scar·a·mouch (skar'ə·mouch, -mōōsh) In old Italian comedy, a stock character represented as a boastful, cowardly buffoon. [< F < Ital. *Scaramuccia,* lit., skirmish]

scarce (skârs) *adj.* **scarc·er, scarc·est 1.** Rarely seen or found. **2.** Not plentiful; insufficient. **— to make oneself scarce** *Informal* To go away or stay away. [< OF, ult. < L < *ex-* out + *carpere* to pluck] **— scarce'ness** *n.*

scarce·ly (skârs'lē) *adv.* **1.** Only just; barely. **2.** Not quite; hardly.

scar·ci·ty (skâr'sə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties 1.** Inadequate supply; insufficiency; dearth. **2.** Infrequency of occurrence; rarity.

scare (skâr) *v.* **scared, scar·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To strike with sudden fear; frighten. **2.** To drive or force by frightening: with *off* or *away.* **—** *v.i.* **3.** To become scared. **— to scare up** *Informal* To get together or produce hurriedly. **—** *n.* **1.** Sudden fright, esp. from slight cause. **2.** Panic. [< ON < *skiarr* shy] **— scar'er** *n.* **— scar'ing·ly** *adv.*

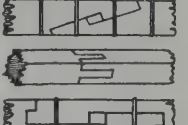
scare·crow (skâr'krō') *n.* **1.** Any effigy set up to scare crows and other birds away from growing crops. **2.** Something frightening but not dangerous. **3.** A person of ragged or disreputable appearance.

scare·head (skâr'hed') *n. Informal* An exceptionally large newspaper headline giving news of sensational interest.

scarf[1] (skärf) *n.* *pl.* **scarfs** or **scarves** (skärvz) **1.** A band

or square of cloth worn about the head, neck, etc., for warmth or protection, or as a decorative accessory. **2.** A necktie, cravat, kerchief, etc. **3.** A runner for a bureau or dresser. **4.** An official sash denoting rank. — *v.t.* To cover or decorate with or as with a scarf. [< OF *escharpe*]

scarf[2] (skärf) *n.* *pl.* **scarfs** **1.** In carpentry, a lapped joint made by notching two timbers at the ends and joining them so as to form one continuous piece. Also **scarf joint.** **2.** The notched end of a timber so cut. — *v.t.* **1.** To unite with a scarf joint. **2.** To cut a scarf in. [? < ON *skarfr* notch in a timber]



SCARF JOINTS

scar·i·fy (skar′ə-fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To scratch or make slight incisions in, as the skin in surgery. **2.** To criticize severely. **3.** To stir or break up the surface of, as soil. [< MF < LL < L < Gk. < *skariphos* stylus] — **scar′i·fi·ca′tion** *n.* — **scar′i·fi·ca′tor** *n.*

scar·la·ti·na (skär′lə-tē′nə) *n.* *Pathol.* **1.** Scarlet fever. **2.** A mild form of scarlet fever. [< Ital. See SCARLET.]

scar·let (skär′lit) *n.* **1.** A brilliant red, inclining to orange. **2.** Cloth or clothing of this color. — *adj.* **1.** Being scarlet in color. **2.** Uncha ste; whorish. [< OF < Med.L, prob. < Arabic < Persian *saqalāt* a rich, scarlet cloth]

scarlet fever *Pathol.* An acute infectious bacterial disease characterized by a diffused scarlet rash followed by scaling of the skin.

scarlet runner A tall climbing bean of tropical America, having vivid red flowers and long seed pods.

scarlet tanager An American tanager, the male of which has brilliant red plumage with black wings and tail.

scarp (skärp) *n.* **1.** A steep slope. **2.** An embankment or wall at the outer part of a fortification. — *v.t.* To cut or form to a steep slope. [< AF < Ital. *scarpa*]

scarves (skärvz) Alternative plural of SCARF[1].

scar·y (skâr′ē) *adj.* **scar·i·er, scar·i·est** *Informal* **1.** Easily scared; timid. **2.** Causing fear or alarm; frightening.

scat (skat) *v.i.* **scat·ted, scat·ting** *Informal* To go away; depart: usu. in the imperative. [? < SCATTER]

scathe (skāth) *v.t.* **scathed, scath·ing** **1.** To criticize severely. **2.** To injure severely; harm. — *n.* Severe injury; harm. [< ON < *skathi* to harm] — **scathe′ful** *adj.*

scathe·less (skāth′lis) *adj.* Free from harm.

scath·ing (skā′thing) *adj.* Mercilessly severe; blasting; withering: a *scathing* rebuke. — **scath′ing·ly** *adv.*

scato- *combining form* Dung; excrement. Also, before vowels, **scat-.** [< Gk. *skōr* dung]

scat·o·log·i·cal (skat′ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to scatology; obscene. Also **scat′o·log′ic.**

sca·tol·o·gy (skə·tol′ə·jē) *n.* The study of, or a preoccupation with, excrement. — **sca·tol′o·gist** *n.*

scat·ter (skat′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To throw about in various places; sprinkle. **2.** To separate and drive away in different directions; disperse. — *v.i.* **3.** To separate and go in different directions. [ME *scateren* to squander] — **scat′ter·er** *n.*

scat·ter-brain (skat′ər·brān′) *n.* A flighty or forgetful person. — **scat′ter-brained′** *adj.*

scatter rug A small rug used to cover only part of a floor.

scaup (skôp) *n.* A sea duck of northern regions, related to the canvasback, having the head and neck black in the male. Also **scaup duck.** [Var. of SCALP]

scav·enge (skav′inj) *v.* **·enged, ·eng·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To remove filth, rubbish, and refuse from, as streets. — *v.i.* **2.** To act as a scavenger. **3.** To search or rummage, as for food. [Back formation < SCAVENGER]

scav·en·ger (skav′in·jər) *n.* **1.** An animal that feeds on carrion, as the buzzard. **2.** One who searches refuse, garbage, etc., for usable material. **3.** A street cleaner. [ME < AF < Flemish *scauwen* to see]

sce·nar·i·o (si·nâr′ē·ō, -nä′rē·ō) *n.* *pl.* **·nar·i·os** **1.** A summary or outline of the plot of a dramatic work. **2.** The written plot and arrangement of incidents of a motion picture. [< Ital. < LL < L < Gk. *skēnē* tent, stage]

sce·nar·ist (si·nâr′ist, -nä′rist) *n.* One who writes scenarios.

scene (sēn) *n.* **1.** A locality as presented to view. **2.** The place in which the action of a drama is supposed to occur; setting. **3.** The place and surroundings of any event: the *scene* of the crime. **4.** A division of an act of a play; one comprehensive event in a play. **5.** Any incident or episode that may serve as the subject of a description. **6.** The painted canvas screens for the background for a play. **7.** Any striking display; esp., a display of excited feeling. — **behind the scenes** **1.** Out of sight of a theater audience. **2.** Privately; in secret. [< OF < L < Gk. *skēnē* tent, stage]

scen·er·y (sē′nər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** The appearance or visible aspects of a landscape, locality, etc. **2.** The settings, backdrops, etc., of a theatrical production.

sce·nic (sē′nik, sen′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to natural scenery; picturesque. **2.** Relating to stage scenery. Also **sce′ni·cal.** — **sce′ni·cal·ly** *adv.*

scent (sent) *n.* **1.** A distinctive odor. **2.** A residual odor by which an animal can be tracked. **3.** A trail, trace, or clue aiding pursuit or investigation. **4.** A perfume. **5.** The sense of smell. — **Syn.** See SMELL. — *v.t.* **1.** To perceive by the sense of smell. **2.** To form a suspicion of. **3.** To cause to be fragrant; perfume. — *v.i.* **4.** To hunt by the sense of smell: said of hounds. [< OF *sentir* to discern by the senses, feel] — **scent′less** *adj.*

scep·ter (sep′tər) *n.* **1.** A staff carried as the badge of command or sovereignty. **2.** Kingly office or power. — *v.t.* To confer the scepter on; invest with royal power. Also *esp. Brit.* **scep′tre** (-tər). [< OF < L < Gk. *skēptron* staff]

scep·tic (skep′tik), **scep·ti·cal,** etc. See SKEPTIC, etc.

sched·ule (skej′ōōl, -əl, -ōō·əl; *Brit.* shed′yōōl) *n.* **1.** A written or printed statement specifying the details of some matter. **2.** A list; catalogue. **3.** A timetable, as for a transportation service. **4.** A detailed and timed plan; program. — *v.t.* **·uled, ·ul·ing** **1.** To place in or on a schedule. **2.** To make a schedule of. **3.** To appoint or plan for a specified time or date. [ME < OF < LL < L *scida, scheda* leaf of paper]

sche·ma (skē′mə) *n.* *pl.* **·ma·ta** (-mə·tə) **1.** A scheme or summary. **2.** A plan or diagram, of a process, organization, etc. [< Gk. See SCHEME.] — **sche·mat·ic** (skē·mat′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **sche·mat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sche·ma·tism (skē′mə·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** A particular form or disposition of anything. **2.** Orderly arrangement of parts.

sche·ma·tize (skē′mə·tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** To form into or arrange according to a scheme or schema.

scheme (skēm) *n.* **1.** A plan of something to be done; a plot or device for the accomplishment of an object. **2.** A systematic arrangement, plan, or design. **3.** A secret or underhand plot or plan. **4.** An outline drawing or sketch; diagram. — *v.* **schemed, schem·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make a scheme for; plan. **2.** To plan or plot in an underhand manner. — *v.i.* **3.** To make schemes; plan or plot. [< L < Gk. *schēma, -atos* a form, plan] — **schem′er** *n.*

scher·zan·do (sker·tsän′dō) *Music* *adv.* In a sportive or playful manner. — *adj.* Sportive; playful. [See SCHERZO.]

scher·zo (sker′tsō) *n.* *pl.* **·zos** or **·zi** (-tsē) *Music* A playful or satirical movement, often following a slow movement, as in a symphony or sonata. [< Ital., a jest < G *scherz*]

Schick test (shik) A test to determine the susceptibility of a person to diphtheria by the subcutaneous injection of a diluted diphtheria toxin. [after Dr. Béla *Schick*, born 1877, who devised it]

schil·ling (shil′ing) *n.* **1.** The standard monetary unit of Austria: in 1960 worth about 4 U.S. cents; also, a coin of this value. **2.** Formerly, a minor coin of Germany. [< G]

schism (siz′əm) *n.* **1.** A division of a church or other organized body into factions. **2.** The offense of causing such division. **3.** Any group, esp., an ecclesiastical one, separated from a larger body. [< OF < LL < Gk. *schizein* to split]

schis·mat·ic (siz·mat′ik) *adj.* Of, having the character of, implying, or promoting schism. Also **schis·mat′i·cal.** — *n.* One who makes or participates in a schism. — **schis·mat′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **schis·mat′i·cal·ness** *n.*

schist (shist) *n.* *Geol.* Any rock that readily splits or cleaves into parallel layers: also spelled *shist.* [< F < L < Gk. < *schizein* to split] — **schist′ous, schist·ose** (shis′tōs) *adj.*

schizo- *combining form* Split; divided. Also, before vowels, **schiz-.** [< Gk. *schizein* to split]

schiz·o·carp (skiz′ə·kärp) *n.* *Bot.* A pericarp splitting at maturity into two or more one-seeded indehiscent portions. — **schiz′o·car′pous, schiz′o·car′pic** *adj.*

schiz·oid (skit′soid, skiz′oid) *Psychiatry* *n.* One who is abnormally shy and withdrawn. — *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like a schizoid. **2.** Loosely, of or pertaining to schizophrenia. [< SCHIZ(OPHRENIA) + -OID]

schiz·o·phre·ni·a (skit′sō·frē′nē·ə, skiz′ō-) *n.* *Psychiatry* Any of a group of psychotic disorders characterized by delusions, withdrawal, conflicting emotions, and deterioration of the personality. [< NL < Gk. *schizein* to split + *phrēn* mind] — **schiz′o·phren′ic** (-fren′ik) *adj.* & *n.*

schle·miel (shlə·mēl′) *n.* *Slang* An inept, easily duped person; a bungler; dolt. Also **schle·mihl′.** [< Yiddish < Hebrew *Shelumiēl*, a personal name]

schnapps (shnäps, shnaps) *n.* *pl.* **schnapps** Any strong liquor, esp. a type of gin. Also **schnaps.** [< G, < Du. *snaps* gulp, mouthful]

schnau·zer (shnou′zər) *n.* A terrier originally developed in Germany, having a wiry, black or pepper-and-salt coat. [< G *schnauzen* to growl, snarl]

schol·ar (skol′ər) *n.* **1.** A person eminent for learning, esp. in the humanities. **2.** One who does authoritative research and writing in some special field. **3.** The holder of a scholarship. **4.** A pupil. [See SCHOOL[1].]

schol·ar·ly (skol′ər·lē) *adj.* **1.** Of or befitting a scholar: *scholarly* methods. **2.** Having the qualities of a scholar. — *adv.* After the manner of a scholar.

schol·ar·ship (skol′ər·ship) *n.* **1.** The mental attainments

and qualities of a scholar; learning; erudition. **2.** Scholarly inquiry or research. **3.** Maintenance or a stipend awarded to a student; also, the position of such a student.

scho·las·tic (skō·las′tik, skə-) *adj.* **1.** Of, or characteristic of scholars, education, or schools. **2.** Of, or characteristic of the medieval schoolmen. **3.** Precise; pedantic. Also **scho·las′ti·cal.** — *n.* **1.** *Often cap.* An advocate of scholasticism. **2.** A pedant. [< L < Gk. < *scholazein* to be at leisure, devote leisure to study] — **scho·las′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

scho·las·ti·cism (skō·las′tə·siz′əm, skə-) *n.* **1.** *Often cap.* The systematized Christian logic, philosophy, and theology of medieval scholars. **2.** Any system of teaching that insists on traditional doctrines, etc.

school[1] (skōōl) *n.* **1.** Any institution devoted primarily to imparting knowledge or to developing certain skills or talents; esp., an educational institution for children. **2.** A place where formal instruction is given; a schoolhouse or schoolroom. **3.** A session or course of study at an educational institution. **4.** The pupils in an educational institution. **5.** A subdivision of a university: the *school* of medicine, law, etc. **6.** A body of disciples of a teacher or system; also, the system, methods, or opinions characteristic of those thus associated: a painting of the Flemish *school.* **7.** A general style of life, manners, etc.: a gentleman of the old *school.* **8.** Any sphere or means of instruction: the *school* of hard knocks. — *v.t.* **1.** To instruct in or as in a school; train; educate. **2.** To subject to rule or discipline. — **Syn.** See TEACH. [OE < L < Gk. *scholē* leisure, school]

school[2] (skōōl) *n.* A large number of fish, whales, etc., swimming together; shoal. — *v.i.* To swim together in a school. [< Du., a crowd, school of fishes]

school board A board of education.

school·book (skōōl′bŏŏk′) *n.* A book for use in school.

school·boy (skōōl′boi′) *n.* A boy attending school.

school·girl (skōōl′gûrl′) *n.* A girl attending school.

school·house (skōōl′hous′) *n.* A building in which a school is conducted.

school·ing (skōō′ling) *n.* **1.** Instruction given at school. **2.** The process of teaching or being taught in a school.

school·man (skōōl′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One of the theologians of the Middle Ages; a scholastic.

school·marm (skōōl′märm′) *n. Informal* A woman schoolteacher. Also **school′ma′am′** (-mam′).

school·mas·ter (skōōl′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* **1.** A man who teaches in or directs a school. **2.** Anything that instructs or disciplines: Necessity was his *schoolmaster.*

school·mate (skōōl′māt′) *n.* A fellow pupil.

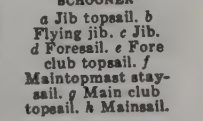
school·mis·tress (skōōl′mis′tris) *n.* A woman who teaches school.

school·room (skōōl′rōōm′, -rŏŏm′) *n.* A room in which classes are held or instruction is given.

school·teach·er (skōōl′tē′chər) *n.* One who gives instruction in a school below the college level.

school year The part of the year during which a school or the schools of an educational system are in session.

schoon·er (skōō′nər) *n.* **1.** A fore-and-aft rigged vessel having two or more masts. **2.** A large beer glass. [New England < dial. *scoon* to skim on water]



SCHOONER
a Jib topsail. *b* Flying jib. *c* Jib. *d* Foresail. *e* Fore club topsail. *f* Maintopmast staysail. *g* Main club topsail. *h* Mainsail.

schot·tische (shot′ish) *n.* **1.** A round dance similar to the polka, but slower. **2.** Music for this dance, in duple meter. [< G (*der*) *schottische* (*tanz*) (the) Scottish (dance)]

schwa (shwä, shvä) *n. Phonet.* A weak, neutral vowel sound occurring in most of the unstressed syllables in English speech, as the *a* in *alone,* the *e* in *happen,* or the *u* in *circus*: written ə. [< G < Hebrew *shewa*]

sci·at·ic (sī·at′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to or affecting the hip or its nerves. — *n.* A sciatic nerve or part. [< MF < Med.L < Gk. < *ischion* hip, hip joint]

sci·at·i·ca (sī·at′i·kə) *n. Pathol.* **1.** Neuralgia affecting the sciatic nerve. **2.** Any painful affection of the hip or adjoining areas. [See SCIATIC.]

sci·ence (sī′əns) *n.* **1.** Any department of knowledge in which the results of investigation have been logically arranged and systematized. **2.** Knowledge of facts, phenomena, laws, and proximate causes, gained and verified by exact observation, organized experiment, and ordered thinking. **3.** An orderly presentation of facts, reasonings, doctrines, and beliefs concerning some subject or group of subjects. **4.** Systematic knowledge in general. **5.** Expertness or skill resulting from knowledge. [< OF < L < *scire* to know]

science fiction Fiction in which facts or theories of contemporary science are imaginatively employed.

sci·en·tif·ic (sī′ən·tif′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, discovered by, derived from, or used in science. **2.** Agreeing with the rules, principles, or methods of science; accurate; systematic; exact. **3.** Versed in science or a science; eminently learned or skillful. Also **sci′en·tif′i·cal.** [< LL < *scientia* knowledge + *facere* to make] — **sci′en·tif′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sci·en·tist (sī′ən·tist) *n.* One versed in science or devoted to scientific study or investigation.

scil·i·cet (sil′ə·set) *adv.* Namely; to wit; that is to say. [< L *scire licet* it is permitted to know]

scim·i·tar (sim′ə·tər) *n.* A curved Oriental sword or saber. Also **scim′e·tar, scim′i·ter.** [< MF < Ital. *scimitarra*]

scin·til·la (sin·til′ə) *n.* A spark; trace; iota: a *scintilla* of truth. [< L]

scin·til·late (sin′tə·lāt) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To give off sparks. **2.** To sparkle; glitter. **3.** To twinkle, as a star. — *v.t.* **4.** To give off as a spark or sparks. [< L < *scintilla* spark] — **scin′til·lant** *adj.* — **scin′til·lat′ing·ly** *adv.* — **scin′til·la′tion** *n.*

sci·o·lism (sī′ə·liz′əm) *n.* Superficial knowledge; charlatanism. [< L *scius* < *scire* to know] — **sci′o·lis′tic** *adj.*

sci·on (sī′ən) *n.* **1.** A twig or shoot cut from a plant or tree, esp. for grafting. **2.** A child or descendant. [< OF < L *secare* to cut]

scis·sile (sis′il) *adj.* Capable of being cut or split easily and evenly. [< L *scindere* to cut]

scis·sion (sizh′ən, sish′-) *n.* **1.** The act of cutting or splitting, or the state of being cut. **2.** Any division. [< OF < LL < *scissus,* pp. of *scindere* to cut]

scis·sor (siz′ər) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To cut with scissors.

scis·sors (siz′ərz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing. in defs. 2 & 3*) **1.** A cutting implement with handles and a pair of blades pivoted face to face so that the opposed edges may be brought together on the object to be cut. Also **pair of scissors. 2.** In wrestling, a hold secured by clasping the legs about the body or head of the opponent. **3.** A gymnastic feat in which the movement of the legs suggests that of scissors. [< OF < LL *cisoria,* pl. of *cisorium* cutting instrument]

scissors kick In swimming, a kick performed usu. with the side stroke, in which both legs are thrust apart, the upper leg bent at the knee while the lower is kept straight, then brought sharply together.

scis·sor·tail (siz′ər·tāl′) *n.* A flycatcher of the SW U.S. and Mexico, having a scissorlike tail.

scis·sure (sizh′ər, sish′-) *n.* **1.** A lengthwise cut; fissure. **2.** Any division, rupture, or schism. [See SCISSION.]

scle·ra (sklir′ə) *n. Anat.* The hard, white, fibrous outer coat of the eyeball, continuous with the cornea. For illus. see EYE. [< NL < Gk. *sklēros* hard]

scle·ren·chy·ma (sklə·reng′kə·mə) *n. Bot.* A tough, thick-walled tissue that protects and supports plants. [< NL < Gk. *sklēros* hard + *enchyma* infusion]

sclero- *combining form* Hardness; hard. Also, before vowels, **scler-.** [< Gk. *sklēros* hard]

scle·rosed (sklə·rōst′) *adj.* Affected with sclerosis; grown abnormally hard.

scle·ro·sis (sklə·rō′sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** *Pathol.* The thickening and hardening of a tissue or part. **2.** *Bot.* The hardening of a plant cell wall by the formation of lignin in it. [< Med.L < Gk. *sklēros* hard] — **scle·ro′sal** *adj.*

scle·rot·ic (sklə·rot′ik) *adj.* **1.** Dense; hard, as the sclera. **2.** Of or pertaining to the sclera. **3.** *Pathol.* Pertaining to or affected with sclerosis.

scle·rous (sklir′əs) *adj.* Hard or indurated; bony.

scoff (skôf, skof) *v.i.* **1.** To speak with contempt or derision; jeer: often with *at.* — *v.t.* **2.** To deride; mock. — *n.* An expression or an object of contempt or derision. [ME *scof,* prob. < Scand.] — **scoff′er** *n.* — **scoff′ing·ly** *adv.*

scoff·law (skôf′lô′, skof′-) *n.* One who scoffs at or flouts the law; esp., a habitual violator of traffic laws, etc.

scold (skōld) *v.t.* **1.** To find fault with harshly. — *v.i.* **2.** To find fault harshly or continuously. — *n.* One who scolds, esp. a shrewish woman. [Appar. < ON *skáld* poet, satirist] — **scold′er** *n.* — **scold′ing·ly** *adv.*

scol·lop (skol′əp), etc. See SCALLOP, etc.

scom·broid (skom′broid) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a widely distributed family of fishes, including mackerels. — *n.* A scombroid fish. [< NL < L < Gk. *skombros* mackerel]

sconce[1] (skons) *n.* **1.** A small earthwork or fort. **2.** A protective shelter, covering, or screen. [< Du. *schanz* fortress, wicker basket; infl. in form by SCONCE[2]]

sconce[2] (skons) *n.* An ornamental wall bracket for holding a candle or other light. [< OF < Med.L *sconsa* < L *abscondere* to hide]

scone (skōn, skon) *n.* A round tea cake or biscuit usu. eaten with butter. [? < MDu. *schoonbrot* fine bread]

scoop (skōōp) *n.* **1.** A shovellike instrument or large shovel with high sides. **2.** A small shovellike implement or ladle

used by grocers, druggists, etc. **3.** An implement for bailing, as water from a boat. **4.** A spoon-shaped instrument for using in a cavity: a surgeons' *scoop*. **5.** An implement for dispensing uniform, spherical portions of ice cream, etc.; also, a portion thus dispensed. **6.** An act of scooping; a scooping movement. **7.** *Informal* A large gain, esp. in speculation. **8.** A bowl-shaped cavity. **9.** *Slang* In journalism, a news story obtained and published ahead of rival papers. **10.** *Slang* Any item of recent news. — *v.t.* **1.** To take or dip out with or as with a scoop. **2.** To hollow out, as with a scoop; excavate. **3.** To empty with a scoop. **4.** *Informal* To heap up or gather in or as in scoopfuls. **5.** *Slang* In journalism, to obtain and publish a news story before (a rival). [Fusion of MDu. *schope* vessel for bailing out water, and *schoppe* shovel] — **scoop'er** *n.*

scoot (skōōt) *v.i. Informal* To go quickly; dart off. — *n.* The act of scooting; a hurried darting off. [Prob. < Scand.]

scoot·er (skōō'tər) *n.* **1.** A child's vehicle consisting of a footboard mounted between two tandem wheels and steered by means of a long handle attached to the front axle. **2.** A motor scooter (which see). **3.** A sailboat with runners that may be used in water and on ice.

scope (skōp) *n.* **1.** Room for the exercise of faculties or function; capacity for achievement or effectiveness. **2.** Range of view or activity; outlook: a mind of limited *scope*. **3.** The area or sphere in which any activity takes place: the *scope* of a scientific work. **4.** *Naut.* The length or sweep of a cable at which a ship rides at anchor. **5.** *Informal* Any of various optical or detecting instruments, as a telescope. [< Ital. < L < Gk. < *skopeein* to look at]

-scope *combining form* An instrument for viewing, observing, or indicating: *telescope*. [< Gk. *skopeein* to watch]

sco·pol·a·mine (skō·pol'ə·mēn, -min, skō'pə·lam'ēn, -in) *n. Chem.* An alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{21}O_4N$, extracted from certain plants, the salts of which are used in medicine as a hypnotic and sedative. [< G < NL, after G. A. *Scopoli*, 1723–88, Italian naturalist]

-scopy *combining form* Observation; viewing: *microscopy*. [< Gk. < *skopeein* to watch]

scor·bu·tic (skôr·byōō'tik) *adj.* Relating to, characteristic of, or affected with scurvy: also **scor·bu'ti·cal**. [< NL < Med.L *scorbutus* scurvy] — **scor·bu'ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

scorch (skôrch) *v.t.* **1.** To change the color, taste, etc., of by slight burning; char the surface of. **2.** To wither or shrivel by heat. **3.** To criticize severely. — *v.i.* **4.** To become scorched. **5.** *Informal* To go at high speed. — *n.* **1.** A superficial burn. **2.** A mark caused by heat, as a slight burn. [Prob. akin to ME *skorken* < ON *skorpna* to dry up, shrivel] — **scorch'ing** *adj.* — **scorch'ing·ly** *adv.*

scorched-earth policy (skôrcht'ûrth') The military policy of destroying all crops, industrial equipment, dwellings, etc., so as to leave nothing for the use of the enemy.

scorch·er (skôr'chər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which scorches. **2.** *Informal* An extremely hot day. **3.** *Informal* Severe or caustic criticism. **4.** *Informal* One who or that which moves at great speed.

score (skōr, skôr) *n.* **1.** The record of the winning points in a competition or game; also, the total of such points made by a player or a team. **2.** *Psychol.* A quantitative value assigned to an individual or group response to a test or series of tests. **3.** Grade or rating in a test or examination. **4.** Any record, esp. of indebtedness. **5.** A notch or groove cut in something for keeping a tally. **6.** Something charged or laid up against one: to settle old *scores*. **7.** A set of twenty. **8.** *pl.* An indefinitely large number. **9.** *Music* The complete notation for a composition, showing the various instrumental or vocal parts. — **to know the score** *Informal* To be aware of the real facts of a situation. — *v.* **scored, scor·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To mark with notches, cuts, or lines. **2.** To mark with cuts or lines for the purpose of keeping a tally or record. **3.** To obliterate or cross out by means of a line drawn through: with *out*. **4.** To make or gain, as points, runs, etc. **5.** To count for a score of, as in games. **6.** To rate or grade, as an examination paper. **7.** *Music* **a** To orchestrate. **b** To arrange or adapt for an instrument. **8.** *Informal* To criticize severely. **9.** In cooking, to make superficial cuts in (meat, etc.). — *v.i.* **10.** To make points, runs, etc., as in a game. **11.** To keep score. **12.** To make notches, cuts, etc. **13.** To win an advantage or success. [OE < ON *skor* notch, tally] — **scor'er** *n.*

sco·ri·a (skôr'ē·ə, skō'rē·ə) *n.* *pl.* **·ri·ae** (-ri·ē) **1.** Refuse or slag remaining after metal has been smelted. **2.** Loose, clinkerlike pieces of lava. [< L < Gk. *skōria* refuse] — **sco'ri·a'ceous** (-ā'shəs) *adj.*

sco·ri·fy (skôr'ə·fī, skō'rə-) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *Metall.* **1.** To separate, as gold or silver, from an ore by smelting with lead, borax, etc. **2.** To reduce to scoria or dross. — **sco'ri·fi·ca'tion** *n.*

scorn (skôrn) *n.* **1.** A feeling of contempt or loathing, as for someone or something deemed inferior or unworthy of attention; disdain. **2.** Behavior characterized by such a feeling; derision. **3.** An expression of contempt or disdain. **4.** An object of contempt. — *v.t.* **1.** To hold in or treat with contempt; despise. **2.** To reject with scorn; disdain; spurn. [< OF < *escarnir* < Gmc.] — **scorn'er** *n.* — **scorn'ful** *adj.* — **scorn'ful·ly** *adv.* — **scorn'ful·ness** *n.*

Scor·pi·o (skôr'pē·ō) *n.* A constellation, the **Scorpion**, containing the bright star Antares; also, the eighth sign of the zodiac. Also **Scor'pi·us** (-əs). See ZODIAC. [< L]

scor·pi·on (skôr'pē·ən) *n.* **1.** One of an order of arachnids found chiefly in warmer regions, having an elongated, lobsterlike body and a segmented tail that bears a venomous sting. **2.** An instrument of chastisement; a whip or scourge. I *Kings* xii 11. [< OF < L < Gk. *skorpios*]

SCORPION
s Stinger.
(To 8 inches long)

scot (skot) *n.* An assessment or tax. [Fusion of ON *skot* and OF *escot*]

Scot (skot) *n.* **1.** A native of Scotland: also called *Scotsman*. **2.** Formerly, a Gaelic Highlander. **3.** One of a Gaelic people who migrated in the fifth century to northwestern Britain from Ireland. [OE *Scottas*, pl., the Irish < LL *Scotus*, *Scoti*]

scotch (skoch) *v.t.* **1.** To cut; scratch. **2.** To wound so as to maim or cripple. **3.** To put down; crush or suppress. — *n.* **1.** A superficial cut; a scratch; notch. **2.** A line traced on the ground, as for hopscotch. [Origin uncertain]

Scotch (skoch) *n.* **1.** The people of Scotland collectively: with *the*. **2.** One or all of the dialects spoken by the people of Scotland. **3.** Scotch whisky. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Scotland, its inhabitants, or their language; Scottish; Scots.

Scotch·man (skoch'mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A Scot; Scotsman. ◆ These forms are preferred to *Scotchman*.

Scotch tape A rolled strip of transparent cellulose tape having an adhesive on one side: a trade name.

Scotch terrier A Scottish terrier.

Scotch whisky Whisky made in Scotland from malted barley and having rather a smoky flavor.

sco·ter (skō'tər) *n.* Any of several dark sea ducks. [< dial. E *scote* scoot]

scot-free (skot'frē') *adj.* **1.** Without injury or loss; unharmed; whole. **2.** Free from scot; untaxed.

Scot·land Yard (skot'land) The headquarters of the London Metropolitan Police and of the London Criminal Investigation Department, since 1890 located at the **New Scotland Yard** on the Thames Embankment.

Scots (skots) *adj.* Scottish. — *n.* The Scottish dialect of English. [Earlier *Scottis*, var. of SCOTTISH]

Scots·man (skots'mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A Scot.

Scot·ti·cism (skot'ə·siz'əm) *n.* A form of expression or an idiom peculiar to the Scottish people.

Scot·tish (skot'ish) *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of Scotland, its inhabitants, or their language: also *Scots*. — *n.* **1.** The dialect of English spoken in Scotland, esp. in the Lowlands; Scots. **2.** The people of Scotland collectively: with *the*. [OE *Scottisc*]

Scottish Gaelic The Goidelic language of the Scottish Highlands: also called *Erse*.

Scottish terrier A small, short-legged terrier originating in Scotland, having a large head and a wiry coat: also *Scotch terrier*. Also *Informal* **Scot·tie** (skot'ē), **Scot'ty**.

scoun·drel (skoun'drəl) *n.* A mean, unprincipled rascal; a rogue. — *adj.* Of or characteristic of a scoundrel. [? < AF, OF < L *ex-* off + *condere* to hide] — **scoun'drel·ly** *adj.*

scour[1] (skour) *v.t.* **1.** To clean or brighten by thorough washing and rubbing, as with sand or steel wool. **2.** To remove dirt, etc., from; clean: to *scour* wool. **3.** To remove by or as by rubbing away. **4.** To clear by means of a strong current of water; flush. **5.** To purge the bowels of. **6.** To clean (wheat) before milling. — *v.i.* **7.** To rub something vigorously so as to clean or brighten it. **8.** To become bright or clean by rubbing. — *n.* **1.** The act of scouring. **2.** A place scoured, as by running water. **3.** A cleanser used in cleaning wool. **4.** *Usu. pl.* A watery diarrhea in cattle. [Prob. < MDu. < OF *escurer*, ult. < L *ex-* out + *curare* to take care of] — **scour'er** *n.*

scour[2] (skour) *v.t.* **1.** To range over or through, as in making a search. **2.** To move or run swiftly over or along. — *v.i.* **3.** To range about, as in making a search. **4.** To move swiftly. [ME *scoure*] — **scour'er** *n.*

scourge (skûrj) *n.* **1.** A whip for inflicting suffering or punishment. **2.** Any instrumentality or means for causing suffering or death. **3.** Severe punishment. **4.** A cause of suffering or trouble. — *v.t.* **scourged, scourg·ing** **1.** To whip severely; flog. **2.** To punish severely; afflict. [< AF < LL *excorriare* to flay] — **scourg'er** *n.*

scour·ings (skour'ingz) *n.pl.* **1.** The residue after scouring grain. **2.** Dirt or other residue left after any scouring.

scout[1] (skout) *n.* **1.** One who or that which is engaged in scouting; esp., a person sent out to observe and get information, as of a war enemy, rival team in sports, etc. **2.** The act of scouting. **3.** *Slang* A fellow or friend. **4.** A Boy or Girl

Scout. — *v.t.* **1.** To observe or spy upon for the purpose of gaining information. — *v.i.* **2.** To go or act as a scout. — **to scout around** To go in search. [< OF < L *auscultare* to listen] — **scout'er** *n.*

scout[2] (skout) *v.t. & v.i.* To mock; jeer. [< Scand.]

scout car An armored motor car for reconnaissance work.

scout·ing (skout'ing) *n.* The activities of a scout, esp. of a Boy Scout or Girl Scout.

scout·mas·ter (skout'mas'tər, -mäs'-) *n.* The leader of a troop of Boy Scouts.

scow (skou) *n.* A large boat with a flat bottom and square ends, chiefly used for freight and usually towed. [< Du. *schouw* boat propelled by a pole < MDu. *schoude*]

scowl (skoul) *n.* **1.** A lowering of the brows, as in anger, disapproval, or sullenness. **2.** Gloomy aspect. — *v.i.* **1.** To lower and contract the brows in anger, sullenness, or disapproval. **2.** To look threatening; lower. — *v.t.* **3.** To affect or express by scowling. [ME *skoul*, prob. < Scand.] — **scowl'er** *n.* — **scowl'ing·ly** *adv.*

scrab·ble (skrab'əl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.i.* **1.** To scratch, scrape, or paw, as with the hands. **2.** To make irregular or meaningless marks; scribble. **3.** To struggle or strive. — *v.t.* **4.** To make meaningless marks on; scribble on. **5.** To gather hurriedly; scrape together. — *n.* **1.** The act of scrabbling or scrambling. **2.** A scrawling character, mark, etc.; scribble. **3.** A sparse growth, as of underbrush. [< Du. *schrabbelen*, freq. of *schrabben* to scratch]

scrag (skrag) *v.t.* **scragged, scrag·ging** *Informal* To use roughly; wring the neck of; esp., to kill by hanging. — *n.* **1.** Something thin or lean, as a person. **2.** *Slang* The human neck. **3.** A lean or bony piece of meat. [? < Scand.]

scrag·gly (skrag'lē) *adj.* **·gli·er, ·gli·est** Unkempt; shaggy.

scrag·gy (skrag'ē) *adj.* **·gi·er, ·gi·est 1.** Rough. **2.** Lean; scrawny; bony. — **scrag'gi·ly** *adv.* — **scrag'gi·ness** *n.*

scram (skram) *v.i.* **scrammed, scram·ming** *U.S. Slang* To go away; leave quickly. [Prob. short for SCRAMBLE]

scram·ble (skram'bəl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.i.* **1.** To move by clambering or crawling on hands and feet. **2.** To struggle with others in a disorderly manner; scuffle; also, to strive for something in such a manner. **3.** *Aeron.* To put interceptor aircraft into the air hurriedly to meet enemy aircraft. — *v.t.* **4.** To mix together haphazardly. **5.** To gather or collect hurriedly or confusedly. **6.** To fry (eggs) with the yolks and whites stirred together. **7.** *Telecom.* To alter or garble (a signal) so that a special receiving apparatus is needed to render it comprehensible. — *n.* **1.** The act of scrambling. **2.** A disorderly performance or struggle. **3.** A difficult climb or trek, as over rocks or rough terrain. [Prob. nasalized var. of SCRABBLE] — **scram'bler** *n.*

scrap[1] (skrap) *n.* **1.** A small piece cut or broken from something; fragment. **2.** A brief printed or written extract. **3.** *pl.* Pieces of crisp fat tissue after the oil has been expressed by cooking; also, any bits of food. **4.** Old or refuse metal. — *v.t.* **scrapped, scrap·ping 1.** To break up into scrap. **2.** To discard. — *adj.* Having the form of scraps; discarded after use. [< ON *skrapa* to scrape]

scrap[2] (skrap) *v.i.* **scrapped, scrap·ping** *Slang* To fight; quarrel. — *n.* A quarrel, fight, or disagreement. [< SCRAPE (*n.* def. 2)] — **scrap'per** *n.*

scrap·book (skrap'bo͝ok') *n.* **1.** A blank book in which to paste pictures, clippings, etc. **2.** A personal notebook.

scrape (skrāp) *v.* **scraped, scrap·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To rub, as with something rough or sharp, so as to abrade or to remove an outer layer or adherent matter. **2.** To remove thus: with *off*, *away*, etc. **3.** To rub (a rough or sharp object) across a surface. **4.** To rub roughly across or against (a surface). **5.** To dig or form by scratching or scraping. **6.** To gather or accumulate with effort or difficulty: usu. with *up* or *together*. — *v.i.* **7.** To scrape something. **8.** To rub with a grating noise. **9.** To emit or produce a grating noise. **10.** To draw the foot backward along the ground in bowing. **11.** To manage or get along with difficulty. **12.** To be very or overly economical. — *n.* **1.** The act or effect of scraping; also, the noise made by scraping. **2.** A difficult situation; predicament. **3.** A scraping or drawing back of the foot in bowing. [Prob. fusion of OE *scrapian* and ON *skrapa* to scrape, erase] — **scrap'er** *n.*

scrap·ing (skrā'ping) *n.* **1.** The act of someone or something that scrapes. **2.** The sound so produced. **3.** *Often pl.* That which is scraped off or together.

scrap iron Old pieces of iron suitable for reworking.

scrap·ple (skrap'əl) *n.* A mixture of meal or flour boiled with scraps of pork, seasoned, and allowed to set, usu. cooked by frying. [Dim. of SCRAP[1]]

scrap·py[1] (skrap'ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** Composed of scraps; fragmentary. — **scrap'pi·ly** *adv.* — **scrap'pi·ness** *n.*

scrap·py[2] (skrap'ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** Pugnacious; given to picking fights. — **scrap'pi·ly** *adv.* — **scrap'pi·ness** *n.*

scratch (skrach) *v.t.* **1.** To tear or mark the surface of with something sharp or rough. **2.** To scrape or dig with something sharp or rough, as the claws or nails. **3.** To scrape lightly with the nails, etc., as to relieve itching. **4.** To rub with a grating sound; scrape. **5.** To write or draw awkwardly or hurriedly. **6.** To erase or cancel by or as by scratches or marks. **7.** To erase or cancel the name of (a candidate) from a political ticket, while supporting the rest of the ticket; also, to bolt (a ticket or party) in this way. **8.** To withdraw (an entry) from a race, game, etc. — *v.i.* **9.** To use the nails or claws, as in fighting or digging. **10.** To scrape the skin, etc., lightly, as to relieve itching. **11.** To make a harsh, grating noise. **12.** To manage or get along with difficulty. **13.** To withdraw from a game, race, etc. **14.** In billiards and pool, to make a scratch. — *n.* **1.** A mark or incision made on a surface by scratching; also, a quick mark or scribble, as made by a pencil. **2.** A slight flesh wound or cut. **3.** A harsh, grating sound. **4.** The act of scratching. **5.** The line from which contestants start, as in racing. **6.** The contestant who competes against an allowance. **7.** In billiards, a chance shot; also, a fluke; in billiards and pool, a shot resulting in a penalty. — **from scratch** From the beginning; from nothing. — **up to scratch** *Informal* Meeting the standard or requirement in courage, stamina, or performance. — *adj.* **1.** Done by chance; haphazard. **2.** In sports, without handicap or allowance. **3.** Used for quick notes, a memorandum, etc.: a *scratch* pad. **4.** Chosen at random or by chance. [Prob. blend of ME *scratte* to scratch and *cracchen* to scratch] — **scratch'er** *n.*

scratch test *Med.* A test to determine the substances to which a person is allergic by rubbing allergens in small scratches made in his skin.

scratch·y (skrach'ē) *adj.* **scratch·i·er, scratch·i·est 1.** Characterized by or covered with scratches. **2.** Making a scratching noise. **3.** Straggling; shaggy; rough. **4.** That scratches or irritates. — **scratch'i·ly** *adv.* — **scratch'i·ness** *n.*

scrawl (skrôl) *v.t. & v.i.* To write hastily or illegibly. — *n.* Irregular or careless writing. [? < dial. E, var. of CRAWL]

scrawl·y (skrô'lē) *adj.* **scrawl·i·er, scrawl·i·est** Consisting of or characterized by ill-formed or irregular characters.

scraw·ny (skrô'nē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** Skinny; thin. [< dial. E *scranny*, var. of SCRANNEL] — **scraw'ni·ness** *n.*

scream (skrēm) *v.i.* **1.** To utter a prolonged, piercing cry, as of pain, terror, or surprise. **2.** To make a prolonged, piercing sound. **3.** To laugh loudly or immoderately. **4.** To use heated, hysterical language. **5.** To have an odd or startling effect, as of screaming. — *v.t.* **6.** To utter with a scream. — *n.* **1.** A loud, shrill, prolonged cry or sound, generally denoting fear or pain. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A person or situation arousing great mirth. [ME *scraemen*]

scream·er (skrē'mər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which screams. **2.** Any of various birds of South America related to the ducks.

screech (skrēch) *n.* **1.** A shrill, harsh cry; shriek. **2.** *Canadian Slang* Cheap rum or wine. — *v.t.* **1.** To utter with or as with a screech. — *v.i.* **2.** To make a prolonged, harsh, piercing sound. [Var. of obs. *scritch*, prob. imit.] — **screech'er** *n.* — **screech'y** *adv.*

screech owl **1.** Any of various owls common from Canada to Brazil; esp. a small, gray species of the eastern U.S. **2.** The barn owl of England.

screed (skrēd) *n.* **1.** A prolonged tirade; harangue. **2.** A long piece of discursive prose. — *v.t.* To rend or tear into shreds. [Var. of SHRED]

screen (skrēn) *n.* **1.** That which separates or cuts off, shelters, or protects, as a light partition. **2.** A network, as of wire, forming a partition or panel in a window, door, etc., to exclude insects and admit air. **3.** A sieve or riddle for sifting. **4.** A smooth surface, on which motion pictures, etc., may be shown. **5.** A motion picture or motion pictures collectively. — *v.t.* **1.** To shield from observation or annoyance with or as with a screen. **2.** To cause to pass through a screen or sieve; sift. **3.** To show or exhibit on a screen, as a motion picture. **4.** To determine the competence or eligibility of (an individual) for a specified task. — *v.i.* **5.** To be shown or be suitable for showing on a motion-picture screen. [Prob. < OF *escren*, *escrin*, prob. < OHG *skirm*] — **screen'a·ble** *adj.* — **screen'er** *n.*

screen·ing (skrē'ning) *n.* **1.** The act or instance of exhibiting a motion picture. **2.** The work of one who screens. **3.** Mesh, as of wire, fabric, or plastic, suitable for window screens and the like. **4.** *pl.* The residue of anything passed through a sieve; siftings.

screen play A motion picture.

screw (skro͞o) *n.* **1.** A device resembling a nail but having a slotted head and a tapering grooved spiral for driving into wood with a screwdriver. **2.** A similar device of cylindrical form, for insertion into a corresponding grooved part: also

male or **external** screw. **3.** A cylindrical socket with a spiral groove: also **female** or **internal** screw. **4.** Anything having the form of a screw. **5.** A screw propeller. **6.** A turn of or as of a screw. **7.** Pressure; force. **8.** *Brit. Slang* Salary; pay. **9.** *Slang* A prison guard. **10.** A haggler over prices. **— to have a screw loose** *Slang* To be mentally deranged, eccentric, etc. **— to put the screws on** (or **to**) *Slang* To exert pressure or force upon. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To tighten, fasten, attach, etc., by or as by a screw or screws. **2.** To turn or twist. **3.** To force as if by the pressure of a screw; urge: to *screw* one's courage to the sticking point. **4.** To twist out of shape; contort, as one's features. **5.** To practice oppression or extortion on. **6.** To obtain by extortion. **—** *v.i.* **7.** To turn or admit of being turned as a screw. **8.** To be attached or become detached by means of screws: with *on*, *off*, etc. **9.** To practice oppression or extortion. [Appar. < OF *escroue* nut, female screw] **— screw'er** *n.*

screw·ball (skrōō'bôl') *n. U.S. Slang* An unconventional or erratic person.

screw·driv·er (skrōō'drī'vər) *n.* **1.** A tool with a flattened metal end that fits into the slot of a screw in order to turn it. **2.** A cocktail consisting of vodka and orange juice.

screw·pile (skrōō'pīl') *n.* A pile having a strong metal base with a screw thread to ensure firm penetration of hard ground or bedrock.

screw propeller A mechanism consisting of a revolving shaft with radiating blades set at an angle to produce a spiral action, used in propelling ships, etc.

screw thread **1.** The projecting spiral ridge of uniform pitch on the outer or inner surface of a screw or nut. **2.** A complete revolution of any point on this ridge.

screw·y (skrōō'ē) *adj.* **screw·i·er, screw·i·est** *Slang* Extremely irrational; crazy.

scrib·ble (skrib'əl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.t.* **1.** To write hastily and carelessly. **2.** To cover with careless or illegible writing or marks. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To write in a careless or hasty manner. **4.** To make illegible or meaningless marks. **—** *n.* **1.** Hasty, careless writing. **2.** Any scrawl. [< Med.L *scribillare*, freq. of L *scribere* to write] **— scrib'bler** *n.*

scribe (skrīb) *n.* **1.** One who writes or copies manuscripts. **2.** A clerk, public writer, or amanuensis. **3.** An ancient Jewish teacher, interpreter, or writer of the Mosaic law. **—** *v.* **scribed, scrib·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To mark or scratch with a pointed instrument. **2.** To write, inscribe, or engrave. **—** *v.i.* **3.** *Rare* To write; work as a scribe. [< L < *scribere* to write] **— scrib'al** *adj.*

scrim (skrim) *n.* **1.** A lightweight, open-mesh, cotton fabric, usu. white or ecru, used for draperies, etc. **2.** In the theater, a similar fabric, often painted, used as a transparency, to support artificial foliage, etc. [Origin unknown]

scrim·mage (skrim'ij) *n.* **1.** A rough-and-tumble contest; fracas. **2.** In American football, a mass play from the line of scrimmage after the ball has been placed on the ground and snapped back, the play ending when the ball is dead. **3.** In Rugby football, a scrummage. **4.** In football, a practice session or unofficial game played by opposing teams. **— line of scrimmage** In football, the hypothetic line on which the ball rests and along which the opposing linemen take position at the start of play. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* **·maged, ·mag·ing** To engage in a scrimmage. Also *scrummage*. [Alter. of *scrimish*, var. of SKIRMISH]

scrimp (skrimp) *v.i.* **1.** To be very or overly economical. **—** *v.t.* **2.** To be overly sparing with; skimp. **3.** To cut too small, narrow, etc. **—** *adj.* Scanty; scrimpy. [Prob. akin to OE *scrimman* to shrink, shrivel]

scrimp·y (skrim'pē) *adj.* **·i·er, ·i·est** **1.** Scanty; skimpy; short. **2.** Tending to scrimp; niggardly. **— scrimp'i·ness** *n.*

scrip[1] (skrip) *n.* **1.** A scrap of paper, esp. one containing writing. **2.** A writing; a certificate, schedule, or written list. **3.** A piece of paper money less than a dollar, formerly issued in the U.S. [< SCRIPT]

scrip[2] (skrip) *n.* A provisional document (or documents collectively) certifying that the holder is entitled to receive something else, as shares of stock or land. [Short for obs. *subscription receipt*]

script (skript) *n.* **1.** Writing of the ordinary cursive form. **2.** Type, or printed or engraved matter, in imitation of handwriting. **3.** *Law* A writing, esp. an original. **4.** A piece of writing; esp., a prepared copy of a play or dramatic role, for the use of actors. **5.** Alphabet; writing system: phonetic *script*. **—** *v.t. & v.i. U.S. Informal* To prepare a script for (a radio, television, or theatrical performance). [< OF < L *scribere* to write]

scrip·tur·al (skrip'chər·əl) *adj.* Relating to writing; written. **— scrip'tur·al·ly** *adv.* **— scrip'tur·al·ness** *n.*

Scrip·ture (skrip'chər) *n.* **1.** The books of the Old and New Testaments, including often the Apocrypha. **2.** A text or passage from the Bible. **— Scrip'tur·al** *adj.* **— Scrip'tur·al·ly** *adv.* **— Scrip'tur·al·ness** *n.*

script·writ·er (skript'rī'tər) *n.* A writer who prepares copy for the use of an actor or announcer.

scrive (skrīv) *v.t.* **scrived, scriv·ing** To engrave. [? < OF < L *scribere*]

scriv·en·er (skriv'ən·ər, skriv'nər) *n. Archaic* One who prepares deeds, contracts, and other writings; a clerk or scribe. [< obs. *scrivein* < OF < Ital. < L *scribere* to write]

scrod (skrod) *n.* A young codfish, esp. when split and prepared for broiling. [? < MDu. *schrode* piece cut off]

scrof·u·la (skrof'yə·lə) *n. Pathol.* A tuberculous condition of the lymphatic glands, characterized by enlargement, abscesses, and cheeselike degeneration: also called *struma*. [Orig. pl. < LL *scrofulae*, dim. pl. of *scrofa* breeding sow]

scrof·u·lous (skrof'yə·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, affected with, or of the nature of scrofula. **2.** Morally corrupt; degraded. **— scrof'u·lous·ly** *adv.* **— scrof'u·lous·ness** *n.*

scroll (skrōl) *n.* **1.** A roll of parchment, paper, or the like, esp. one containing or intended for writing; also, the writing on such a roll. **2.** Anything resembling or suggestive of a parchment roll; esp. a convoluted ornament or an ornamental space or tablet on sculptured work. [Earlier *scrowle*, alter. of obs. *scrow* < AF *escrowe*]

scroll saw A narrow-bladed hand or power saw for doing curved or irregular work.

scroll·work (skrōl'wûrk') *n.* Ornamental work of scroll-like pattern.

Scrooge (skrōōj), **Ebenezer** In Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, a miser whose hard nature is transformed on Christmas Eve.

scro·tum (skrō'təm) *n.* *pl.* **·ta** (-tə), **·tums** *Anat.* The pouch of skin that contains the testicles in most mammals. [< L] **— scro'tal** *adj.*

scrounge (skrounj) *v.t. & v.i.* **scrounged, scroung·ing** *Slang* **1.** To hunt about in order to take (something); pilfer. **2.** To mooch; sponge; beg. **—** *n.* One who scrounges: also **scroung'er.** [? < dial. E *scrunge* to steal]

scrub[1] (skrub) *v.* **scrubbed, scrub·bing** *v.t.* **1.** To rub vigorously in washing. **2.** To remove (dirt, etc.) by such action. **3.** *U.S. Slang* To cancel; call off. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To rub something vigorously, as in washing. **—** *n.* The act of scrubbing. [? < Scand. Cf. Dan. *skrubbe*, MDu. *shrubben*.] **— scrub'ber** *n.*

scrub[2] (skrub) *n.* **1.** A stunted tree; also, such trees collectively. **2.** A thicket or group of stunted trees or shrubs. **3.** A domestic animal of inferior breed. **4.** A poor, insignificant person. **5.** In sports, a player not on the varsity or regular team. **—** *adj.* **6.** Undersized or stunted-looking; inferior. [Dial. var. of SHRUB[1]]

scrub·by (skrub'ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est** **1.** Of stunted growth. **2.** Covered with or consisting of scrub or underbrush. **— scrub'bi·ness** *n.*

scrub·land (skrub'land') *n.* Land covered with scrub.

scrub oak Any of various dwarf oaks of the United States.

scrub pine Any of several American pines having a tendency toward stunted or crowded growth.

scruff (skruf) *n.* The nape of the neck. [Earlier *scuff*, ? < ON *skopt* hair]

scrum·mage (skrum'ij) *v.t. & v.i.* **·maged, ·mag·ing** To scrimmage. **—** *n.* **1.** A scrimmage. **2.** In Rugby football, a formation around the ball, out of which the ball is kicked to begin play. [Var. of SCRIMMAGE] **— scrum'mag·er** *n.*

scrump·tious (skrump'shəs) *adj. Slang* Elegant or stylish; fine; delightful; splendid. [Prob. alter. of SUMPTUOUS]

scrunch (skrunch) *v.t. & v.i.* To crush; squeeze; crunch. **—** *n.* A crunch. [Imit. alter. of CRUNCH]

scru·ple (skrōō'pəl) *n.* **1.** Doubt or uncertainty regarding a question of moral right or duty. **2.** An apothecaries' weight of twenty grains, or 1.296 grams (symbol: ℈). See table front of book. **3.** A minute quantity. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To have scruples (about). [< OF < L *scrupulus* small sharp stone]

scru·pu·lous (skrōō'pyə·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Cautious in action because of a wish to do right; nicely conscientious. **2.** Resulting from the exercise of scruples; exact; careful. **— Syn.** See METICULOUS. **— scru'pu·lous·ly** *adv.* **— scru'pu·los'i·ty** (-los'ə·tē), **scru'pu·lous·ness** *n.*

scru·ti·nize (skrōō'tə·nīz) *v.t.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** To observe carefully; examine in detail. Also *Brit.* **scru'ti·nise.** **— scru'ti·niz'er** *n.* **— scru'ti·niz'ing·ly** *adv.*

scru·ti·ny (skrōō'tə·nē) *n.* *pl.* **·nies** **1.** The act of scrutinizing; close examination or investigation. **2.** A searching look or glance. [< OF < LL < L *scrutari* to examine]

scu·ba (skōō'bə, skyōō'-) *n. Sometimes cap.* An underwater breathing apparatus needing no connection with the surface, worn by divers. Also called *Aqua-Lung*, *aqualung*. [< *s(elf)-c(ontained) u(nderwater) b(reathing) a(pparatus)*]

scud (skud) *v.i.* **scud·ded, scud·ding** **1.** To move, run, or fly swiftly. **2.** *Naut.* To run rapidly before the wind. **—** *n.* **1.** The act of scudding or moving swiftly. **2.** Light clouds driven rapidly before the wind. [Prob. < Scand.; ? infl. in meaning by *scut*, in earlier sense of "hare"]

scuff (skuf) *v.i.* **1.** To walk with a dragging movement of the feet; shuffle. **—** *v.t.* **2.** To scrape (the floor, ground, etc.) with the feet. **3.** To roughen or wear down the surface of by

rubbing or scraping. — *n.* **1.** The act of scuffing; also, the noise or mark so made. **2.** A flat slipper having no covering for the heel. [Prob. < ON *skūfa* to shove]

scuf·fle (skuf′əl) *v.i.* **·fled, ·fling** **1.** To struggle roughly or confusedly. **2.** To drag one's feet; shuffle. — *n.* A disorderly struggle. [Prob. freq. of SCUFF] — **scuf′fler** *n.*

scull (skul) *n.* **1.** A long oar worked from side to side over the stern of a boat. **2.** A light, short-handled oar, used in pairs by one person. **3.** A small boat for sculling. — *v.t. & v.i.* To propel (a boat) by a scull or sculls. [ME *sculle, skulle*; origin unknown] — **scull′er** *n.*

scul·ler·y (skul′ər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ler·ies** A room where kitchen utensils are kept and cleaned, vegetables washed, etc. [< OF *escuelerie* care of dishes]

scul·lion (skul′yən) *n.* *Archaic* **1.** A servant who washes and scours dishes, pots, and kettles. **2.** A base, contemptible person. [< OF *escouillon* mop < *escouve* broom]

scul·pin (skul′pin) *n.* *pl.* **·pins** or **·pin** One of several broad-mouthed fishes with a large, spiny head. [Prob. alter. of F *escorpene* < L *scorpaena* scorpionlike fish]

sculpt (skulpt) *v.t. & v.i.* *Informal* To sculpture.

sculp·tor (skulp′tər) *n.* One who creates sculpture by carving wood, modeling clay or plastics, working metal, or chiseling stone, etc. — **sculp′tress** (-tris) *n.fem.*

sculp·ture (skulp′chər) *n.* **1.** The art of fashioning figures of wood, clay, plastics, metal, or stone. **2.** Figures or groups carved, cut, hewn, cast, or modeled in such materials. **3.** Raised or incised lines or markings, as upon a shell. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** **1.** To fashion, as statuary, by modeling, carving, casting, or welding. **2.** To represent or portray in sculpture. **3.** To embellish with sculpture. **4.** To change, as the face of a valley or canyon, by erosion and deposition. [< L < *sculpere* to carve in stone] — **sculp′tur·al** *adj.*

sculp·tur·esque (skulp′chə·resk′) *adj.* Resembling sculpture; coldly, calmly, or grandly beautiful; statuesque.

scum (skum) *n.* **1.** Impure or extraneous matter that rises to the surface of boiling or fermenting liquids. **2.** Minute vegetation on stagnant water. **3.** Worthless element; refuse. **4.** A vile or worthless person or group of persons: often in the phrase **the scum of the earth.** — *v.* **scummed, scum·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To take scum from; skim. — *v.i.* **2.** To become covered with or form scum. [< MDu. *schuum*] — **scum′mer** *n.*

scum·my (skum′ē) *adj.* **·mi·er, ·mi·est** **1.** Covered with, containing, or resembling scum. **2.** Vile; contemptible.

scup (skup) *n.* *pl.* **scup** or **scups** A food fish of the eastern coast of the U.S.: also called *porgy*. Also **scup·paug** (skup′ôg, skə·pôg′). [< Algonquian (Narraganset) *mishcup* thick-scaled]

scup·per (skup′ər) *n.* *Naut.* A hole or gutter along the side of a ship's deck, to let water run off. [? Short for *scupper hole* < OF *escope* bailing scoop]

scup·per·nong (skup′ər·nông, -nong) *n.* **1.** A variety of muscadine grape cultivated in the southern United States. **2.** A sweet, straw-colored wine made from this grape. [after the *Scuppernong* River in North Carolina]

scurf (skûrf) *n.* **1.** Loose outer skin thrown off in minute scales, as in dandruff. **2.** Any scaly matter. [OE] — **scurf′y** *adj.*

scur·ril·i·ty (skə·ril′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** A scurrilous remark. **2.** The quality of being obscenely jocular.

scur·ri·lous (skûr′ə·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Grossly and offensively abusive. **2.** Expressed with or given to coarse jocularity. Also **scur·rile** (skûr′il), **scur′ril.** [< L *scurrilis* buffoonlike] — **scur′ri·lous·ly** *adv.* — **scur′ri·lous·ness** *n.*

scur·ry (skûr′ē) *v.i.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** To move or go hurriedly; scamper. — *n.* *pl.* **·ries** The act or sound of scurrying. [Short for HURRY-SCURRY]

scur·vy (skûr′vē) *adj.* **·vi·er, ·vi·est** **1.** Meanly low or contemptible; base. **2.** *Obs.* Scurfy; scabby. — *n.* *Pathol.* A disease caused by lack of vitamin C in the diet, and characterized by swollen and bleeding gums, and great weakness. [< SCURF] — **scur′vi·ly** *adv.* — **scur′vi·ness** *n.*

scut (skut) *n.* A short tail, as of a rabbit or deer. [ME, tail, hare, prob. < Scand. Cf. Icelandic *skott* fox's tail.]

scu·tate (skyōō′tāt) *adj.* **1.** *Zool.* Covered with horny, shieldlike plates or large scales. **2.** *Bot.* Shaped like a shield. [< L *scutatus* provided with a shield < *scutum* shield]

scutch·eon (skuch′ən) *n.* An escutcheon.

scu·tel·late (skyōō·tel′it, skyōō′tə·lāt) *adj.* *Zool.* **1.** Platterlike; shield-shaped. **2.** Covered with scales; scutate. Also **scu·tel·lat′ed** (-tə·lā′tid). [< NL *scutellatus* < L *scutella* platter, dim. of *scutra* tray] — **scu′tel·la′tion** *n.*

scu·tel·lum (skyōō·tel′əm) *n.* *pl.* **·la** (-lə) *Biol.* A small, shieldlike organ or part, as on the leg of a bird. [< NL, dim. of L *scutum* shield] — **scu·tel′lar** *adj.*

scut·tle[1] (skut′l) *n.* **1.** A small opening or hatchway with a movable lid or cover, esp. on the deck of a ship. **2.** The lid closing such an opening. **3.** A sea cock in the bottom of a ship. — *v.t.* **·tled, ·tling** To sink (a ship) by making holes in the bottom or by opening the sea cocks. [< MF *escoutille* hatchway]

scut·tle[2] (skut′l) *n.* A metal vessel or hod for coal. [OE *scutel* dish, platter < L *scutella*]

scut·tle[3] (skut′l) *v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To run in haste; scurry. — *n.* A hurried run or departure. [? Var. of *scuddle*]

scut·tle·butt (skut′l·but) *n.* **1.** A drinking fountain aboard ship. **2.** Formerly, a cask containing the day's drinking water. **3.** *U.S. Slang* Rumor; gossip. [Orig. *scuttled butt* a lidded cask for drinking water]

scu·tum (skyōō′təm) *n.* *pl.* **·ta** (-tə) **1.** *Zool.* A platelike piece or part, as on a turtle. **2.** In ancient Rome, the large oval or rectangular shield of the legionaries. [< L]

Scyl·la (sil′ə) In Greek mythology, a six-headed sea monster who dwelt in a cave on the Italian coast opposite the whirlpool Charybdis. — **between Scylla and Charybdis** Between two dangers, where one cannot be avoided without incurring equally great peril from the other.

scythe (sīth, *sometimes* sī) *n.* An implement used for mowing, reaping, etc., consisting of a long, curved blade fixed at an angle to a long bent handle. — *v.t.* **scythed, scyth·ing** To cut or mow with or as with a scythe. [OE *sīthe*]

Scyth·i·a (sith′ē·ə) An ancient region of southern Europe, generally considered as lying north of the Black Sea. — **Scyth′i·an** *adj. & n.*

sea (sē) *n.* **1.** The great body of salt water covering the larger portion of the earth's surface; the ocean. **2.** A large body of oceanic water partly enclosed by land. **3.** A large inland body of water, salt or fresh. **4.** The swell or surface of the ocean: a calm *sea*. **5.** Anything that suggests the sea, as something vast. **6.** The occupation of a seaman. — **at sea** **1.** On the ocean. **2.** At a loss; bewildered. — **to follow the sea** To follow the occupation of a sailor. — **to go to sea** **1.** To become a sailor. **2.** To take an ocean voyage. — **to put to sea** To start on a voyage, as a ship. [OE *sæ*]

sea anchor A large canvas bag or sail dragged from the stern of a ship to reduce yawing, as in a gale.

sea anemone Any of various marine animals that attach themselves to rocks, etc., suggesting flowers by their coloring and outspread tentacles.

SEA ANEMONE (3 to 5 inches high) *a* Tentacles contracted. *b* Tentacles extended.

sea bass **1.** Any of various large-mouthed food fishes of Atlantic waters; esp., the **black sea bass.** **2.** Any of various similar or related fishes.

Sea-bee (sē′bē′) *n.* A member of the Construction Battalions of the U.S. Navy, organized to build base facilities, airfields, etc. [< *C*(*on-struction*) *B*(*attalion*)]

sea·board (sē′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* The seashore or seacoast; also, the land or region bordering the sea. — *adj.* Bordering on the sea. [ME < SEA + *board* border, OE *bord*]

sea breeze A cool breeze blowing inland from the ocean.

sea calf The harbor seal.

sea captain The captain of a seagoing vessel.

sea·coast (sē′kōst′) *n.* The seashore; seaboard.

sea cock A cock or valve controlling connection with the water through a vessel's hull.

sea coconut The very large and heavy seed of a palm native to islands of the Indian Ocean.

sea cow **1.** Any acquatic mammal, as the manatee or the dugong. **2.** The walrus.

sea cucumber Any of a group of marine animals shaped like a cucumber and having long branched tentacles.

sea dog **1.** The harbor seal. **2.** The sea lion. **3.** An old or experienced sailor.

sea·drome (sē′drōm′) *n.* *Aeron.* A floating airport for aircraft making overseas flights. [< SEA + -DROME]

sea duck Any of various diving ducks, esp. the eider.

sea·far·er (sē′fâr′ər) *n.* A seaman; a mariner.

sea·far·ing (sē′fâr′ing) *adj.* **1.** Following the sea as a calling. **2.** Traveling by sea. — *n.* **1.** Travel by sea. **2.** The profession of a seaman.

sea·flow·er (sē′flou′ər) *n.* A sea anemone.

sea foam **1.** Foam of the ocean. **2.** Meerschaum. **3.** A fluffy candy made of spun sugar.

sea·food (sē′fōōd′) *n.* *U.S.* Edible marine fish or shellfish.

sea·fowl (sē′foul′) *n.* A sea bird, or sea birds collectively.

sea front Land or buildings that border on the sea.

sea·girt (sē′gûrt′) *adj.* Surrounded by waters of the sea.

sea·go·ing (sē′gō′ing) *adj.* **1.** Adapted for use on the ocean. **2.** Seafaring.

sea green A deep bluish green, like the color of sea water.

sea gull Any gull or large tern.

sea hog A porpoise.

sea horse 1. A marine fish, having a prehensile tail and a head resembling that of a horse. 2. A walrus. 3. A fabulous animal, half horse and half fish, driven by Neptune. 4. A large, white-crested wave.

SEA HORSE (2 to 12 inches long)

Sea Islands A chain of small islands off the coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida.

sea king A viking pirate king of the Middle Ages.

seal[1] (sēl) *n.* 1. An instrument or device used for making an impression upon some plastic substance, as wax or a wafer; also, the impression made. 2. The wax, wafer, or similar token affixed to a document as a proof of authenticity; also, an impression, scroll, or mark on the paper. 3. A substance or device employed to secure a letter, door, etc., firmly or to prevent tampering. 4. Anything that confirms or ratifies; a pledge. 5. An ornamental stamp for packages, etc. — **under seal** Fastened or secured with an authoritative seal. — *v.t.* 1. To affix a seal to, as to prove authenticity or prevent tampering. 2. To stamp or impress a seal upon in order to attest to weight, quality, etc. 3. To fasten or close with or as with a seal. 4. To grant or assign under seal. 5. To establish or settle finally; determine. 6. In Mormon usage, to solemnize forever, as a marriage. 7. To secure, set, or fill up, as with plaster. 8. *Mech.* To supply with a device or trap for preventing a return flow of gas or air. [< OF < L *sigillum* small picture, seal] — **seal'a·ble** *adj.* — **seal'er** *n.*

seal[2] (sēl) *n.* 1. Any of a group of acquatic carnivorous mammals mostly of northern latitudes. 2. The fur of a fur seal; sealskin. 3. Leather made from the hide of a seal. 4. Any fur prepared so as to look like sealskin. — *v.i.* To hunt seals. [OE *seolh*]

sea legs *Informal* The ability to walk aboard ship, esp. in rough seas, without losing one's balance.

seal·er·y (sē'lər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** 1. The occupation of hunting seals. 2. A place where seals are regularly hunted.

sea lettuce A green seaweed often used for food.

sea level 1. The assumed mean level of the ocean surface, esp. as used in determining elevation on maps, etc. 2. The actual mean level of the ocean surface.

sealing wax A mixture of shellac and resin with turpentine and pigment that is fluid when heated but becomes solid as it cools, used for sealing papers, packages, etc.

sea lion Any of various large, eared seals, esp., the **California sea lion**: also called *sea dog*.

seal ring A finger ring containing an engraved stone or signet: also called *signet ring*.

seal·skin (sēl'skin') *n.* 1. The under fur of the fur seal when prepared for use by removing the long hairs and dyeing dark brown or black. 2. A coat, etc., made of this fur. — *adj.* Made of this fur.

Sea·ly·ham terrier (sē'lē·ham, -əm) A breed of terrier first developed at Sealyham, Wales, having short legs and a wiry, usu. white coat.

seam (sēm) *n.* 1. A visible line of junction between parts, esp. the edges of two pieces of cloth sewn together. 2. A crack; fissure. 3. A ridge made in joining two pieces or left by a mold upon a casting. 4. A scar; also, a wrinkle. 5. A thin stratum of rock. — *v.t.* 1. To unite by means of a seam. 2. To mark with a cut, furrow, wrinkle, etc. 3. In knitting, to give the appearance of a seam to; purl. — *v.i.* 4. To crack open; become fissured. 5. In knitting, to form seams. [OE *sēam*] — **seam'er** *n.*

sea·man (sē'mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) 1. A sailor. 2. *Naval* An enlisted man of any of the lowest grades. See tables at GRADE. — **sea'man·like'** (-lik') *adj.* — **sea'man·ly** *adj. & adv.*

sea·man·ship (sē'mən·ship) *n.* The skill and ability of a seaman in the operation and handling of a boat or ship.

seam·less (sēm'lis) *adj.* Having no seam.

seam·stress (sēm'stris, *Brit.* sem'-) *n.* A woman skilled in needlework, esp. one whose occupation is sewing. Also *sempstress*. [< OE *sēamestre* seamster + -ESS]

seam·y (sē'mē) *adj.* **seam·i·er, seam·i·est** 1. Full of seams, as the wrong side of a garment. 2. Showing the worst aspect; distasteful: the *seamy* side. — **seam'i·ness** *n.*

sé·ance (sā'äns, *Fr.* sā·äns') *n.* 1. A session or sitting. 2. A meeting of persons seeking spiritualistic manifestations. [< F < OF *seoir* to sit < L *sedere*]

sea onion Squill[1].

sea otter A large, nearly extinct marine animal of the North Pacific coast, having a valuable dark brown fur.

sea·plane (sē'plān') *n.* An airplane equipped to land on or take off from the water.

sea·port (sē'pôrt', -pōrt') *n.* 1. A harbor or port on a coast accessible to seagoing ships. 2. A town located on such a harbor.

sea purse *Zool.* The horny capsule enclosing the eggs of certain sharks, skates, and rays.

sea·quake (sē'kwāk') *n.* A seismic disturbance of the ocean floor.

sear (sir) *v.t.* 1. To wither; dry up. 2. To burn the surface of; scorch. 3. To burn or cauterize, as with a hot iron; brand. 4. To make callous; harden. — *v.i.* 5. To cause dryness. — *adj. Poetic* Dried or blasted; withered. — *n.* A scar or brand. Also spelled *sere*. [OE *sēarian* to wither]

search (sûrch) *n.* 1. The act of seeking or looking diligently. 2. Investigation; inquiry. 3. A critical examination or scrutiny. 4. *Law* Right of search. — *v.t.* 1. To look through or explore thoroughly in order to find something. 2. To subject (a person) to an examination. as for concealed weapons etc. 3. To examine with close attention; probe. 4. To penetrate or pierce. 5. To learn by investigation: with *out*. — *v.i.* 6. To make a search. [< OF < L *circare* to go round, explore] — **search'a·ble** *adj.* — **search'er** *n.*

search·ing (sûr'ching) *adj.* 1. Investigating minutely. 2. Keenly penetrating; observant: a *searching* gaze. — **search'ing·ly** *adv.* — **search'ing·ness** *n.*

search·light (sûrch'līt') *n.* 1. An apparatus containing a reflector and an intensely brilliant light that may be thrown in various directions for search or signaling. 2. The beam of light from this apparatus.

search warrant A warrant authorizing an officer to search a house or other specified place for things alleged to be unlawfully concealed there.

sea·scape (sē'skāp') *n.* 1. An ocean view. 2. A picture presenting a marine view. [< SEA + (LAND)SCAPE]

sea·shell (sē'shel') *n.* The shell of any marine mollusk.

sea·shore (sē'shôr', -shōr') *n.* 1. Land adjacent to or bordering on the ocean. 2. *Law* The ground between high- and low-water marks.

sea·sick (sē'sik') *adj.* Suffering from seasickness.

sea·sick·ness (sē'sik'nis) *n.* Nausea, dizziness, and prostration caused by the motion of a vessel at sea.

sea·side (sē'sīd') *n.* The seashore, esp. as a place of resort. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the seashore.

sea·son (sē'zən) *n.* 1. A division of the year as determined by the earth's position with respect to the sun, and as marked by the temperature, moisture, vegetation, etc. 2. A period of time. 3. Any of the periods into which the Christian year is divided. 4. A period of special activity: the hunting *season*. 5. A fit or suitable time. 6. That which imparts relish; seasoning. — **in season** 1. In condition and obtainable for use. 2. In good or sufficient time; opportunely. 3. Legally permitted to be killed or taken, as game. 4. Ready to mate or breed: said of animals. — *v.t.* 1. To increase the flavor or zest of (food), as by adding spices, etc. 2. To add zest or piquancy to. 3. To render more suitable for use. 4. To make accustomed or inured; harden. 5. To mitigate or soften. — *v.i.* 6. To become seasoned. [< OF < LL *satio* -*onis* sowing time < L, a sowing] — **sea'son·er** *n.*

sea·son·a·ble (sē'zən·ə·bəl) *adj.* 1. Being in keeping with the season. 2. Done at the proper time. — **sea'son·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **sea'son·a·bly** *adv.*

sea·son·al (sē'zən·əl) *adj.* Characteristic of, affected by, or occurring at a certain season. — **sea'son·al·ly** *adv.*

sea·son·ing (sē'zən·ing) *n.* 1. The act or process by which something, as lumber, is rendered fit for use. 2. Something added to food to give relish; esp., a condiment. 3. Something added to increase enjoyment, zest, etc.

season ticket A ticket or pass, usually at a reduced rate, entitling the holder to daily trips on a train for a certain period or to admission to a series of sporting events, etc.

seat (sēt) *n.* 1. That on which one sits, as a chair, bench, or stool. 2. The part of a thing upon which one rests in sitting or upon which an object or another part rests. 3. The buttocks; also, the portion of a garment covering them. 4. The place where anything is situated, settled, or established. 5. A place of abode. 6. The privilege or right of membership in a legislative body, stock exchange, etc. 7. The manner of sitting, as on horseback. 8. A surface or part upon which the base of anything rests. — *v.t.* 1. To place on a seat or seats; cause to sit down. 2. To have seats for. 3. To put or repair a seat on or in. 4. To locate, settle, or center: usually in the passive. 5. To fix or set firmly or in place. [< ON *sæti*. Akin to SIT.]

seat belt A safety belt.

seat·ing (sē'ting) *n.* 1. The act of providing with seats. 2. Fabric for upholstering seats. 3. The arrangement of seats, as in a room, auditorium, etc.

sea urchin A marine animal having a soft rounded body covered with a shell bearing numerous movable spines.

sea wall A wall or an embankment to prevent the encroachments of the sea, the erosion of the shore, etc.

sea·ward (sē'wərd) *adj.* 1. Going toward the sea. 2. Blowing, as wind, from the sea. — *adv.* In the direction of the sea: also **sea'wards** (-wərdz).

sea·way (sē′wā′) *n.* **1.** A way or lane over the sea. **2.** An inland waterway that receives ocean shipping. **3.** The headway made by a ship. **4.** A rough sea: usu. in **in a seaway.**
sea·weed (sē′wēd′) *n.* **1.** Any of a widely distributed class of plants growing in the sea, including the kelps, rockweeds, dulse, etc. **2.** Any marine plant.
sea·wor·thy (sē′wûr′ᵺē) *adj.* In fit condition for a voyage: said of a vessel. — **sea′wor′thi·ness** *n.*
se·ba·ceous (si·bā′shəs) *adj. Physiol.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like fat. **2.** Designating any of the glands in the skin that secrete sebum. [< NL *sebaceus* < L *sebum* tallow]
sebi- *combining form* Fat; fatty matter: also, before vowels, **seb-**. Also **sebo-**. [< L *sebum* tallow]
se·bum (sē′bəm) *n. Physiol.* A fatty matter secreted by the sebaceous glands. [< L, tallow]
sec (sek) *adj. French* Dry: said of wines.
se·cant (sē′kənt, -kant) *adj.* Cutting, esp. into two parts; intersecting. — *n.* **1.** *Geom.* **a** A straight line intersecting a given curve. **b** A line drawn from the center of a circle through one extremity of an arc to the tangent drawn from the other extremity of the same arc. **2.** *Trig.* A function of an acute angle, equal to the ratio of the hypotenuse to the side adjacent to the angle when the angle is included in a right triangle. [< L *secans, -antis*, ppr. of *secare* to cut]
se·cede (si·sēd′) *v.i.* **·ced·ed, ·ced·ing** To withdraw formally from a union, fellowship, or association, esp. from a political or religious organization. [< L < *se-* apart + *cedere* to go] — **se·ced′er** *n.*
se·ces·sion (si·sesh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of seceding, esp. from political or religious association. **2.** *Usually cap. U.S.* The withdrawal of the Southern States from the Union in 1860–61. — **se·ces′sion·al** *adj.* — **se·ces′sion·ist** *adj. & n.*
Seck·el (sek′əl, sik′əl) *n.* A variety of small, sweet pear. [after the Pennsylvania farmer who introduced it]
se·clude (si·klōōd′) *v.t.* **·clud·ed, ·clud·ing** **1.** To remove and keep apart from the company or society of others; isolate. **2.** To screen or shut off, as from view. [< L < *se-* apart + *claudere* to shut]
se·clud·ed (si·klōō′did) *adj.* **1.** Separated; withdrawn; living apart from others. **2.** Protected or screened. — **se·clud′ed·ly** *adv.* — **se·clud′ed·ness** *n.*
se·clu·sion (si·klōō′zhən) *n.* **1.** The act of secluding, or the state or condition of being secluded; solitude; retirement. **2.** A secluded place. — **se·clu′sive** *adj.* — **se·clu′sive·ly** *adv.* — **se·clu′sive·ness** *n.*
sec·ond[1] (sek′ənd) *n.* **1.** A unit of time, ⅙₀ of a minute. **2.** *Geom.* A unit of angular measure, ⅙₀ of a minute of arc. Symbol: ″. [< OF *seconde*]
sec·ond[2] (sek′ənd) *adj.* **1.** Next in order, authority, responsibility, etc., after the first: the ordinal of *two*. **2.** Ranking next to or below the first or best; secondary; subordinate. **3.** Identical in character with another or preceding one; another; other. **4.** *Music* Designating one of two parts for like instruments or voices, usu. the one lower in pitch or in some manner subordinate. — *n.* **1.** The one next after the first in position, rank, importance, or quality. **2.** An attendant who supports or aids another, as in a duel. **3.** *pl.* Articles of merchandise of imperfect manufacture or of inferior quality. **4.** *Music* **a** The interval between any note and the next above or below in the diatonic scale. **b** A note separated by this interval from any other. **c** Two notes at this interval written or sounded together. **d** A second or subordinate part, instrument, or voice. **5.** In parliamentary law, an utterance whereby a motion is seconded: Do I hear a *second*? — *v.t.* **1.** To act as a supporter or assistant of; promote; encourage. **2.** In deliberative bodies, to support formally, as a motion, resolution, etc. — *adv.* In the second order, place, or rank: also, in formal discourse, **sec′ond·ly**. [< OF < L *secundus* following]
sec·on·dar·y (sek′ən·der′ē) *adj.* **1.** Of second rank, grade, or influence; subordinate; auxiliary. **2.** Depending on what is primary or original: *secondary* sources. **3.** *Electr.* Of, pertaining to, or noting an induced current or its circuit, esp. in an induction coil. — *n. pl.* **·dar·ies** **1.** One who acts in a secondary or subordinate capacity; an assistant. **2.** Anything of secondary size, position, or importance. **3.** *Ornithol.* One of the feathers that grow on the second joint or forearm of a bird's wing. — **sec′on·dar′i·ly** *adv.*
secondary accent See under ACCENT.
secondary cell *Electr.* A type of cell that can be recharged by the passage of direct current in reverse direction through the electrolyte: also called *storage cell.*
secondary education High school or preparatory school education between the elementary and college levels.
secondary school A high school or preparatory school intermediate between the elementary school and college.
second base In baseball, the base situated between first and third base.
second base·man (bās′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A baseball player stationed at or near second base.
sec·ond-best (sek′ənd·best′) *adj.* Next to the best.
second childhood Senility; dotage.
sec·ond-class (sek′ənd·klas′, -kläs′) *adj.* **1.** Ranking next below the first or best; inferior; mediocre. **2.** Of or pertaining to travel accommodations ranking between first class and third class. **3.** Of or pertaining to a class of mail including all printed periodicals. — *adv.* By second-class ticket or by using second-class conveniences.
Second Coming The expected second coming of Christ.
second estate The nobility.
second fiddle Any secondary or inferior status, esp. in the phrase **to be** (or **play**) **second fiddle.**
sec·ond-guess (sek′ənd·ges′) *v.t. & v.i.* To judge or conjecture about (something) after it has occurred.
sec·ond-hand (sek′ənd·hand′) *adj.* **1.** Having been previously owned, worn, or used by another; not new. **2.** Received from another: *secondhand* information. **3.** Handling or dealing in merchandise that is not new.
second hand The hand that marks the seconds on a clock or a watch.
second lieutenant *Mil.* The lowest grade of commissioned officer, ranking below first lieutenant.
second nature A disposition or character that is acquired and not innate; deep-seated habits that have become fixed.
second papers A popular name for a certificate of naturalization.
sec·ond-rate (sek′ənd·rāt′) *adj.* Second in quality, size, rank, importance, etc.; second-class. — **sec′ond-rat′er** *n.*
second sight The alleged power of seeing events occurring at distant places, in the future, etc.; clairvoyance.
sec·ond-sto·ry man (sek′ənd·stôr′ē, -stō′rē) *U.S. Slang* A burglar.
second-string (sek′ənd·string′) *adj. U.S. Informal* In sports, ranking next to the regular or starting player or team.
Second World War See WORLD WAR II in table for WAR.
se·cre·cy (sē′krə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The condition or quality of being secret or hidden; concealment. **2.** The character of being secretive; secretiveness. **3.** Privacy; retirement; solitude. Also **se·cret·ness** (sē′krit·nis).
se·cret (sē′krit) *adj.* **1.** Kept separate or hidden from view or knowledge; concealed; hidden. **2.** Beyond normal comprehension; obscure; recondite. **3.** Known or revealed only to the initiated: *secret* rites. **4.** Affording privacy; secluded. **5.** Good at keeping secrets; close-mouthed. **6.** *U.S. Mil.* Denoting the second highest category of security classification. Compare TOP-SECRET. — *n.* **1.** Something not to be told. **2.** A thing undiscovered or unknown. **3.** An underlying reason; that which, when known, explains; key. **4.** A secret contrivance. **5.** Secrecy. — **in secret** In privacy; in a hidden place. [< OF < L < *se-* apart + *cernere* to separate] — **se′cret·ly** *adv.*
sec·re·tar·i·at (sek′rə·târ′ē·it, -at) *n.* **1.** A secretary's position. **2.** The place where a secretary transacts his business. **3.** The executive department of an organization, esp. of the United Nations. **4.** The entire staff of secretaries in an office. Also **sec′re·tar′i·ate.**
sec·re·tar·y (sek′rə·ter′ē) *n. pl.* **·tar·ies** **1.** A person employed to deal with correspondence, keep records, and handle clerical business for an individual, business, committee, etc. **2.** An executive officer presiding over and managing a department of government. **3.** A writing desk with a bookcase or cabinet. [< Med.L < L *secretum* secret] — **sec′re·tar′i·al** (-târ′ē·əl) *adj.*
secretary bird A South African bird that has long legs and a crest suggesting quill pens stuck behind the ear.
secretary general *pl.* **secretaries general** A chief secretary; an assistant to a governor general. — **sec′re·tar′y·gen′er·al·cy** (-jen′ər·əl·sē) *n.*
se·crete (si·krēt′) *v.t.* **·cret·ed, ·cret·ing** **1.** To conceal; hide. **2.** *Physiol.* To produce (a secretion). [See SECRET.] — **se·cre′tor** *n.*
se·cre·tion (si·krē′shən) *n. Physiol.* **1.** The process, generally glandular, by which materials are separated from the blood and elaborated into new substances, as milk, etc. **2.** The substance secreted. [See SECRET.]
se·cre·tive (si·krē′tiv; *for def. 1, also* sē′krə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to secrecy; reticent. **2.** *Physiol.* Producing or causing secretion. — **se·cre′tive·ly** *adv.* — **se·cre′tive·ness** *n.*
se·cre·to·ry (si·krē′tər·ē) *adj.* Of, or functioning as, a secretion. — *n. pl.* **·ries** A secreting organ or gland.
secret service **1.** Investigation conducted secretly for a government. **2.** The secret or espionage work of various government agencies in time of war.
Secret Service A section of the Department of the Treasury concerned with the suppression of counterfeiting, the protection of the President of the United States, etc.

sect (sekt) *n.* **1.** A body of persons distinguished by peculiarities of faith and practice from other bodies adhering to the same general system, esp., the adherents of a particular religious creed. **2.** Any number of persons united in opinion, interest beliefs. [< OF < L < *sequi* to follow]

-sect *combining form* To cut; divide (in a specified manner): *vivisect, bisect.* [< L < *secare* to cut]

sec·tar·i·an (sek·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or belonging to a particular sect. **2.** Adhering or confined to a specific group, party, etc.; partisan. — *n.* A member of a sect, esp. if bigoted. — **sec·tar′i·an·ism** *n.*

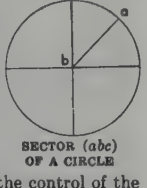
sec·ta·ry (sek′tər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A sectarian. **2.** A dissenter from an established church; a nonconformist. Also **sec′ta·rist.** [< MF or Med.L < L. See SECT.]

sec·tion (sek′shən) *n.* **1.** A separate part or division; as a portion of a book or a chapter. **2.** A distinct part of a country, community, etc. **3.** *U.S.* An area of land containing 640 acres, 1/36 of a township. **4.** Any of two or more trains, buses, airplanes, etc., represented by a single entry in a timetable or schedule. **5.** A portion of railroad track under the care of a particular set of men. **6.** In a sleeping car, a space containing two berths. **7.** A picture of a building, geological formation, etc., as if cut by an intersecting plane; also, the thing so viewed. **8.** The act of cutting; division by cutting. — **Syn.** See PORTION. — *v.t.* **1.** To cut or divide into sections. **2.** To shade (a drawing) so as to designate a section or sections. [< MF or L < *secare* to cut]

-section *combining form* The act or process of cutting or dividing: *vivisection.* [< L. See SECTION.]

sec·tion·al (sek′shən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a section, as of a country; local: a *sectional* dialect. **2.** Dividing or alienating one section from another. **3.** Made up of sections. — *n. U.S.* A long sofa having several separate units. — **sec′·tion·al·ly** *adv.*

sec·tion·al·ism (sek′shən·əl·iz′əm) *n.* Undue concern for a particular section of the country; intense consciousness of sectional differences. — **sec′tion·al·ist** *n.*



SECTOR (*abc*) OF A CIRCLE

sec·tor (sek′tər) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* A part of a circle or ellipse bounded by two radii and the arc subtended by them. **2.** A part or portion: a wooded *sector* of land; the conservative *sector* of the population. **3.** *Mil.* A defined area for which a unit is responsible. — *v.t.* To divide into sectors. [< LL < L < *secare* to cut] — **sec·to·ri·al** (sek·tôr′ē·əl) *adj.*

sec·u·lar (sek′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Of this world or the present life; temporal; worldly: distinguished from *spiritual.* **2.** Not under the control of the church; civil. **3.** Not concerned with religion; not sacred. **4.** Not bound by monastic vows. — *n.* **1.** One in holy orders who is not bound by monastic vows. **2.** A layman. [< OF < LL < L *saeculum* generation, an age]

sec·u·lar·ism (sek′yə·lə·riz′əm) *n.* **1.** The belief that morality should be determined without reference to religious systems. **2.** The view that religion should not be introduced into public education or civil affairs. — **sec′u·lar·ist** *n.*

sec·u·lar·ize (sek′yə·lə·rīz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To convert from sacred to secular uses. **2.** To make worldly. — **sec′u·lar·i·za′tion** *n.*

se·cure (si·kyŏŏr′) *adj.* **1.** Guarded against or not likely to be exposed to danger; safe. **2.** Free from fear, apprehension, etc. **3.** Fixed or holding firmly in place. **4.** So strong or well-made as to render loss, escape, or failure impossible. **5.** Assured; certain; guaranteed. — *v.* **·cured, ·cur·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make secure; protect. **2.** To make firm or tight; fasten. **3.** To make certain; ensure. **4.** To obtain possession of; get. — *v.i.* **5.** To be or become secure; take precautions: with *against*, etc. [< L < *se-* without + *cura* care] — **se·cur′a·ble** *adj.* — **se·cure′ly** *adv.* — **se·cure′ment** *n.* — **se·cure′·ness** *n.* — **se·cur′er** *n.*

se·cur·i·ty (si·kyŏŏr′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being secure; freedom from danger, poverty, etc. **2.** One who or that which secures or guarantees. **3.** Something deposited or pledged as a guarantee for payment. **4.** *pl.* Stocks, bonds, notes, etc. **5.** Protection of secrecy, as in wartime.

— **Syn. 2, 3.** Both *security* and *surety* may mean property given as a guarantee or the person who gives it, but *security* is chiefly used in the first sense, and *surety* in the second. A *bond* is a written promise to pay compensation for loss, damage, etc.

Security Council A permanent organ of the United Nations charged with the maintenance of international peace.

security risk *U.S.* A person regarded as unfit for employment in government or in a job connected with national defense, as because of dubious associations.

se·dan (si·dan′) *n.* **1.** A closed automobile having two or four doors and a front and back seat. **2.** A sedan chair. [? Ital. *sedere* to sit < L]

sedan chair A portable, enclosed chair, usu., for one passenger, carried by means of poles at the front and back.

se·date (si·dāt′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by habitual composure; unhurried; calm. **2.** Sober and decorous. [< L < *sedere* to sit] — **se·date′ly** *adv.* — **se·date′ness** *n.*

se·da·tion (si·dā′shən) *n. Med.* The act or process of reducing distress, irritation, excitement, etc., by administering sedatives.

sed·a·tive (sed′ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Having a soothing effect. **2.** *Med.* Allaying irritation; assuaging pain. — *n.* Any means, as a medicine, of soothing distress or allaying pain.

sed·en·tar·y (sed′ən·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by, requiring, or resulting from much sitting or a habitual sitting posture. **2.** Settled in one place, as certain tribes; sluggish; inactive. **3.** Accustomed to sitting. **4.** *Zool.* Remaining in one place; attached or fixed to an object. [< L *sedere* to sit] — **sed′en·tar′i·ly** *adv.* — **sed′en·tar′i·ness** *n.*

Se·der (sā′dər) *n. pl.* **Se·ders** or **Se·dar·im** (sə·där′im) In Judaism, the Passover feast commemorating the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. [< Hebrew *sedher* service]

sedge (sej) *n.* Any of various grasslike herbs widely distributed in marshy places. [OE *secg*] — **sedg′y** *adj.*

sed·i·ment (sed′ə·mənt) *n.* **1.** Matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid; settlings; dregs; lees. **2.** *Geol.* Fragmentary material deposited by water or air. — **Syn.** See WASTE. [< MF < L *sedere* to sit, settle] — **sed′i·men′ta·ry, sed′i·men′tal** *adj.*

se·di·tion (si·dish′ən) *n.* **1.** Language or conduct directed against public order and the safety of the state. **2.** The clandestine incitement of such disorder. **3.** Dissension; revolt. [< OF < L < *sed-* aside + *itio, -onis* a going] — **se·di′tion·ar·y, se·di′tion·ist** *adj. & n.*

se·di·tious (si·dish′əs) *adj.* **1.** Of, promoting, or having the character of sedition. **2.** Taking part in or guilty of sedition. [See SEDITION.] — **se·di′tious·ly** *adv.*

se·duce (si·dōōs′, -dyōōs′) *v.t.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** **1.** To lead astray; entice into wrong, disloyalty, etc.; tempt. **2.** To induce to engage in illicit sexual intercourse, esp. for the first time. [< L < *se-* apart + *ducere* to lead] — **se·duc′er** *n.* — **se·duc′i·ble** or **se·duce′a·ble** *adj.*

se·duc·tion (si·duk′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of seducing. **2.** Something that seduces; an enticement. Also **se·duce·ment** (si·dōōs′mənt, -dyōōs′-). [See SEDUCE.]

se·duc·tive (si·duk′tiv) *adj.* Tending to seduce; enticing. — **se·duc′tive·ly** *adv.* — **se·duc′tive·ness** *n.*

se·du·li·ty (si·dōō′lə·tē, -dyōō′-) *n.* The state or character of being sedulous.

sed·u·lous (sej′ōō·ləs) *adj.* Constant in application or attention; assiduous. [< L *sedulus* careful] — **sed′u·lous·ly** *adv.* — **sed′u·lous·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** diligent, persevering. Compare BUSY.

se·dum (sē′dəm) *n.* Any of a large genus of chiefly perennial plants, having very thick leaves and usu. white, yellow, or pink flowers. [< L, houseleek]

see[1] (sē) *v.* **saw, seen, see·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To perceive with the eyes; gain knowledge or awareness of by means of one's vision. **2.** To perceive with the mind; understand. **3.** To find out or ascertain. **4.** To have experience or knowledge of. **5.** To encounter; chance to meet. **6.** To have a meeting or interview with; visit or receive as a guest, patient, etc. **7.** To attend as a spectator; view. **8.** To accompany; escort. **9.** To take care; be sure: *See* that you do it! **10.** In poker, to accept a bet by betting an equal sum. — *v.i.* **11.** To have or exercise the power of sight. **12.** To find out; inquire. **13.** To understand. **14.** To think; consider. — **to see about** **1.** To inquire into the facts, causes, etc., of. **2.** To take care of; attend to. — **to see (someone) off** To accompany to a point of departure, as for a journey. — **to see (someone) through** To aid or protect, as throughout a period of difficulty or danger. — **to see through** To penetrate, as a disguise or deception. — **to see to** To be responsible for; give one's attention to. [OE *sēon*]

see[2] (sē) *n.* **1.** The local seat from which a bishop, archbishop, or pope exercises jurisdiction. **2.** Episcopal or papal jurisdiction, authority, rank, or office. — **Holy See** The Pope's jurisdiction or office. [< OF < L *sedes* seat]

seed (sēd) *n.* **1.** The ovule from which a plant may be reproduced; the fertilized ovule containing an embryo. **2.** That from which anything springs; source. **3.** Offspring; children. **4.** The male fertilizing element; semen; milt. **5.** Any small, usu. hard fruit; also, any part of a plant from which it may be propagated, as bulbs, tubers, etc. **6.** Seeds collectively. **7.** Ancestry; stock. — **to go to seed** **1.** To develop and shed seed. **2.** To become shabby, useless, etc.; deteriorate. — *v.i.* **1.** To sow with seed. **2.** To sow (seed). **3.** To remove the seeds from. **4.** In sports, to arrange positions in a tournament, etc., so that the more skilled competitors meet only in the later events. **5.** To intersperse (clouds) with particles of silver iodide or other substances in order to produce rainfall. — *v.i.* **6.** To sow seed. **7.** To grow to maturity and produce or shed seed. [OE *sǣd*] — **seed′er** *n.* — **seed′less** *adj.*

seed bud *Bot.* The germ within a seed; also, the ovule.

seed cake A sweet cake containing aromatic seeds.

seed·case (sēd′kās′) *n. Bot.* A pericarp.
seed leaf *Bot.* A cotyledon.
seed·ling (sēd′ling) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* A plant grown from seed, as distinguished from one propagated by grafting. **2.** A very small or young tree or plant.
seed oyster A young oyster, esp. one transplanted to another bed.
seed pearl A small pearl, used in jewelry, embroidery, etc.
seeds·man (sēdz′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** A dealer in seeds. **2.** A sower. Also **seed′man.**
seed vessel *Bot.* A pericarp.
seed·y (sē′dē) *adj.* **seed·i·er, seed·i·est 1.** Full of seeds. **2.** Gone to seed. **3.** Poor; shabby. **4.** *Informal* Feeling or looking wretched. **— seed′i·ly** *adv.* **— seed′i·ness** *n.*
see·ing (sē′ing) *n.* The act of seeing; vision; sight. **—** *conj.* Taking into consideration; since; in view of the fact.
seek (sēk) *v.* **sought, seek·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To go in search of; look for. **2.** To strive for; try to get or obtain. **3.** To endeavor or try: He *seeks* to mislead me. **4.** To ask or inquire for; request. **5.** To go to; betake oneself to: to *seek* a warmer climate. **—** *v.i.* **6.** To make a search or inquiry. [OE *sēcan*] **— seek′er** *n.*
seem (sēm) *v.i.* **1.** To give the impression of being; appear. **2.** To appear to oneself: I *seem* to hear strange voices. **3.** To appear to exist. **4.** To be evident or apparent: It *seems* to be raining. [ME < ON *sǣma* to conform to] **— seem′er** *n.*
seem·ing (sē′ming) *adj.* Having the appearance of reality; apparent but not necessarily actual. **—** *n.* Appearance; semblance; esp., false show. **— seem′ing·ly** *adv.* **— seem′·ing·ness** *n.*
seem·ly (sēm′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Befitting the proprieties; decorous. **—** *adv.* Becomingly; decently; appropriately. [< ON < *sæmr* fitting] **— seem′li·ness** *n.*
seen (sēn) Past participle of SEE.
seep (sēp) *v.i.* To soak through pores or small interstices; percolate; ooze. **—** *n.* A small spring or a place out of which water, oil, etc., oozes. [Alter. of OE *sypian* to soak]
seep·age (sē′pij) *n.* **1.** The act or process of seeping or oozing. **2.** The fluid or moisture that oozes.
seer (sē′ər *for def. 1; also* sir *for defs. 2 and 3*) *n.* **1.** One who sees. **2.** A prophet. **3.** One believed to have second sight. [< SEE[1] + -ER] **— seer′ess** *n. fem.*
seer·suck·er (sir′suk′ər) *n.* A thin fabric of cotton, rayon, nylon, etc., usu. striped in colors, with a crinkled surface. [< Hind. < Persian *shīr o shakkar*, lit., milk and sugar]
see·saw (sē′sô′) *n.* **1.** A balanced plank or board made to move alternately up and down by persons at opposite ends: also called *teeter.* **2.** The action or diversion of balancing on such a board. **3.** Any up-and-down or to-and-fro movement. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To move or cause to move on or as if on a seesaw. **2.** To alternate; fluctuate. **—** *adj.* Moving to and fro; vacillating. [Reduplication of SAW[1]]
seethe (sēth) *v.* **seethed, seethed, seeth·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To boil. **2.** To foam or bubble as if boiling. **3.** To be agitated, as by rage. **—** *v.t.* **4.** To soak in liquid; steep. **—** *n.* The act or condition of seething; turmoil. [OE *sēothan*]
seg·ment (seg′mənt) *n.* **1.** A part cut off or divided from the other parts of anything; a section. **2.** *Geom.* **a** A part of a figure, esp., of a circle, cut off by a line or plane. **b** A finite part of a line. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* To divide into segments. [< L < *secare* to cut] **— seg·men·tar·y** (seg′mən·ter′ē) *adj.*
seg·men·tal (seg·men′təl) *adj.* **1.** Of a segment or segments. **2.** Divided into segments. **— seg·men′tal·ly** *adv.*
seg·men·ta·tion (seg′mən·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of cutting or dividing into segments. **2.** The state of being so divided. **3.** *Biol.* The cleavage of a cell.
se·go (sē′gō) *n. pl.* **·gos 1.** A perennial herb of the lily family, having white flowers: the State flower of Utah. **2.** Its edible bulb. [< Shoshonean (Ute) *sīgo*]
seg·re·gate (seg′rə·gāt; *for adj. also* seg′rə·git) *v.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To place apart from others or the rest; isolate. **2.** To subject to segregation. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To separate from a mass and gather about nuclei or along lines of fracture, as in crystallization. **4.** To undergo segregation. **—** *adj.* Set apart from others. [< L < *se-* apart + *grex, gregis* flock] **— seg′re·ga′tive** *adj.* **— seg′re·ga′tor** *n.*
seg·re·ga·tion (seg′rə·gā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of segregating. **2.** The practice of requiring separate facilities, as in housing, schools, and transportation, for use by whites and nonwhites, esp. Negroes. **— seg′re·ga′tion·ist** *n.*
Seid·litz powder (sed′lits) An aperient consisting of two separate parts, tartaric acid, and sodium bicarbonate mixed with Rochelle salt, dissolved separately and then combined. [after *Seidlitz*, a Czech village, site of a medicinal spring]
seign·ior (sēn′yər) *n.* **1.** A lord; noble. **2.** A title of respect equivalent to *Sir.* Also **sei·gneur** (sēn·yûr′). [< AF, OF < L *senior* older] **— sei·gnio·ri·al** (sēn·yôr′ē·əl, -yō′rē-) *adj.*
seign·ior·y (sēn′yər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ies 1.** The territory or jurisdiction of a seignior; a manor. **2.** Right belonging to feudal superiority. Also **sei′gneur·y.**
seine (sān) *n.* A long fishnet hanging vertically in the water and having floats at the top edge and weights at the bottom. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* **seined, sein·ing** To fish or catch with a seine. [OE < L < Gk. *sagēnē* fishnet]
seis·mic (sīz′mik, sīs′-) *adj.* Of, characteristic of, or produced by earthquakes. Also **seis′mal, seis′mi·cal, seis·mat·i·cal** (sīz·mat′ə·kəl, sīs-). [< Gk. < *seiein* to shake]
seismic sea wave A large and often destructive wave caused by a submarine earthquake; a tsunami.
seismo- *combining form* Earthquake. Also, before vowels, **seism-.** [< Gk. *seismos* earthquake]
seis·mo·gram (sīz′mə·gram, sīs′-) *n.* The record of an earthquake or earth tremor made by a seismograph.
seis·mo·graph (sīz′mə·graf, -gräf, sīs′-) *n.* An instrument for recording automatically the intensity, direction, and duration of an earthquake shock. **— seis′mo·graph′ic** *adj.* **— seis·mog·ra·pher** (sīz·mog′rə·fər, sīs-) *n.*
seis·mog·ra·phy (sīz·mog′rə·fē, sīs-) *n.* The study and recording of earthquake phenomena.
seis·mol·o·gy (sīz·mol′ə·jē, sīs-) *n.* The science of earthquake phenomena. **— seis·mo·log·ic** (sīz′mə·loj′ik, sīs′-) or **·i·cal** *adj.* **— seis′mo·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **— seis·mol′o·gist** *n.*
seize (sēz) *v.* **seized, seiz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take hold of suddenly and forcibly. **2.** To grasp mentally; comprehend. **3.** To take possession of by authority or right. **4.** To take possession of by force. **5.** To take prisoner; capture; arrest. **6.** To act upon with sudden and powerful effect: Terror *seized* the enemy. **7.** To take advantage of immediately, as an opportunity. **8.** *Law* To put into legal possession. **9.** *Naut.* To fasten or bind by turns of cord, etc. **—** *v.i.* **10.** To take a sudden or forcible hold. [< OF < Med.L (*ad propriam*) *sacire* to take (into one's own possession)] **— seiz′a·ble** *adj.* **— seiz′er** *n.*
sei·zure (sē′zhər) *n.* **1.** The act of seizing. **2.** A sudden or violent attack, as of epilepsy; fit; spell.
se·la·chi·an (si·lā′kē·ən) *adj.* Of or belonging to a group of fishes including the sharks, skates, and rays. **—** *n.* A selachian fish. [< NL < Gk. *selachos* shark]
se·lah (sē′lə) A word of unknown meaning occurring often at the end of a verse in the Psalms, usu. considered as a direction to readers or musicians. [< Hebrew *selāh*]
sel·dom (sel′dəm) *adv.* At widely separated intervals, as of time or space; infrequently. [OE *seldum*]
se·lect (si·lekt′) *v.t.* **1.** To take in preference to another or others. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To make a choice. **—** *adj.* **1.** Chosen in preference to others; choice. **2.** Exclusive. **3.** Very particular in selecting. [< L < *se-* apart + *legere* to choose] **— se·lect′ness** *n.* **— se·lec′tor** *n.*
se·lec·tee (si·lek′tē′) *n.* One selected; esp., one drafted for military or naval service.
se·lec·tion (si·lek′shən) *n.* **1.** Choice. **2.** Anything selected. **3.** A thing or collection of things chosen with care. **4.** *Biol.* The process by which certain organisms, or any of their characteristics, are favored in the struggle for survival.
se·lec·tive (si·lek′tiv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to selection; tending to select. **2.** Having or characterized by good selectivity.
selective service Compulsory military service according to specified conditions of age, fitness, etc.
se·lec·tiv·i·ty (si·lek′tiv′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being selective. Also **se·lec′tive·ness. 2.** *Telecom.* That characteristic of a radio or television receiver, electrical circuit, etc., by which certain frequencies can be received to the exclusion of others.
se·lect·man (si·lekt′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) In New England, one of a board of town officers, elected annually to exercise executive authority in local affairs.
Se·le·ne (si·lē′nē) In Greek mythology, goddess of the moon: identified with the Roman *Luna.* Also **Se·le′na** (-nə). [< Gk. *Selēnē*, lit., the moon]
sel·e·nite (sel′ə·nīt) *n.* A pearly, usu. transparent variety of gypsum. [< L < Gk. *selēnītēs* (*lithos*), lit., moonstone < *selēnē* the moon]
se·le·ni·um (si·lē′nē·əm) *n.* A gray, crystalline, nonmetallic element (symbol Se) of the sulfur group, varying greatly in electrical resistance under the influence of light. See ELEMENT. [< NL < Gk. *selēnē* the moon]
selenium cell A photoelectric cell in which plates of selenium respond to the action of light upon them.
seleno- *combining form* Moon; pertaining to the moon; lunar. Also, before vowels, **selen-.** [< Gk. *selēnē* the moon]
self (self) *n. pl.* **selves 1.** An individual known or considered as the subject of his own consciousness. **2.** Anything considered as having a distinct personality. **3.** Personal interest or advantage. **4.** Any thing, class, or attribute that, abstractly considered, maintains a distinct and characteristic individuality or identity. **—** *adj.* **1.** Being of the same color, substance, etc., throughout; uniform. **2.** Of a part,

accessory, etc., made of the same material as that with which it is used. [OE]

◆ *Self* may appear as a combining form with various meanings as shown in the list below:

1. Of the self (the object of the root word); as in:

self-abandonment	**self-disclosure**	**self-murderer**
self-abasing	**self-discovery**	**self-mutilation**
self-abhorrence	**self-disgrace**	**self-neglect**
self-accusation	**self-disparagement**	**self-neglectful**
self-adaptive	**self-display**	**self-nourishment**
self-admiration	**self-disposal**	**self-observation**
self-admission	**self-disquieting**	**self-offense**
self-adornment	**self-dissolution**	**self-opinion**
self-adulation	**self-doubt**	**self-painter**
self-advancement	**self-easing**	**self-paying**
self-advertisement	**self-enriching**	**self-perceiving**
self-advertising	**self-estimate**	**self-perceptive**
self-affliction	**self-evacuation**	**self-perfecting**
self-analysis	**self-exalting**	**self-perfection**
self-annihilation	**self-exculpation**	**self-perpetuating**
self-applause	**self-excuse**	**self-perpetuation**
self-appreciation	**self-expansion**	**self-persuasion**
self-approbation	**self-expatriation**	**self-pleasing**
self-approval	**self-exploiting**	**self-praise**
self-asserting	**self-exposure**	**self-praising**
self-awareness	**self-fearing**	**self-preparation**
self-bedizenment	**self-flatterer**	**self-presentation**
self-betrayal	**self-flattering**	**self-preserving**
self-blame	**self-flattery**	**self-projection**
self-castigation	**self-folding**	**self-protecting**
self-chastisement	**self-forgetful**	**self-protection**
self-cognizance	**self-formation**	**self-punishment**
self-commendation	**self-glorification**	**self-raising**
self-committal	**self-gratification**	**self-recollection**
self-comparison	**self-guidance**	**self-reconstruction**
self-condemnation	**self-harming**	**self-reduction**
self-condemning	**self-helpful**	**self-regulation**
self-conditioning	**self-humbling**	**self-representation**
self-confinement	**self-humiliation**	**self-repressing**
self-confounding	**self-hypnosis**	**self-repression**
self-conquest	**self-hypnotism**	**self-reproach**
self-conservative	**self-hypnotized**	**self-reproachful**
self-conserving	**self-idolatry**	**self-restriction**
self-consideration	**self-idolizing**	**self-revealing**
self-consoling	**self-ignorance**	**self-revelation**
self-consuming	**self-ignorant**	**self-ruin**
self-contempt	**self-imitation**	**self-satirist**
self-contradicting	**self-immolation**	**self-scrutinizing**
self-conviction	**self-immurement**	**self-scrutiny**
self-correction	**self-impairment**	**self-searching**
self-corruption	**self-indignation**	**self-slaughter**
self-creation	**self-indulging**	**self-soothing**
self-criticism	**self-inspection**	**self-study**
self-cure	**self-instruction**	**self-subjection**
self-damnation	**self-insurer**	**self-subordination**
self-debasement	**self-integration**	**self-suppression**
self-deceit	**self-intensifying**	**self-surrender**
self-deceiving	**self-interrogation**	**self-suspicious**
self-dedication	**self-introduction**	**self-taxation**
self-defeating	**self-judgment**	**self-teacher**
self-deflation	**self-justification**	**self-terminating**
self-degradation	**self-justifying**	**self-tolerant**
self-deifying	**self-laudatory**	**self-torment**
self-dejection	**self-limitation**	**self-torture**
self-delusion	**self-limiting**	**self-treatment**
self-deprecating	**self-loss**	**self-trust**
self-depreciation	**self-maceration**	**self-trusting**
self-depreciative	**self-maintenance**	**self-undoing**
self-destroying	**self-martyrdom**	**self-upbraiding**
self-destruction	**self-mastery**	**self-valuing**
self-destructive	**self-mistrust**	**self-vaunting**
self-direction	**self-mortification**	**self-vindication**
self-disapproval	**self-murder**	**self-worship**

2. By oneself or itself; by one's own effort (the agent of the root word); as in **self-employed.**

self-abandoned	**self-doomed**	**self-named**
self-administered	**self-elaborated**	**self-offered**
self-approved	**self-elected**	**self-ordained**
self-authorized	**self-explained**	**self-paid**
self-balanced	**self-exposed**	**self-pampered**
self-beguiled	**self-furnished**	**self-performed**
self-betrayed	**self-generated**	**self-perpetuated**
self-blinded	**self-honored**	**self-perplexed**
self-caused	**self-idolized**	**self-planted**
self-chosen	**self-illumined**	**self-posed**
self-condemned	**self-imposed**	**self-powered**
self-conducted	**self-incurred**	**self-proclaimed**
self-constituted	**self-initiated**	**self-professed**
self-convicted	**self-instructed**	**self-punished**
self-corrupted	**self-invited**	**self-renounced**
self-declared	**self-judged**	**self-repressed**
self-defended	**self-justified**	**self-restrained**
self-deluded	**self-kindled**	**self-revealed**
self-deprived	**self-limited**	**self-schooled**
self-destroyed	**self-maimed**	**self-sown**
self-determined	**self-matured**	**self-subdued**
self-devised	**self-misused**	**self-sustained**
self-divided	**self-mortified**	**self-tempted**

3. To, toward, in, for, on, or with oneself; as in:

self-absorbed	**self-desire**	**self-permission**
self-aid	**self-despair**	**self-pictured**
self-aim	**self-directed**	**self-pleased**
self-amusement	**self-direction**	**self-preference**
self-application	**self-disdain**	**self-prescribed**
self-applied	**self-disgust**	**self-pride**
self-assumed	**self-dislike**	**self-procured**
self-assuming	**self-dissatisfied**	**self-produced**
self-benefit	**self-elation**	**self-profit**
self-care	**self-enamored**	**self-purifying**
self-comment	**self-enclosed**	**self-reflection**
self-communing	**self-exultation**	**self-relation**
self-compassion	**self-focusing**	**self-relying**
self-complacence	**self-gain**	**self-repellent**
self-complacency	**self-helpfulness**	**self-repose**
self-complacent	**self-injurious**	**self-reproof**
self-conflict	**self-injury**	**self-repulsive**
self-consistency	**self-kindness**	**self-resentment**
self-consistent	**self-liking**	**self-resigned**
self-content	**self-loathing**	**self-respectful**
self-contented	**self-oblivious**	**self-rigorous**
self-delight	**self-occupied**	**self-sent**
self-dependence	**self-panegyrical**	**self-tenderness**
self-dependent	**self-penetration**	**self-vexation**

4. From oneself or itself; from one's own nature or power; as in:

self-apparent	**self-fruition**	**self-poise**
self-arising	**self-healing**	**self-poised**
self-born	**self-inclusive**	**self-refuting**
self-coherence	**self-initiative**	**self-renewing**
self-complete	**self-intelligible**	**self-resourceful**
self-defining	**self-issuing**	**self-resplendent**
self-derived	**self-luminous**	**self-restoring**
self-desirable	**self-manifestation**	**self-reward**
self-developing	**self-moving**	**self-rewarding**
self-effort	**self-operative**	**self-sprung**
self-evolving	**self-opinionated**	**self-stability**
self-explaining	**self-originating**	**self-stimulated**
self-forbidden	**self-perfect**	**self-warranting**

5. Independent; as in:

self-agency	**self-dominance**	**self-existence**
self-authority	**self-dominion**	**self-ownership**
self-credit	**self-entity**	**self-sovereignty**

6. In technology, automatic or automatically; as in:

self-acting	**self-cocking**	**self-moving**
self-adapting	**self-cooled**	**self-oiling**
self-adjustable	**self-defrosting**	**self-primer**
self-adjusting	**self-emptying**	**self-priming**
self-aligning	**self-feeder**	**self-recording**
self-burning	**self-feeding**	**self-registering**
self-changing	**self-filling**	**self-regulated**
self-charging	**self-inking**	**self-regulating**
self-checking	**self-lighting**	**self-righting**
self-cleaning	**self-locking**	**self-screwing**
self-closing	**self-lubricating**	**self-setting**

self-a·base·ment (self′ə·bās′mənt) *n.* Abasement or degradation of oneself.

self-ab·ne·ga·tion (self′ab′ni·gā′shən) *n.* The complete putting aside of oneself and one's own claims for the sake of some other person or object; self-sacrifice.

self-ab·sorp·tion (self′ab·sôrp′shən, -zôrp′-) *n.* Absorption in or concentration on one's own affairs, work, interests, etc.

self-a·buse (self′ə·byōōz′) *n.* **1.** The disparagement of one's own person or powers. **2.** Masturbation.

self-ad·dressed (self′ə·drest′) *adj.* Addressed to oneself.

self-ap·point·ed (self′ə·poin′təd) *adj.* Appointed or designated by oneself rather than by others: a *self-appointed* boss.

self-as·ser·tion (self′ə·sûr′shən) *n.* The asserting or putting forward of oneself, one's opinions, claims, or rights. — **self′-as·ser′tive** *adj.* — **self′-as·ser′tive·ly** *adv.*

self-as·sured (self′ə·shōōrd′) *adj.* Confident in one's own abilities; self-reliant. — **self′-as·sur′ance** *n.*

self-con·fined (self′sen′təd) *adj.* Concerned chiefly with one's own affairs and interests, often with a lack of consideration for others. Also *Brit.* **self′-con′fined.** — **self′-con′fined·ness** *n.* — **self′-con′fined·ly** *adv.*

self-col·ored (self′kul′ərd) *adj.* **1.** Having the natural color. **2.** Of but one color or tint.

self-com·mand (self′kə·mand′, -mänd′) *n.* The state of having all the faculties and powers fully at command.

self-con·ceit (self′kən·sēt′) *n.* An unduly high opinion of oneself; vanity. — **self′-con·ceit′ed** *adj.*

self-con·fi·dence (self′kon′fə·dəns) *n.* Confidence in oneself or in one's own unaided powers, judgment, etc. — **self′-con′fi·dent** *adj.* — **self′-con′fi·dent·ly** *adv.*

self-con·scious (self′kon′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Unduly conscious that one is observed by others; ill at ease. **2.** Manifesting embarrassment. — **self′-con′scious·ly** *adv.* — **self′-con′scious·ness** *n.*

self-con·tained (self′kən·tānd′) *adj.* **1.** Keeping one's thoughts and feelings to oneself. **2.** Exercising self-control. **3.** Complete and independent; self-sustaining. **4.** Having all parts needed for working order, as a machine bearing its own motor.

self-con·tra·dic·tion (self′kon′trə·dik′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or state of contradicting oneself or itself. **2.** That which contradicts itself. — **self′-con·tra·dic′to·ry** *adj.*
self-con·trol (self′kən·trōl′) *n.* The act, power, or habit of having one's faculties or energies under control of the will.
self-de·fense (self′di·fens′) *n.* Defense of oneself, one's property, or one's reputation. — **self′-de·fen′sive** *adj.*
self-de·ni·al (self′di·nī′əl) *n.* The act or power of denying oneself gratification. — **self′-de·ny′ing** *adj.* — **self′-de·ny′ing·ly** *adv.*
self-de·ter·mi·na·tion (self′di·tûr′mə·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The principle of free will; decision by oneself. **2.** Decision by the people of a country or section as to its future political status. — **self′-de·ter′min·ing** *adj. & n.*
self-de·vo·tion (self′di·vō′shən) *n.* Devotion of oneself, with one's claims, wishes, or interests, to the service of a person or a cause. — **self′-de·vo′tion·al** *adj.*
self-dis·ci·pline (self′dis′ə·plin) *n.* The discipline or training of oneself, often for improvement.
self-ed·u·cat·ed (self′ej′ōō·kā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Educated through one's own efforts without the aid of instructors. **2.** Educated at one's own expense. — **self′-ed′u·ca′tion** *n.*
self-ef·face·ment (self′i·fās′mənt) *n.* The keeping of oneself in the background through modesty, timidity, etc.
self-es·teem (self′ə·stēm′) *n.* A good opinion of oneself; an overestimate of oneself. — **Syn.** See PRIDE.
self-ev·i·dent (self′ev′ə·dənt) *adj.* Carrying its evidence or proof in itself; requiring no proof of its truth. — **self′-ev′i·dence** *n.* — **self′-ev′i·dent·ly** *adv.*
self-ex·am·i·na·tion (self′ig·zam′ə·nā′shən) *n.* Examination of one's own motives, desires, habits, etc.
self-ex·ist·ence (self′ig·zis′təns) *n.* Inherent, underived, independent existence. — **self′-ex·ist′ent** *adj.*
self-ex·plan·a·to·ry (self′ik·splan′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Easily comprehended without explanation; obvious.
self-ex·pres·sion (self′ik·spresh′ən) *n.* Expression of one's own temperament or emotions, as in art.
self-fer·til·i·za·tion (self′fûr′təl·ə·zā′shən, -ī·zā′shən) *n. Biol.* Fertilization of an ovum by sperm from the same animal or of a plant ovule by its own pollen.
self-gov·ern·ment (self′guv′ərn·mənt, -ər·mənt) *n.* **1.** Government of a country or region by its own people. **2.** The state of being so governed. **3.** *Archaic* Self-control. — **self′-gov′erned, self′-gov′ern·ing** *adj.*
self-heal (self′hēl′) *n.* Any of various weedy, perennial herbs with violet flowers, formerly reputed to cure disease.
self-help (self′help′) *n.* The act or condition of getting along by one's own efforts without the aid of others.
self-hood (self′hōōd) *n.* **1.** The state of being an individual; personality. **2.** Selfishness; self-centeredness.
self-im·por·tance (self′im·pôr′təns) *n.* Pompous self-conceit. — **self′-im·por′tant** *adj.*
self-im·prove·ment (self′im·prōōv′mənt) *n.* Improvement of one's abilities or condition through one's own efforts.
self-in·duced (self′in·dōōst′, -dyōōst′) *adj.* **1.** Induced by oneself or itself. **2.** *Electr.* Produced by self-induction.
self-in·duc·tion (self′in·duk′shən) *n. Electr.* Induction within the same circuit, causing it to resist any change in the amount of current flowing in it. — **self′-in·duc′tive** *adj.*
self-in·dul·gence (self′in·dul′jəns) *n.* The indulgence or gratification of one's own desires, weaknesses, etc. — **self′-in·dul′gent** *adj.* — **self′-in·dul′gent·ly** *adv.*
self-in·flict·ed (self′in·flik′tid) *adj.* Inflicted on oneself by oneself: a *self-inflicted* wound. — **self′-in·flic′tion** *n.*
self-in·ter·est (self′in′tər·ist, -in′trist) *n.* Personal interest or advantage, or the pursuit of it; selfishness. — **self′-in′·ter·est·ed** *adj.*
self-ish (sel′fish) *adj.* **1.** Caring chiefly for oneself or one's own interests or comfort, esp. to the point of disregarding the welfare or wishes of others. **2.** Proceeding from or characterized by undue love of self. — **self′ish·ly** *adv.*
self-ish·ness (sel′fish·nis) *n.* The quality of being selfish.
self-knowl·edge (self′nol′ij) *n.* Knowledge of one's own character, motives, limitations, etc.
self-less (self′lis) *adj.* Regardless of self; unselfish. — **self′·less·ly** *adv.* — **self′less·ness** *n.*
self-load·ing (self′lōd′ding) *adj.* Of firearms, utilizing a portion of the force of the exploding gas or of recoil to extract and eject the empty case and chamber the next round.
self-love (self′luv′) *n.* The desire or tendency that leads one to seek his own well-being. — **self′-lov′ing** *adj.*
self-made (self′mād′) *adj.* **1.** Having attained honor, wealth, etc., by one's own efforts. **2.** Made by oneself.
self-pit·y (self′pit′ē) *n.* The act or state of pitying oneself. — **self′-pit′y·ing** *adj.* — **self′-pit′y·ing·ly** *adv.*
self-pol·li·na·tion (self′pol′ə·nā′shən) *n. Bot.* The transfer of pollen from stamens to pistils of the same flower. — **self′-pol′li·nat·ed** *adj.*
self-pos·ses·sion (self′pə·zesh′ən) *n.* **1.** The full possession or control of one's powers or faculties. **2.** Presence of mind; self-command. — **self′-pos·sessed′** *adj.*
self-pres·er·va·tion (self′prez′ər·vā′shən) *n.* **1.** The protection of oneself from destruction. **2.** The urge to protect oneself, regarded as an instinct.
self-pro·nounc·ing (self′prə·noun′sing) *adj.* Having marks of pronunciation and stress applied to a word without phonetic alteration of the spelling.
self-pro·pelled (self′prə·peld′) *adj.* **1.** Able to propel itself. **2.** Having the means of propulsion contained within itself, as an automobile.
self-re·gard (self′ri·gärd′) *n.* **1.** Regard or consideration for oneself or one's own interests. **2.** Estimation of self.
self-re·li·ance (self′ri·lī′əns) *n.* Reliance on one's own abilities, resources, or judgment. — **self′-re·li′ant** *adj.*
self-re·spect (self′ri·spekt′) *n.* Proper respect for oneself and one's own character. — **self′-re·spect′ing** *adj.*
self-re·straint (self′ri·strānt′) *n.* Restraint, as of the passions, by the force of one's own will; self-control.
self-right·eous (self′rī′chəs) *adj.* Righteous in one's own estimation; pharisaic. — **self′-right′eous·ly** *adv.* — **self′-right′eous·ness** *n.*
self-ris·ing (self′rī′zing) *adj.* **1.** That rises of itself. **2.** Having the leaven already added, as some flours.
self-sac·ri·fice (self′sak′rə·fīs) *n.* The sacrifice of one's self or one's personal welfare or wishes for the sake of duty or for the good of others. — **self′-sac′ri·fic′ing** *adj.*
self-same (self′sām′) *adj.* Exactly the same; identical. — **self′same′ness** *n.*
self-sat·is·fac·tion (self′sat′is·fak′shən) *n.* Satisfaction with one's own actions and characteristics; conceit; complacency. — **self′-sat′is·fied** *adj.* — **self′-sat′is·fy′ing** *adj.*
self-seek·ing (self′sē′king) *adj.* Exclusively seeking one's own interests or gain. — *n.* Actions, motives, etc., characteristic of a self-seeking person. — **self′-seek′er** *n.*
self-ser·vice (self′sûr′vis) *adj.* Designating a restaurant, store, etc., where patrons serve themselves.
self-ser·ving (self′sûr′ving) *adj.* Tending to advance one's own interests, often at the expense of others.
self-start·er (self′stär′tər) *n.* A starter (def. 3).
self-styled (self′stīld′) *adj.* Characterized (as such) by oneself: a *self-styled* gentleman.
self-suf·fi·cient (self′sə·fish′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Able to support or maintain oneself without aid or cooperation from others. **2.** Having overweening confidence in oneself. Also **self′-suf·fic′ing** (-sə·fī′sing). — **self′-suf·fi′cien·cy** *n.*
self-sup·port (self′sə·pôrt′, -pōrt′) *n.* The act or state of supporting oneself entirely by one's own efforts. — **self′-sup·port′ed, self′-sup·port′ing** *adj.*
self-sus·tain·ing (self′sə·stān′ing) *adj.* Sustaining oneself or itself without outside help; self-supporting.
self-taught (self′tôt′) *adj.* Taught by oneself or through one's own efforts, without the aid of formal instruction.
self-will (self′wil′) *n.* Strong or tenacious adherence to one's own will or wish, esp. with disregard of the wishes of others; obstinacy. — **self′-willed′** *adj.*
self-wind·ing (self′wīn′ding) *adj. Mech.* Having a device that automatically winds a clock or other mechanism.
sell (sel) *v.* **sold, sell·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To transfer (property) to another for money or for some other consideration. **2.** To deal in; offer for sale. **3.** To deliver, surrender, or betray for a price or reward: to *sell* one's honor. **4.** To promote the sale of: Good advertising *sells* many products. **5.** *Informal* To cause to accept or approve something: with *on*: They *sold* him on the scheme. **6.** *Informal* To cause the acceptance or approval of: He always *sold* himself well. **7.** *Slang* To deceive; cheat. — *v.i.* **8.** To transfer ownership for money, etc.; engage in selling. **9.** To be on sale; be sold. **10.** *Informal* To attract buyers: This item *sells* well. **11.** *Informal* To gain acceptance or approval: Will his plan *sell*? — **to sell off** To get rid of by selling. — **to sell out** **1.** To sell all one's merchandise, possessions, etc. **2.** *Slang* To betray. — *n.* **1.** On the stock exchange, a stock that ought to be sold. **2.** *Slang* A trick; joke; swindle. [OE *sellan* to give]
sell·er (sel′ər) *n.* **1.** One who sells. **2.** Something with a measure of salability: This book is a good *seller*.
sell-out (sel′out′) *n.* **1.** An act of selling out. **2.** *Informal* A performance for which all seats have been sold. **3.** *Slang* A betrayal through a secret bargain or agreement.
Selt·zer (selt′sər) *n.* An effervescing mineral water. Also **Seltzer water.** [Alter. of G *Selterser*, from *Nieder Selters*, a village in SW Prussia, its place of origin]
sel·vage (sel′vij) *n.* The edge of a woven fabric so finished that it will not ravel. Also **sel′vedge.** [< SELF + EDGE, trans. of MDu. *selfegghe*]
selves (selvz) Plural of SELF.
se·man·tic (si·man′tik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to mean-

ing. **2.** Of or relating to semantics. [< Gk. *sēmainein* to signify] — **se·man·ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

se·man·ti·cist (si·man′tə·sist) *n.* A specialist in semantics.

se·man·tics (si·man′tiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** *Ling.* The study of the meanings of speech forms, esp. of the development and changes in meaning of words and word groups. **2.** *Logic* The relation between signs or symbols and what they signify or denote. **3.** Loosely, verbal trickery.

sem·a·phore (sem′ə·fôr, -fōr) *n.* An apparatus for making signals, as with movable arms, disks, flags, or lanterns. [< F < Gk. *sēma* a sign + -PHORE] — **sem′a·phor′ic** (-fôr′ik, -for′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

sem·blance (sem′bləns) *n.* **1.** A mere show without reality; pretense. **2.** Outward appearance. **3.** A likeness or resemblance. [< OF < L *simulare, similare* to simulate]

se·men (sē′mən) *n.* The impregnating fluid of male animals that contains spermatozoa; seed. [< L < *serere* to sow]

se·mes·ter (si·mes′tər) *n.* **1.** A college half year. **2.** In U.S. colleges and universities, a period of instruction, usu. lasting 17 or 18 weeks. [< G < L (*cursus*) *semestris* (a period) of six months] — **se·mes′tral** *adj.*

sem·i (sem′ī) **1.** *U.S. Informal* A semitrailer. **2.** *Canadian Slang* An American.

semi- *prefix* **1.** Not fully; partially; partly: *semiautomatic, semicivilized.* **2.** Exactly half: *semicircle.* **3.** Occurring twice (in the periods specified): *semiweekly.* [< L]

◆ *Semi-* (def. 1) appears as a prefix in many words, as in the following words and in the list below. It is pronounced sem′ē, sem′ə, or sometimes sem′ī.

semiacquaintance
semiadherent
semiaffectionate
semiagricultural
semialcoholic
semiallegiance
semianarchist
semiangular
semianimal
semianimated
semiarborescent
semiarchitectural
semiarid
semiatheist
semiattached
semiautonomous
semiautonomy
semibald
semibarbarian
semibarbaric
semibarbarism
semibarbarous
semibarren
semibleached
semiblind
semibluntt
semiboiled
semibourgeois
semichannel
semichaotic
semichivalrous
semi-Christian
semiclerical
semiclosed
semiclosure
semicoagulated
semicollapsible
semicolonial
semicoma
semicomplete
semiconceal
semiconfident
semiconfinement
semiconformist
semiconnection
semiconservative
semiconversion
semicooperation
semicooperative
semicured
semicylindrical
semidangerous
semidarkness
semideaf
semidelirious
semidenatured
semidependent
semidestructive
semideveloped
semidiaphanous
semidigested
semidirect
semidivine
semidomestic
semidomesticated
semidry
semi-Empire
semienclosed
semierect
semieremitical
semiexposed
semiextinction
semifailure
semifatalistic
semifeudalism
semifictional
semifinished
semifit
semifitting
semifixed
semiflexed
semifluctuating
semiforeign
semifriable
semifrontier
semifunctional
semigala
semigenuflection
semi-Gothic
semigranulate
semihard
semihigh
semihistorical
semihobo
semihostile
semihumanitarian
semihumorous
semi-idle
semi-idleness
semi-incandescent
semi-independence
semi-independent
semi-intoxicated
semi-intoxication
semi-invalid
semileafless
semilegendary
semiliberal
semilined
semiliterate
semilucent
semimilitary
semimobile
semimodern
semimonastic
semimonopoly
semimute
semimystical
seminecessary
seminervous
semioblivious
semiobscurity
semiopened
semiorganized
semiovoid
semipagan
semipanic
semiparallel
semiparalysis
semipastoral
semipeace
semiperfect
semiperishable
semipermanent
semiperspicuous
semipinnate
semiplastic
semipolitical
semipolitician
semiporous
semipublic
semiradical
semiraw
semireactionary
semirebellion
semireligious
semiresolute
semirespectability
semirespectable
semiretirement
semiriddle
semi-Romanesque
semi-Romanized
semiroyal
semirustic
semisacred
semisatiric
semisatirical
semiscientific
semisecrecy
semisecret
semiserious
semiseriousness
semisocial
semisocialism
semisoft
semispontaneity
semispontaneous
semistagnant
semistagnation
semistarvation
semistarved
semisuccess
semisuccessful
semisuspension
semisymmetric
semisymmetrical
semitailored
semitechnical
semitrained
semitruth
semivirtue
semivital
semivoluntary
semiwarfare
semiwild

sem·i·an·nu·al (sem′ē·an′yōō·əl) *adj.* Issued or occurring twice a year; half-yearly. — *n.* A publication issued twice a year. — **sem′i·an′nu·al·ly** *adv.*

sem·i·au·to·mat·ic (sem′ē·ô′tə·mat′ik) *adj.* **1.** Partly automatic. **2.** Of firearms, self-loading but firing once at each pull on the trigger.

sem·i·breve (sem′ē·brēv′, -brev′) *n.* *Chiefly Brit. Music* A whole note.

sem·i·cir·cle (sem′ē·sûr′kəl) *n.* **1.** A half-circle; an arc or a segment of 180°. **2.** Anything formed or arranged in a half-circle. — **sem′i·cir′cu·lar** (-kyə·lər) *adj.*

semicircular canal *Anat.* One of the three tubular structures in the labyrinth of the ear, serving as the organ of equilibrium. For illus. see EAR.

sem·i·civ·i·lized (sem′ē·siv′ə·līzd) *adj.* Partly civilized.

sem·i·co·lon (sem′ē·kō′lən, sem′ə-) *n.* A mark (;) of punctuation, indicating a greater degree of separation than the comma.

sem·i·con·duc·tor (sem′ē·kən·duk′tər) *n.* *Physics* One of a class of substances whose electrical conductivity at ordinary temperatures is between that of a metal and an insulator, used in the manufacture of transistors.

sem·i·con·scious (sem′ē·kon′shəs) *adj.* Partly conscious.

sem·i·de·tached (sem′ē·di·tacht′) *adj.* Joined to another on one side only; esp. designating a house having one wall in common with another house.

sem·i·fi·nal (sem′ē·fī′nəl) *n.* **1.** In sports, a competition that precedes the final event. **2.** One of two competitions in a tournament, the winners of each meeting in the final. — *adj.* Next before the final. — **sem′i·fi′nal·ist** *n.*

sem·i·flu·id (sem′ē·flōō′id) *adj.* Fluid, but thick and viscous. Also **sem′i·flu·id′ic** (-flōō·id′ik). — *n.* A thick, viscous fluid.

sem·i·month·ly (sem′ē·munth′lē) *adj.* Taking place twice a month. — *n. pl.* **·lies** A publication issued twice a month. — *adv.* At half-monthly intervals.

sem·i·nal (sem′ə·nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or containing seeds or semen. **2.** Having productive power; germinal. **3.** Not developed; rudimentary. Also *seminary.* [< OF < L < *semen, seminis* semen, seed] — **sem′i·nal·ly** *adv.*

sem·i·nar (sem′ə·när) *n.* **1.** A group of advanced students at a college or university, meeting regularly and informally with a professor for discussion of research problems. **2.** The course thus conducted or the room where it meets.

sem·i·nar·y (sem′ə·ner′ē) *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** **1.** A special school, as of theology. **2.** A school of higher education. **3.** The place where anything is nurtured. — *adj.* **1.** Seminal. **2.** Pertaining to a seminary. [< L *seminarium* seed plot]

sem·i·na·tion (sem′ə·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of sowing or spreading; dispersion of seeds. **2.** Propagation; reproduction. [< L *seminare* to sow < *semen* seed]

sem·i·nif·er·ous (sem′ə·nif′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Carrying or producing semen. **2.** Bearing a seed or seeds.

Sem·i·nole (sem′ə·nōl) *n.* One of a Florida tribe of North American Indians of Muskhogean stock, an offshoot of the Creeks, now chiefly in Oklahoma. [< Muskhogean (Creek) *Simanóle,* lit., separatist, runaway]

sem·i·of·fi·cial (sem′ē·ə·fish′əl) *adj.* Having some official authority or sanction; official to a certain extent. — **sem′i·of·fi′cial·ly** *adv.*

sem·i·per·me·a·ble (sem′ē·pûr′mē·ə·bəl) *adj.* Partially permeable, as membranes that separate a solvent from the dissolved substance.

sem·i·pre·cious (sem′ē·presh′əs) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or designating gemstones, as jade, garnet, opal, amethyst, etc., that are somewhat less rare or valuable than precious stones.

sem·i·pri·vate (sem′ē·prī′vit) *adj.* Partly but not wholly private, as a hospital room for two or several patients.

sem·i·pro·fes·sion·al (sem′ē·prə·fesh′ən·əl) *adj.* Engaged in a sport for profit, but not as a full-time occupation. — *n.* A semiprofessional athlete. Also *Informal* **sem′i·pro′** (-prō′). — **sem′i·pro·fes′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

sem·i·qua·ver (sem′ē·kwā′vər) *n.* *Chiefly Brit. Music* A sixteenth note.

sem·i·rig·id (sem′ē·rij′id) *adj.* *Aeron.* Partly rigid, as an airship in which an exterior stiffener supports the load. — *n.* A semirigid airship.

sem·i·skilled (sem′ē·skild′) *adj.* Partly skilled.

sem·i·sol·id (sem′ē·sol′id) *adj.* Nearly solid; partly solid.

Sem·ite (sem′īt, sē′mīt) *n.* **1.** One of a people of Caucasian stock, now represented by the Jews and Arabs, but originally including the ancient Babylonians, Assyrians, Arameans, Phoenicians, etc. **2.** A person believed to be a descendant of Shem. Also *Shemite.* [< NL < Gk. < Hebrew *Shēm*]

Se·mit·ic (sə·mit′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Semites, or to any of their languages. — *n.* A subfamily of the Hamito-Semitic family of languages.

Sem·i·tism (sem′ə·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** A Semitic word or idiom. **2.** Semitic practices, opinions, or customs. **3.** Any policy favoring or thought to favor the Jews.

sem·i·tone (sem′ē·tōn′) *n.* *Music* The smallest interval of the chromatic scale; a minor second: also called *half step, half tone.* — **sem′i·ton′ic** (-ton′ik) *adj.*

sem·i·trail·er (sem′ē·trā′lər) *n.* A trailer having wheels only at the rear, the front end resting on the tractor.

sem·i·vow·el (sem′ē·vou′əl) *n. Phonet.* A vowellike sound used as a consonant, as (w), (y), and (r): also called *glide.*
sem·i·week·ly (sem′ē·wēk′lē) *adj.* Issued or occurring twice a week. — *n. pl.* **·lies** A publication issued twice a week. — *adv.* At half-weekly intervals.
sem·i·year·ly (sem′ē·yir′lē) *adj.* Issued or occurring twice a year. — *n. pl.* **·lies** A semiyearly occurrence. — *adv.* At half-yearly intervals.
sem·o·li·na (sem′ə·lē′nə) *n.* The gritty or grainlike portions of wheat retained in the bolting machine after the fine flour has been passed through. [< L *simila* fine flour]
sem·per fi·de·lis (sem′pər fī′dē′lis, fī·dā′lis) *Latin* Always faithful: motto of the U.S. Marine Corps.
sem·per pa·ra·tus (sem′pər pə·rā′təs) *Latin* Always prepared: motto of the U.S. Coast Guard.
sem·pi·ter·nal (sem′pə·tûr′nəl) *adj.* Eternal; everlasting. [< OF < L *sempiternus* everlasting] — **sem′pi·ter′ni·ty** *n.*
semp·stress (semp′stris, sem′-) *n.* A seamstress.
sen (sen) *n. pl.* **sen** (sen) **1.** A former monetary unit and coin of Japan, equal to one hundredth of a yen. **2.** A monetary unit and coin of Indonesia.
sen·ate (sen′it) *n.* **1.** The governing body of some universities and institutions of learning. **2.** A council or legislative body. [< OF < L *senatus,* lit., council of old men]
Sen·ate (sen′it) *n.* **1.** The upper branch of national or state legislative bodies of the U.S., Canada, France, and other governments. The **United States Senate** is composed of two Senators elected by popular vote from each State. **2.** In ancient Rome, the state council.
sen·a·tor (sen′ə·tər) *n. Often cap.* A member of a senate.
sen·a·to·ri·al (sen′ə·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or befitting a senator or senate. — **sen′a·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*
send (send) *v.* **sent, send·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause or direct (a person or persons) to go; dispatch. **2.** To cause to be taken or directed to another place; transmit; forward: sometimes with *off.* **3.** To cause to issue; emit or discharge, as heat, light, smoke, etc. **4.** To throw or drive by force; impel. **5.** To cause to come, happen, etc.; grant. **6.** To bring into a specified state or condition. **7.** *U.S. Slang* To make rapturous with joy. — *v.i.* **8.** To dispatch an agent, messenger, or message. — **to send (someone) about his (or her) business** To dismiss with reproach or warning. — **to send down** *Brit.* To expel from a university. — **to send flying** **1.** To scatter or knock violently away. **2.** To cause to flee. — **to send for** To summon by a message or messenger. — **to send packing** To dismiss quickly and forcefully. — **to send up** *Informal* To sentence to prison. [OE *sendan*] — **send′er** *n.*
send-off (send′ôf′, -of′) *n.* **1.** The act of sending off; a start. **2.** A farewell dinner or other celebration or demonstration at parting. **3.** Encouragement, as in starting a career.
Sen·e·ca (sen′ə·kə) *n.* One of a tribe of Indians of Iroquoian stock formerly inhabiting western New York. [< Du. *Sennacaas* the Five Nations < Algonquian *A'sinnika*]
Sen·e·ga·lese (sen′ga·lēz′, -lēs) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Senegal, its inhabitants, customs, etc. — *n.* A native or inhabitant of Senegal.
se·nes·cent (si·nes′ənt) *adj.* **1.** Growing old. **2.** Characteristic of old age. [< L *senescere* to grow old] — **se·nes′cence** *n.*
sen·e·schal (sen′ə·shəl) *n.* **1.** An official in the household of a medieval prince or noble, having charge of feasts, etc.; a steward or major-domo. **2.** *Brit.* A cathedral official. [< OF < Gmc. Cf. OHG *siniskalk* old servant.]
se·nile (sē′nīl, -nil, sen′il) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, proceeding from, or characteristic of old age. **2.** Infirm; weak; doting. **3.** *Geog.* Almost worn away to base level. [< L *senilis* < *senex* old] — **se′nile·ly** *adv.* — **se·nil·i·ty** (si·nil′ə·tē) *n.*
sen·ior (sēn′yər) *adj.* **1.** Older in years or higher in rank. **2.** Denoting the older of two: opposed to *junior.* ◆ The form used to distinguish a father from a son of the same name is usu. written *Albert Jones, Sr.* or *Albert Jones, senior.* **3.** Belonging to maturity or later life. **4.** Pertaining to the last year of a high-school or collegiate course of four years. — *n.* **1.** The older of two. **2.** One longer in service or higher in standing. **3.** A student in the senior year of a high-school, college, or university. [< L, comparative of *senex* old]
senior high school A high school, in the U.S. typically comprising grades 10, 11, and 12.
sen·ior·i·ty (sēn·yôr′ə·tē, -yor′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being senior; priority of age or rank. **2.** Precedence or priority due to length of service.
sen·na (sen′ə) *n.* **1.** The dried leaflets of any of several leguminous plants, used medicinally as purgatives. **2.** Any plant yielding senna. [< NL < Arabic *sanā*]
se·ñor (sā·nyôr′) *n. pl.* **·ño·res** (-nyō′rās) *Spanish* **1.** A gentleman. **2.** Sir; Mr.: used as a title of address.
se·ño·ra (sā·nyō′rä) *n. Spanish* **1.** A lady. **2.** Mrs.; madam.
se·ño·ri·ta (sā′nyō·rē′tä) *n. Spanish* **1.** A young, unmarried lady. **2.** Miss.
sen·sate (sen′sāt) *adj.* Perceived by the senses. Also **sen′sat·ed.** — *v.t.* **·sat·ed, ·sat·ing** To perceive by the senses. [< LL < L *sensus* sense]
sen·sa·tion (sen·sā′shən) *n.* **1.** The aspect of consciousness resulting from the stimulation of any of the sense organs, as hearing, taste, touch, smell, or sight. **2.** *Physiol.* The capacity to respond to such stimulation. **3.** That which produces great interest or excitement. **4.** An excited condition: to cause a *sensation.* [See SENSATE.]
sen·sa·tion·al (sen·sā′shən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to emotional excitement. **2.** Of or pertaining to physical sensation. **3.** Causing excitement; startling; melodramatic. — **sen·sa′tion·al·ly** *adv.*
sen·sa·tion·al·ism (sen·sā′shən·əl·iz′əm) *n.* The use of sensational or melodramatic methods, words, etc. — **sen·sa′tion·al·ist** *n.* — **sen·sa′tion·al·is′tic** *adj.*
sense (sens) *n.* **1.** The faculty of sensation; sense perception. **2.** Any of certain agencies by or through which an individual receives impressions of the external world, as taste, touch, hearing, smell, or sight. **3.** *Physiol.* Any receptor, or group of receptors, specialized for the perception of external objects or internal bodily changes. **4.** Rational perception accompanied by feeling: a *sense* of wrong. **5.** *Often pl.* Normal power of mind or understanding; sound or natural judgment: She is coming to her *senses.* **6.** Signification; import; meaning. **7.** Opinion, view, or judgment of the majority. **8.** Sound reason or judgment; wisdom. **9.** Capacity to perceive or appreciate: a *sense* of color. — *v.t.* **sensed, sens·ing** **1.** To become aware of through the senses. **2.** *Informal* To comprehend; understand. [< F < L *sensus* perception]
sense·less (sens′lis) *adj.* **1.** Devoid of sense; making no sense; irrational. **2.** Unconscious. **3.** Incapable of feeling or perception. — **sense′less·ly** *adv.* — **sense′less·ness** *n.*
sense organ A structure specialized to receive sense impressions, as the eye, nose, ear, etc.
sen·si·bil·i·ty (sen′sə·bil′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The capability of sensation; power to perceive or feel. **2.** The capacity of sensation and rational emotion, as distinguished from intellect and will. **3.** *Often pl.* Susceptibility or sensitiveness to outside influences or mental impressions. **4.** Appreciation accompanying mental apprehension; discerning judgment.
— **Syn. 1, 3.** *Sensibility* may be used of mere physical sensation, but more often denotes qualities of mind: *sensibility* to heat and cold, the *sensibility* of the artist to beauty. *Sensitivity* suggests great *sensibility,* and the readiness to be excited by small cause. *Susceptibility* is the capacity to receive, contain, or be influenced: *susceptibility* to colds. *Feeling* specifically refers to the tactile sense, but is also used in the sense of emotional response as a general, but less precise, substitute for the other words.
sen·si·ble (sen′sə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Possessed of good practical judgment; exhibiting sound sense and understanding. **2.** Capable of physical sensation. **3.** Perceptible through the senses: *sensible* heat. **4.** Emotionally or mentally sensitive. **5.** Having a perception or cognition; fully aware; persuaded. **6.** Great enough to be perceived. [< OF < L < *sentire* to feel, perceive] — **sen′si·ble·ness** *n.* — **sen′si·bly** *adv.*
sen·si·tive (sen′sə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Easily affected by outside operations or influences; excitable or impressionable; touchy. **2.** Reacting readily to external agents or forces: paper *sensitive* to light. **3.** Pertaining to or depending on the senses or sensation. **4.** Closing or moving when touched or irritated, as certain plants. **5.** Liable to fluctuation. **6.** Capable of indicating minute changes or differences; delicate. [See SENSIBLE.] — **sen′si·tive·ly** *adv.* — **sen′si·tive·ness** *n.*
sensitive plant **1.** A shrubby tropical herb whose leaves close at a touch. **2.** Any of various similar or related plants.
sen·si·tiv·i·ty (sen′sə·tiv′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state or degree of being sensitive. — **Syn.** See SENSIBILITY.
sen·si·tize (sen′sə·tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** **1.** To render sensitive. **2.** *Photog.* To make sensitive to light, as a plate or film. — **sen′si·ti·za′tion** *n.* — **sen′si·tiz′er** *n.*
sen·sor (sen′sər) *n.* That which receives and responds to a stimulus or signal; esp., an instrument or device designed to detect and respond to some force, change, or radiation.
sen·so·ri·um (sen·sôr′ē·əm, -sō′rē-) *n. pl.* **·ri·a** (-rē·ə) **1.** *Anat.* The nervous system, including the cerebrum, as the collective organ of sensation. **2.** *Biol.* The entire sensory apparatus. [< LL < L *sensus* sense]
sen·so·ry (sen′sər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to sensation. **2.** Conveying or producing sense impulses. **3.** Pertaining to the sensorium. Also **sen·so·ri·al** (sen·sôr′ē·əl, -sō′rē-).
sen·su·al (sen′shōō·əl) *adj.* **1.** Unduly indulging the appetites or sexual pleasure; lewd. **2.** Pertaining to the body or to the physical senses; carnal. **3.** Pertaining to sensualism. ◆ See note under SENSUOUS. [< MF < LL < L *sensus* sense] — **sen′su·al·ly** *adv.*

sen·su·al·ism (sen′shōō·əl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** Sensuality. **2.** A system of ethics predicating the pleasures of sense to be the highest good. — **sen′su·al·ist** *n.* — **sen′su·al·is′tic** *adj.*

sen·su·al·i·ty (sen′shōō·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being sensual, or sensual acts collectively. **2.** Sensual indulgence. Also called *sensualism*: also **sen′su·al·ness.**

sen·su·al·ize (sen′shōō·əl·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make sensual. Also *Brit.* **sen′su·al·ise′.** — **sen′su·al·i·za′tion** *n.*

sen·su·ous (sen′shōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining or appealing to or derived from the senses: used in a higher and purer signification than *sensual*. **2.** Keenly appreciative of and aroused by beauty, refinement, or luxury. **3.** Resembling imagery that appeals to the senses: a *sensuous* portrayal. — **sen′su·ous·ly** *adv.* — **sen′su·ous·ness** *n.*

◆ **sensuous, sensual** *Sensuous* refers not only to the physical senses but to any means of feeling, as intellectual or esthetic sensitivity, intuition, etc.: the *sensuous* pleasure of walking in the rain. *Sensual* is generally restricted to bodily sensations and to the satisfaction of physical appetites.

sent (sent) Past tense and past participle of SEND.

sen·tence (sen′təns) *n.* **1.** *Gram.* A group of words containing a subject and a predicate, as declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, or a single word in the case of the simple imperative. — **simple sentence** A sentence consisting of a subject and a predicate without any subordinate clauses. — **compound sentence** A sentence consisting of two or more independent clauses, usu. connected by a semicolon or a coordinating conjunction or both. — **complex sentence** A sentence consisting of an independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses. **2.** *Law* A penalty pronounced upon a person convicted. **3.** A formal determination or opinion. — *v.t.* **·tenced, ·tenc·ing** To pass sentence upon. [< OF < L < *sentire* to feel, be of opinion] — **sen′tenc·er** *n.* — **sen·ten′tial** (sen·ten′shəl) *adj.*

sen·ten·tious (sen·ten′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Abounding in or giving terse expression to thought; axiomatic. **2.** Habitually using terse, laconic, or aphoristic language. **3.** Pompously formal; moralizing. [< L *sententia* < *sentire* to feel, be of an opinion] — **sen·ten′tious·ly** *adv.* — **sen·ten′ti·os′i·ty** (sen·ten′shē·os′ə·tē), **sen·ten′tious·ness** *n.*

sen·ti·ent (sen′shē·ənt, -shənt) *adj.* Possessing powers of sense or sense perception; having sensation or feeling. — *n.* **1.** A sentient person or thing. **2.** The mind. [< L *sentiens, -entis*, ppr. of *sentire* to feel] — **sen′ti·ence, sen′ti·en·cy** *n.* — **sen′ti·ent·ly** *adv.*

sen·ti·ment (sen′tə·mənt) *n.* **1.** Noble, tender, or artistic feeling, or susceptibility to such feeling; sensibility. **2.** A verbal expression of such feeling. **3.** A mental attitude or response to a person, object, or idea, based on feeling instead of reason. **4.** An exaggerated emotional reaction. **5.** *Often pl.* An opinion or judgment. **6.** An expressive thought or idea in appropriate language [< OF < Med.L < L *sentire* to feel]

sen·ti·men·tal (sen′tə·men′təl) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by sentiment or emotion. **2.** Experiencing, displaying, or given to sentiment, often in an extravagant or mawkish manner: a *sentimental* novel. — **sen′ti·men′tal·ly** *adv.*

sen·ti·men·tal·i·ty (sen′tə·men·tal′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being mawkishly sentimental. **2.** Any expression of sentiment. Also **sen′ti·men′tal·ism** (-men′·təl·iz′əm). — **sen′ti·men′tal·ist** *n.*

sen·ti·men·tal·ize (sen′tə·men′təl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make sentimental. **2.** To cherish sentimentally. — *v.i.* **3.** To behave sentimentally. Also *Brit.* **sen′ti·men′tal·ise.**

sen·ti·nel (sen′tə·nəl) *n.* **1.** A sentry. **2.** Any watcher or guard. — *v.t.* **·neled** or **·nelled, ·nel·ing** or **·nel·ling** **1.** To watch over as a sentinel. **2.** To furnish with sentinels. **3.** To station or appoint as a sentinel. [< OF < Ital. < LL *sentinare* to avoid danger]

sen·try (sen′trē) *n. pl.* **·tries** **1.** A soldier placed on guard to see that only authorized persons pass his post and to warn of danger. **2.** The watch or guard kept by a sentry. [? Short for obs. *centrenel*, var. of SENTINEL]

se·pal (sē′pəl) *n. Bot.* One of the individual leaves of a calyx. [< F < NL < L *sep*(*aratus*) separate + (*pet*)*alum* petal]

sep·a·ra·ble (sep′ər·ə·bəl, sep′rə-) *adj.* Capable of being separated. — **sep′a·ra·bil′i·ty, sep′a·ra·ble·ness** *n.* — **sep′·a·ra·bly** *adv.*

sep·a·rate (*v.* sep′ə·rāt; *adj.* sep′ər·it, sep′rit) *v.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To set asunder; disunite or disjoin; sever. **2.** To occupy a position between; serve to keep apart. **3.** To divide into components, parts, etc. **4.** To isolate or obtain from a compound, mixture, etc. **5.** To consider separately; distinguish between. **6.** *Law* To part by separation. — *v.i.* **7.** To become divided or disconnected; draw apart. **8.** To part company; withdraw from association or combination. — *adj.* **1.** Existing or considered apart from others; individual. **2.** Disunited from the body; disembodied. **3.** Separated; disjoined. [< L < *se-* apart + *parare* to prepare] — **sep′a·rate·ly** *adv.* — **sep′a·rate·ness** *n.* — **sep′a·ra′·tive, sep·a·ra·to·ry** (sep′ər·ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, sep′rə-). — **sep′a·ra′tor** *n.*

sep·a·ra·tion (sep′ə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of separating; division. **2.** The state of being disconnected or apart. **3.** Something that separates. **4.** *Law* Relinquishment of cohabitation between husband and wife by mutual consent: distinguished from *divorce*.

separation center A central army or navy point that handles the discharging and releasing of personnel.

sep·a·ra·tist (sep′ər·ə·tist, sep′rə-) *n.* One who advocates or upholds separation, esp. one who secedes. Also **sep′a·ra′·tion·ist.** — **sep′a·ra·tism** *n.*

Se·phar·dim (si·fär′dim) *n.pl.* The Spanish and Portuguese Jews or their descendants. Also **Se·phar′a·dim** (-ə·dim). [< Hebrew *sephārādhīm*] — **Se·phar′dic** *adj.*

se·pi·a (sē′pē·ə) *n.* **1.** A reddish brown pigment prepared from the inky secretion of the cuttlefish. **2.** The color of this pigment. **3.** A picture done in this pigment. — *adj.* Executed in or colored like sepia; dark brown with a tinge of red. [< L < Gk. *sēpia* cuttlefish]

se·poy (sē′poi) *n.* A native Indian soldier who was employed in the former British Indian Army. [< Pg. *sipae* < Urdu *sipāhī* soldier < Persian *sipāh* army]

sep·pu·ku (sep·pōō·kōō) *n. Japanese* Hara-kiri.

sep·sis (sep′sis) *n. Pathol.* Infection by pathogenic microorganisms. [< NL < Gk. < *sēpein* to make putrid]

sep·ta (sep′tə) Plural of SEPTUM.

Sep·tem·ber (sep·tem′bər) The ninth month of the year, containing 30 days; the seventh month in the old Roman calendar. [< L *septem* seven]

sep·te·nar·y (sep′tə·ner′ē) *adj.* Consisting of, pertaining to, or being seven. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** **1.** The number seven. **2.** Anything having a definite relation to the number seven. Also **sep′te·nar′i·us** (sep′tə·nâr′ē·əs). [< L < *septem* seven]

sep·ten·ni·al (sep·ten′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Recurring every seven years. **2.** Continuing or capable of lasting seven years. [< L < *septem* seven + *annus* year] — **sep·ten′ni·al·ly** *adv.*

sep·tet (sep·tet′) *n.* **1.** A group of seven persons, things, etc. **2.** *Music* A composition for seven singers or instrumentalists. Also **sep·tette′.** [< G < L *septem* seven]

septi-[1] *combining form* Seven. Also, before vowels, *sept-*. [< L *septem* seven]

septi-[2] *combining form* A partition; fence. Also, before vowels, *sept-*. Also **septo-**. [< L *septum* enclosure, wall]

sep·tic (sep′tik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or caused by sepsis. **2.** Producing sepsis; infective. Also **sep′ti·cal.** — *n.* Any agent producing sepsis. [< LL < Gk. *sēpein* to putrefy] — **sep·tic·i·ty** (sep·tis′ə·tē) *n.*

sep·ti·ce·mi·a (sep′tə·sē′mē·ə) *n. Pathol.* An infection of the blood by pathogenic microorganisms; blood poisoning. Also **sep′ti·cae′mi·a.** [< NL < Gk. *sēptikos* putrefactive + *haima* blood] — **sep′ti·ce′mic** (-sē′mik) *adj.*

septic tank A tank in which sewage is allowed to remain until purified by the action of anaerobic bacteria.

sep·til·lion (sep·til′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand sextillions, written as 1 followed by twenty-four zeros: a cardinal number. **2.** *Brit.* A million sextillions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by forty-two zeros: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a septillion in number. [< MF < *septi-* seven + (*mi*)*llion* million] — **sep·til′lionth** *adj. & n.*

sep·tu·a·ge·nar·i·an (sep′chōō·ə·jə·nâr′ē·ən, sep′tōō-) *n.* A person 70 years old, or between 70 and 80. — *adj.* **1.** Seventy years old, or between 70 and 80. **2.** Of or pertaining to a septuagenarian. [< L *septuaginta* seventy]

sep·tu·ag·e·nar·y (sep′chōō·aj′ə·ner′ē, sep′tōō-) *adj. & n.* Septuagenarian.

Sep·tu·a·ges·i·ma (sep′chōō·ə·jes′ə·mə, sep′tōō-) *n.* The third Sunday before Lent. Also **Septuagesima Sunday.** [< L, seventieth]

Sep·tu·a·gint (sep′chōō·ə·jint′, sep′tōō-) *n.* An old Greek version of the Old Testament Scriptures. [< L *septuaginta* seventy]

sep·tum (sep′təm) *n. pl.* **·ta** (-tə) *Biol.* **1.** A dividing wall between two cavities: the nasal *septum*. **2.** A partition, as in coral or in a spore. [< L < *sepire* to enclose] — **sep′tal, sep′tate** *adj.*

sep·ul·cher (sep′əl·kər) *n.* **1.** A burial place; tomb; vault. **2.** A receptacle for relics, esp. in an altar slab. — *v.t.* **·chered** or **·chred, ·cher·ing** or **·chring** To place in a sepulcher; bury. Also *Brit.* **sep′ul·chre** (-kər). [< OF < L *sepulcrum* burial place, tomb]

se·pul·chral (si·pul′krəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a sepulcher. **2.** Suggestive of the grave; dismal. **3.** Unnaturally low and hollow in tone, as a voice. — **se·pul′chral·ly** *adv.*

sep·ul·ture (sep′əl·chər) *n.* **1.** The act of entombing; burial. **2.** *Archaic* A sepulcher.

se·quel (sē′kwəl) *n.* **1.** Something that follows and serves as a continuation; a development from what went before. **2.** A narrative discourse that, though complete in itself, develops from a preceding one. **3.** A consequence; upshot; result. [< OF < L *sequela* < *sequi* to follow]

se·quence (sē′kwəns) *n.* **1.** The process or fact of following in space, time, or thought; succession or order: also **se′quen·cy**. **2.** Order of succession; arrangement. **3.** A number of things following one another, considered collectively; a series. **4.** An effect or consequence. **5.** In card games, a set of three or more cards next each other in value. **6.** A section of motion-picture film presenting a single episode, without time lapses or interruptions. **7.** *Math.* An ordered succession of quantities, as $2x$, $4x^2$, $8x^3$, $16x^4$. [< L < *sequi* to follow]

sequence of tenses See under TENSE².

se·quent (sē′kwənt) *n.* That which follows; a consequence; result. — *adj.* **1.** Following in the order of time; succeeding. **2.** Consequent; resultant. [See SEQUENCE.]

se·quen·tial (si·kwen′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or forming a sequence, as of parts. **2.** Sequent. — **se·quen·ti·al·i·ty** (si·kwen′shē·al′ə·tē) *n.* — **se·quen′tial·ly** *adv.*

se·ques·ter (si·kwes′tər) *v.t.* **1.** To place apart; separate. **2.** To seclude; withdraw: often used reflexively. **3.** *Law* To take (property) into custody until a controversy, claim, etc., is settled or satisfied. **4.** In international law, to confiscate and control (enemy property) by preemption. **5.** *Chem.* To render inactive, as by the process of chelation. [< OF < LL *sequestrare* to remove, lay aside < *sequester* trustee] — **se·ques′tra·ble** *adj.* — **se·ques′tered** *adj.*

se·ques·trate (si·kwes′trāt) *v.t.* **·trat·ed, ·trat·ing** **1.** To seize, esp. for the use of the government; confiscate. **2.** To take possession of for a time, with a view to the just settlement of the claims of creditors. **3.** To seclude; sequester. — **se·ques·tra·tion** (sē′kwes·trā′shən, sek′wəs-) *n.* — **se·ques′tra·tor** (sē′kwes·trā′tər, si·kwes′trā·tər) *n.*

se·quin (sē′kwin) *n.* A small coinlike ornament sewn on clothing. [< F < Ital. < Arabic *sikka* coining-die]

se·quoi·a (si·kwoi′ə) *n.* **1.** A gigantic evergreen tree of the western U.S., with spreading, lanceolate leaves and small cones: also called *redwood*. **2.** A closely related tree of the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, sometimes reaching a height of 300 feet. [< NL, after *Sequoyah*, 1770?–1843, a half-breed Cherokee Indian who invented the Cherokee alphabet]

SEQUOIA (To over 300 feet high)

ser (sir) See SEER².

ser- Var. of SERO.

se·ra (sir′ə) Plural of SERUM.

se·ra·glio (si·ral′yō, -räl′-) *n.* **1.** The portion of a Moslem house reserved for the wives and concubines; a harem. **2.** Any residence of a sultan. Also **se·rail** (se·rāl′). [< Ital. *serraglio* enclosure, ult. < LL *serrare*, var. of L *serare* to lock up]

se·ra·pe (sə·räp′ē) *n.* A blanketlike outer garment worn in Latin America, esp. in Mexico: also *sarape*, *zarape*. [< Am. Sp.]

ser·aph (ser′əf) *n. pl.* **ser·aphs** or **ser·a·phim** (ser′ə·fim) A celestial being having three pairs of wings. *Isa.* vi 2. [Back formation < *Seraphim*, pl. < LL < Hebrew] — **se·raph·ic** (si·raf′ik), **se·raph′i·cal** *adj.* — **se·raph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ser·a·phim (ser′ə·fim) *n.* **1.** Plural of SERAPH: also **ser′a·phin** (-fin). **2.** *pl.* ·phims A seraph: an erroneous usage.

Ser·bo-Cro·a·tian (sûr′bō·krō·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** The South Slavic language of Yugoslavia, including all the old languages and dialects. **2.** One whose native tongue is Serbo-Croatian. Also **Ser′bo-Cro′at** (-krō′at, -ət). — *adj.* Of the Serbo-Croatian language or those who speak it.

sere¹ (sir) See SEAR¹.

sere² (sir) *n. Ecol.* The series of changes found in a given plant formation from the initial to the ultimate stage. [Back formation < SERIES] — **ser′al** *adj.*

ser·e·nade (ser′ə·nād′) *n.* **1.** An evening song, usu. that of a lover beneath his sweetheart's window. **2.** Music performed in honor of some person in the open air at night. **3.** The music for such a song. **4.** *Music* A form of instrumental music similar to the suite, and usu. including a march and a minuet: also called *serenata*. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·nad·ed, ·nad·ing** To entertain with a serenade. [< F < Ital. < L *serenus* clear, serene] — **ser′e·nad′er** *n.*

ser·e·na·ta (ser′ə·nä′tə) *n. pl.* **·tas, ·te** (tā) *Music* **1.** A dramatic cantata on any imaginative or simple subject, often composed as a complimentary offering for a royal personage. **2.** A serenade. [< Ital. See SERENADE.]

ser·en·dip·i·ty (ser′ən·dip′ə·tē) *n.* The faculty of happening upon fortunate discoveries when not in search of them. [Coined by Horace Walpole (1754), in *The Three Princes of Serendip* (Ceylon)] — **ser′en·dip′i·tous** *adj.*

se·rene (si·rēn′) *adj.* **1.** Clear; calm: a *serene* sky. **2.** Marked by peaceful repose; tranquil; placid: a *serene* spirit. **3.** Of exalted rank: chiefly in the titles of certain European princes: His *Serene* Highness. — **Syn.** See CALM. [< L *serenus*] — **se·rene′ly** *adv.* — **se·rene′ness** *n.*

se·ren·i·ty (si·ren′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being serene; peacefulness; repose. **2.** Clearness; brightness. **3.** *Usu. Cap.* A title of honor given to certain members of royal families: preceded by *His*, *Your*, etc.

serf (sûrf) *n.* **1.** In feudal times, a person bound in servitude on an estate. **2.** Anyone in servile subjection. [< OF < L *servus* slave] — **serf′age, serf′dom, serf′hood** *n.*

serge (sûrj) *n.* **1.** A strong twilled fabric made of wool yarns and characterized by a diagonal rib on both sides of the cloth. **2.** A rayon lining fabric. [< OF < L *serica* (*lana*) (wool) of the Seres < *Seres* the Seres, an eastern Asian people]

ser·geant (sär′jənt) *n.* **1.** *Mil.* Any of several noncommissioned officer grades. See tables at GRADE. **2.** A police officer ranking next below a captain (sometimes lieutenant) in the U.S., and next below an inspector in England. **3.** A sergeant at arms. **4.** A constable or bailiff. Also, *esp. Brit.*, **ser·jeant.** [< OF < L *serviens*, *-entis*, ppr. of *servire* to serve] — **ser′gean·cy, ser′geant·cy, ser′geant·ship** *n.*

sergeant at arms **1.** An executive officer in a legislative body who enforces order. **2.** The title of certain court or city officials who have ceremonial duties.

sergeant major A noncommissioned officer in the highest enlisted grade of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. See table at GRADE.

Sergeant Major of the Army The highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Army. See table at GRADE.

se·ri·al (sir′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of a series. **2.** Published in a series at regular intervals. **3.** Arranged in rows or ranks; sucessive: also **se·ri·ate** (sir′ē·it, -āt). — *n.* **1.** A novel or other story regularly presented in successive instalments, as in a magazine, on radio or television, or in motion pictures. **2.** *Brit.* A periodical. [< NL < L *series* row, order] — **se′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

se·ri·al·ize (sir′ē·əl·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To arrange or publish in serial form. — **se′ri·al·i·za′tion** *n.*

serial number A number assigned to a person, object, item of merchandise, etc., as a means of identification.

se·ri·a·tim (sir′ē·ā′tim, ser′ē-) *adv.* One after another; serially. [< Med.L < L *series*, on analogy with *gradatim*]

ser·i·cul·ture (sir′ə·kul′chər) *n.* The raising and care of silkworms for the production of raw silk. [Contr. of F *sériciculture* < L *sericum* silk + *cultura* a raising, culture] — **ser′i·cul′tur·al** *adj.* — **ser′i·cul′tur·ist** *n.*

se·ries (sir′ēz) *n. pl.* **se·ries** **1.** An arrangement of one thing after another; a connected succession of persons, things, data, etc. on the basis of like relationships. **2.** *Math.* An ordered arrangement of terms the sum of which is indicated. **3.** *Electr.* **a** An arrangement of sources or utilizers of electricity in which the positive electrode of one is connected with the negative electrode of another. **b** The circuit so produced. [< L < *serere* to join, weave together]

series winding *Electr.* The winding of a dynamo or an electric motor in such a way that the field circuit is connected in series with the armature circuit. — **se·ries-wound** (sir′ēz·wound′) *adj.*

ser·if (ser′if) *n. Printing* A light line or stroke crossing or projecting from the end of a main line or stroke in a letter: also spelled *ceriph*. [< Du. < L *scribere* to write]

se·ri·o·com·ic (sir′ē·ō·kom′ik) *adj.* Mingling the serious with the comic. Also **se′ri·o·com′i·cal.**

se·ri·ous (sir′ē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Grave and earnest in quality, feeling, or disposition; sober. **2.** Said, planned, or done with full practical intent; being or done in earnest. **3.** Of grave importance: a *serious* problem. **4.** Attended with considerable danger or loss: a *serious* accident. [< MF < LL < L *serius*] — **se′ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **se′ri·ous·ness** *n.*

ser·jeant (sär′jənt) See SERGEANT.

ser·mon (sûr′mən) *n.* **1.** A discourse based on a passage or text of the Bible, delivered as part of a church service. **2.** Any discourse intended for the pulpit. **3.** Any speech of a serious or solemn kind, as a formal exhortation. [< AF, OF < L *sermo*, *-onis* talk] — **ser·mon′ic** (-mon′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

ser·mon·ize (sûr′mən·īz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To compose or deliver a sermon or sermons (to). **2.** To address at length in a moralizing manner. — **ser′mon·iz′er** *n.*

Sermon on the Mount The discourse of Jesus found recorded in *Matt.* v, vi, vii: properly distinguished from the **Sermon on the Plain,** *Luke* vi 20–49.

sero- *combining form* Connected with or related to serum. Also, before vowels, **ser-**. [< L *serum* whey]

se·rol·o·gy (si·rol′ə·jē) *n.* The science of serums and their actions. — **se·ro·log·i·cal** (sir′ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.*

ser·o·to·nin (ser′ə·tō′nin) *n. Biochem.* A crystalline protein found in many body tissues but chiefly in the brain and blood, a powerful vasoconstrictor. [< SERO- + TON- + -IN]

ser·pent (sûr′pənt) *n.* **1.** A scaly, limbless reptile; a snake.

2. Anything of serpentine form or appearance. 3. An insinuating and treacherous person. 4. Satan; the devil. [< OF < L < ppr. of *serpere* to creep]

ser·pen·tine (sûr′pən·tēn, -tīn) *adj.* 1. Pertaining to or like a serpent; sinuous. 2. Subtle; cunning. — *n.* A mottled green or yellow magnesium silicate, used as a source of asbestos, and as architecturally decorative stonework.

ser·rate (ser′āt, -it) *adj.* 1. Toothed or notched like a saw. 2. *Bot.* Having notched edges, as certain leaves. Also **ser′rat·ed.** [< L *serratus*, ult. < *serra* saw]

ser·ra·tion (se·rā′shən) *n.* 1. The state of being serrated. 2. One of the projections of a serrate formation, or a series of such projections. Also **ser·ra·ture** (ser′ə·chər).

ser·ried (ser′ēd) *adj.* Compacted in rows or ranks, as soldiers in company formation. [Pp. of obs. *serry* to press close together in ranks < MF *serré*, pp. of *serrer* to tighten]

se·rum (sir′əm) *n.* *pl.* **se·rums** or **se·ra** (sir′ə) 1. The clear, slightly yellow portion of an animal liquid after separation from its solid constituents, esp. that formed by the clotting of blood. 2. Loosely, an antiserum. 3. Serum of milk; whey. 4. Any similar secretion. [< L, whey, watery fluid]

ser·val (sûr′vəl) *n.* An African wildcat, yellow with black spots and having a ringed tail and long legs. [< F < Pg. *lobo cerval* lynx < *lobo* wolf + *cerval* stag]

ser·vant (sûr′vənt) *n.* 1. A person hired to assist in domestic matters, sometimes living within the employer's house; hired help. 2. A person employed to work for another; an employee. 3. A slave or bondman. 4. A public servant.

serve (sûrv) *v.* **served, serv·ing** *v.t.* 1. To work for, esp. as a servant; be in the service of. 2. To be of service to; wait on. 3. To promote the interests of; aid. 4. To obey and give homage to: to *serve* God. 5. To satisfy the requirements of. 6. To perform the duties connected with, as a public office. 7. To go through (a period of enlistment, etc.). 8. To furnish or provide, as with a regular supply. 9. To offer or bring food or drink to (a guest, etc.). 10. To bring and place on the table or distribute among guests, as food or drink. 11. To operate or handle: to *serve* a cannon. 12. To copulate with: said of male animals. 13. In tennis, etc., to put (the ball) in play by hitting it to one's opponent. 14. *Law* **a** To deliver (a summons or writ) to a person. **b** To deliver a summons or writ to. 15. *Naut.* To wrap (a rope, stay, etc.), as with marlin or spun yarn, so as to strengthen or protect. — *v.i.* 16. To work as or perform the functions of a servant. 17. To wait at table; distribute food or drink. 18. To perform the duties of any employment, office, etc. 19. To go through a term of service, as in the army or navy. 20. To be suitable or usable, as for a purpose. 21. In tennis, etc., to put the ball in play. — *n.* 1. In tennis, etc., the delivering of the ball by striking it toward an opponent. 2. The turn of the server. [< OF < L < *servus* slave]

serv·er (sûr′vər) *n.* 1. One who serves. 2. That which is used in serving, as a tray. 3. The male of any domestic animal used for breeding. 4. In games, the player who serves.

ser·vice (sûr′vis) *n.* 1. Assistance or benefit afforded another. 2. A useful result or product of labor that is not a tangible commodity. 3. *pl.* Such products collectively, as distinguished from goods. 4. The manner in which one is waited upon or served: The *service* in this restaurant is only fair. 5. A system of labor and material aids for the public or a portion of it: telephone *service*. 6. A division of public employment devoted to a particular function: the diplomatic *service*. 7. Employment as a public servant in government. 8. A public duty or function: jury *service*. 9. Any branch of the armed forces. 10. Military duty or assignment. 11. Devotion to God, as demonstrated by obedience and good works. 12. A formal and public exercise of worship. 13. A ritual prescribed for a particular ministration or observance: a marriage *service*. 14. The music for a liturgical office or rite. 15. The state or position of a servant, esp. a domestic servant. 16. A set of tableware for a specific purpose. 17. Installation, maintenance, and repair of an article provided a buyer by a seller. 18. *Law* The legal communication of a writ or process to a designated person. 19. In tennis, etc., the act or manner of serving a ball. 20. *Naut.* The protective cordage wrapped around a rope. 21. In animal husbandry, the copulation or covering of a female. — *adj.* 1. Pertaining to or for service. 2. For the use of servants or tradespeople: a *service* entrance. 3. Of, pertaining to, or belonging to a military service. — *v.t.* **·viced, ·vic·ing** 1. To maintain or repair. 2. To supply service to. [< OF < L < *servus* slave]

ser·vice·a·ble (sûr′vis·ə·bəl) *adj.* 1. That can be made of service; beneficial; usable. 2. Capable of rendering long service; durable. — **ser′vice·a·bil′i·ty, ser′vice·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **ser′vice·a·bly** *adv.*

ser·vice·ber·ry (sûr′vis·ber′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** 1. A small tree bearing racemes of white flowers and purple edible berries: also called *service tree, shadbush*. 2. A berry from this tree.

service cap A military uniform cap with a visor.

ser·vice·man (sûr′vis·man′) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-men′) 1. A member of one of the armed forces. 2. A man who performs services of maintenance, supply, repair, etc. Also **service man.** — **ser′vice·wom′an** (-wo͝om′ən) *n.fem.*

service ribbon A distinctively colored ribbon worn on the U.S. service uniform to indicate the wearer's right to the corresponding campaign medal or decoration.

service station A place for supplying automobiles, trucks, etc., with gasoline, oil, water, etc.

service tree 1. Either of two deciduous trees of Europe, having alternate pinnate leaves and panicled cream-colored flowers. 2. The serviceberry.

ser·vi·ette (sûr′vē·et′, -vyet′) *n.* *Brit. & Canadian* A table napkin. [< MF, prob. < *servir* to serve]

ser·vile (sûr′vīl, -vil) *adj.* 1. Having the spirit of a slave; abject: a *servile* flatterer. 2. Pertaining to or appropriate for slaves or servants. 3. Being in a condition of servitude. 4. Obedient; subject: with *to*. [< L < *servus* slave] — **ser′vile·ly** *adv.* — **ser′vile·ness, ser·vil·i·ty** (sûr·vil′ə·tē) *n.*

serv·ing (sûr′ving) *n.* A portion of food for one person. — *adj.* Used for serving food at table: a *serving* platter.

ser·vi·tor (sûr′və·tər) *n.* One who waits upon and serves another; an attendant; servant. — **ser′vi·tor·ship′** *n.*

ser·vi·tude (sûr′və·to͞od, -tyo͞od) *n.* 1. The condition of a slave; bondage. 2. Enforced service as a punishment for crime: penal *servitude*. 3. A state of subjection to a person or thing. 4. The condition or duties of a servant; menial service. 5. *Law* A right that one man may have to use the land of another for a special purpose.

ser·vo (sûr′vō) *n.* *pl.* **·vos** Any of various relay devices used in the automatic control of a complex machine, instrument, operation, or process. Also **ser′vo·mech′a·nism** (-mek′ə·niz′əm). [< L *servus* slave]

servo- *combining form* In technical use, auxiliary. [< L *servus* slave]

ser·vo·mo·tor (sûr′vō·mō′tər) *n.* An electric motor connected with and supplying power for a servo.

ses·a·me (ses′ə·mē) *n.* 1. An East Indian plant. 2. The seeds of this plant, used as food and as a source of **sesame oil,** an emollient. [< F < L < Gk. *sēsamon, sēsamē*]

sesqui- *prefix* One and a half; one and a half times: *sesquicentennial*. [< L < *semis* half + *que* and]

ses·qui·cen·ten·ni·al (ses′kwi·sen·ten′ē·əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a century and a half. — *n.* A 150th anniversary, or its celebration.

ses·sile (ses′il) *adj.* 1. *Bot.* Attached by its base, without a stalk, as a leaf. 2. *Zool.* Firmly or permanently attached; fixed. [< L < *sessus*, pp. of *sedere* to sit] — **ses·sil′i·ty** *n.*

ses·sion (sesh′ən) *n.* 1. The sitting together of a legislative assembly, court, etc., for the transaction of business. 2. A single meeting or series of meetings of a group of persons, convened for a specific purpose or activity. 3. A division of a school year; term. 4. A part of a day during which classes meet in a school. [< F < L *sessio, -onis* < *sedere* to sit] — **ses′sion·al** *adj.* — **ses′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

ses·tet (ses·tet′) *n.* 1. The last six lines of a sonnet; also, any six-line stanza. 2. *Music* See SEXTET (def. 1). [< Ital. < *sesto* sixth (< L *sextus*) + *-etto*, dim. suffix]

set[1] (set) *v.* **set, set·ting** *v.t.* 1. To put in a certain place or position; place. 2. To put into a fixed or immovable position or state: to *set* one's jaw. 3. To bring to a specified state: to *set* a boat adrift. 4. To restore to proper position for healing, as a broken bone. 5. To place in readiness for operation or use: to *set* a trap. 6. To adjust according to a standard: to *set* a clock. 7. To adjust (an instrument, dial, etc.) to a particular calibration or position. 8. To place knives, forks, etc., on (a table) in preparing for a meal. 9. To bend the teeth of (a saw) to either side alternately. 10. To appoint or establish: to *set* a time. 11. To fix or establish a time for. 12. To assign for performance, completion, etc.; allot: to *set* a task. 13. To assign to some specific duty or function; station: to *set* a guard. 14. To cause to sit. 15. To present or perform so as to be copied or emulated: to *set* a bad example. 16. To direct: He *set* his course for the Azores. 17. To put in place so as to catch the wind: to *set* the jib. 18. To place in a mounting or frame, as a gem. 19. To stud or adorn with gems. 20. To arrange (hair) in waves, curls, etc., while moist. 21. To place (a hen) on eggs to hatch them. 22. To place (eggs) under a fowl or in an incubator for hatching. 23. To place (a price or value): with *by* or *on*. 24. To point (game): said of hunting dogs. 25. *Printing* **a** To arrange (type) for printing; compose. **b** To put into type, as a sentence, manuscript, etc. 26. *Music* **a** To arrange (music) for words. **b** To write (words) to accompany music. 27. To describe (a scene) as taking place: to *set* the scene in Monaco. 28. In the theater, to arrange (a stage) so as to depict a scene. 29. In some games, as bridge, to defeat. 30. *Dial.* or *Illit.* To sit. — *v.i.* 31. To go or pass below the horizon, as the sun. 32. To wane; decline. 33. To sit on eggs, as fowl. 34. To become hard or firm; congeal. 35. To begin a journey; start: with *forth, out, off*, etc. 36. To have a specified direction; tend. 37. To hang

or fit, as clothes. **38.** To point game: said of hunting dogs. **39.** *Bot.* To begin development or growth, as a rudimentary fruit. **40.** *Dial.* or *Ilit.* To sit. **— to set about** To start doing; begin. **— to set against 1.** To balance; compare. **2.** To make unfriendly to. **— to set aside 1.** To place apart or to one side. **2.** To reject; dismiss. **3.** To declare null and void. **— to set back** To reverse; hinder. **— to set down 1.** To place on a surface. **2.** To write or print; record. **3.** To judge or consider. **4.** To attribute; ascribe. **— to set forth** To state or declare; express. **— to set in 1.** To begin to occur: Rigor mortis *set in*. **2.** To blow or flow toward shore, as wind or tide. **— to set off 1.** To put apart by itself. **2.** To serve as a contrast or foil for. **3.** To cause to explode. **— to set on** To incite or instigate; urge. **— to set out 1.** To present to view; exhibit. **2.** To establish the limits or boundaries of, as a town. **3.** To plant. **4.** To start a journey, enterprise, etc. **— to set to 1.** To start; begin. **2.** To start fighting. **— to set up 1.** To place in an upright position. **2.** To raise. **3.** To place in power, authority, etc. **4.** To construct or build; assemble. **5.** To establish. **6.** To provide with the means to start a new business. **7.** To cause to be heard: to *set up* a cry. **8.** *Informal* **a** To pay for the drinks, etc., of; treat. **b** To pay for (drinks, etc.). **—** *adj.* **1.** Established by authority or agreement; appointed: a *set* time; a *set* method. **2.** Customary; conventional: a *set* phrase. **3.** Deliberately and systematically conceived; formal: a *set* speech. **4.** Fixed and motionless; rigid. **5.** Fixed in opinion or disposition. **6.** Formed; made: with a qualifying adverb: deep-*set* eyes. **7.** Ready; prepared: to get *set*. **—** *n.* **1.** The act or condition of setting. **2.** Permanent change of form, as by chemical action, cooling, pressure, etc. **3.** The arrangement, tilt, or hang of a garment, sail, etc. **4.** Carriage or bearing: the *set* of his shoulders. **5.** The sinking of a heavenly body below the horizon. **6.** The direction of a current or wind. **7.** A young plant for setting out; a cutting, slip, or seedling. **8.** A group of games constituting a division of a tennis match. [OE *settan* to cause to sit]

set[2] (set) *n.* **1.** A number of persons regarded as associated through status, common interests, etc. **2.** A social group having some exclusive character; clique: the fast *set*. **3.** A number of things belonging together and customarily used together: a *set* of dishes. **4.** A number of specific things so grouped as to form a whole: a *set* of lyrics. **5.** A group of volumes issued together and related by common authorship or subject. **6.** In motion pictures, television, etc., the complete assembly of properties, structures, etc., required in a scene. **7.** Radio or television receiving equipment assembled for use. **8.** *Math.* An array of objects, quantities, magnitudes, etc., arranged in some particular way: the *set* of integers. [< OF < L *secta* sect]

se·ta (sē′tə) *n. pl.* **·tae** (-tē) *Biol.* **1.** A bristle, or slender, bristlelike part or process of an organism. **2.** A slender spine or prickle. **3.** A coarse, rigid hair. [< L]

se·ta·ceous (si·tā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Bristly; more or less covered with bristles. **2.** Of the nature or form of setae. Also **se′tal** (sēt′l). [< NL < L *seta* bristle]

set·back (set′bak′) *n.* **1.** An unexpected reverse or relapse. **2.** *Archit.* In tall buildings, the stepping of upper sections so that they progressively recede from the street line.

Seth (seth) The third son of Adam. *Gen.* v 3.

seti- *combining form* A bristle. Also, before vowels, **set-**. [< L *seta* bristle]

set-off (set′ôf′, -of′) *n.* **1.** That which offsets or counterbalances; a counterpoise. **2.** A counterclaim or the discharge of a debt by a counterclaim.

set-screw (set′skrōō′) *n.* A screw used as a clamp, esp. one used to screw through one part and slightly into another to bind the parts tightly.

set-tee (se·tē′) *n.* **1.** A long wooden seat with a high back. **2.** A sofa suitable for two or three people. [< SET[1] or SETTLE), n. + *-ee*, dim. suffix]

set-ter (set′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which sets. **2.** One of a breed of medium-sized, silky-coated, lithe hunting dogs trained to indicate the presence of game birds by standing rigid. See ENGLISH SETTER, GORDON SETTER, IRISH SETTER.

set-ting (set′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of anything that sets. **2.** An insertion. **3.** That in which something is set; a frame; environment. **4.** The act of indicating game like a setter. **5.** A number of eggs placed together for hatching. **6.** The music adapted to a song or poem. **7.** The scene or background of a play or narrative. **8.** The apparent sinking of the sun, etc., below the horizon. **9.** The tableware set out for one person.

set-tle (set′l) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.t.* **1.** To put in order; set to rights. **2.** To put firmly in place: He *settled* himself on the couch. **3.** To free of agitation or disturbance; quiet: to *settle* one's nerves. **4.** To cause (sediment or dregs) to sink to the bottom. **5.** To cause to subside or come to rest; make firm or compact: to *settle* dust or ashes. **6.** To make clear or transparent, as by causing sediment or dregs to sink. **7.** *Informal* To make quiet or orderly: One blow *settled* him. **8.** To decide or determine finally, as an argument or difference. **9.** To pay, as a debt; satisfy, as a claim. **10.** To establish residents or residence in (a country, town, etc.). **11.** To establish as residents. **12.** To establish in a permanent occupation, home, etc. **13.** To decide (a suit at law) by agreement between the litigants. **14.** *Law* To make over or assign (property) by legal act: with *on* or *upon*. **—** *v.i.* **15.** To come to rest, as after moving about or flying. **16.** To sink gradually; subside. **17.** To sink or come to rest, as dust or sediment. **18.** To become more firm or compact. **19.** To become clear or transparent, as by the sinking of sediment. **20.** To take up residence. **21.** To come to a decision; resolve: with *on*, *upon*, or *with*. **22.** To pay a bill, etc. **— to settle down 1.** To start living a regular, orderly life, esp. after a period of wandering or irresponsibility. **2.** To apply steady effort or attention. **—** *n.* **1.** A long seat or bench, generally of wood, with a high back, often with arms and sometimes having a chest from seat to floor. **2.** A wide step; platform. [OE *setl* seat, *setlan* to seat]

set-tle·ment (set′l·mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of settling, or the state of being settled; esp., an adjustment of affairs by public authority. **2.** The settling of a new region; colonization. **3.** An area of country newly occupied by those who intend to live and labor there; a colony. **4.** A collection of frontier dwellings forming a community. **5.** *Brit.* A regular or settled place of living. **6.** An accounting; adjustment; liquidation in regard to amounts. **7.** The conveyance of property in such form as to provide for some future object, esp. the support of members of the settler's family; also, the property so settled. **8.** A welfare institution established in a congested part of a city, that conducts educational and recreational activities for the community: also **settlement house.**

set-tler (set′lər) *n.* **1.** One who settles; esp., one who establishes himself in a colony or new country; a colonist. **2.** One who or that which settles or decides something.

set-to (set′tōō′) *n. pl.* **·tos** A bout at fighting, fencing, arguing, or any other mode of contest.

set-up (set′up′) *n.* **1.** *U.S. Informal* The overall scheme or pattern of organization or construction; circumstances. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A contest or match arranged to result in an easy victory. **3.** *U.S. Informal* Ice, soda water, etc., provided for use in alcoholic drinks. **4.** Physique; physical build; make-up. **5.** Carriage of the body; bearing.

sev·en (sev′ən) *n.* **1.** The sum of six and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 7, vii, VII. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing seven units. **—** *adj.* Being one more than six. [OE *seofon*]

seven deadly sins *Often cap.* Pride, lust, envy, anger, covetousness, gluttony, and sloth: also called *cardinal sins*.

seven seas All the oceans of the world, now considered to be the North and South Atlantic, the North and South Pacific, the Indian, the Arctic, and the Antarctic oceans.

sev·en·teen (sev′ən·tēn′) *n.* **1.** The sum of sixteen and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 17, xvii, XVII. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing seventeen units. **—** *adj.* Being one more than sixteen. [OE *seofontiene*] **— sev′en·teenth′** *adj. & n.*

sev·en-teen-year locust (sev′ən·tēn′yir′) A dark-bodied, wedge-shaped cicada native to the eastern U.S., having an underground nymphal stage of from 13 to 17 years.

sev·enth (sev′ənth) *adj.* **1.** Next after the sixth: the ordinal of *seven*. **2.** Being one of seven equal parts. **—** *n.* **1.** One of seven equal parts. **2.** That which follows the sixth. **3.** *Music* **a** The interval between any tone and the seventh tone above it in the diatonic scale. **b** A tone separated by this interval from any other, considered with reference to that other. **—** *adv.* In the seventh order, place, or rank: also, in formal discourse, **sev′enth·ly.** [ME < *seven* + -TH, replacing OE *seofotha*]

sev·enth-day (sev′ənth·dā′) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the seventh day of the week. **2.** *Often cap.* Advocating the observance of this day as the Sabbath: a *Seventh-Day* Adventist.

seventh day Saturday: a Quaker term.

Seventh-Day Adventist See under ADVENTIST.

seventh heaven 1. A condition of great happiness. **2.** The highest heaven according to various ancient systems of astronomy or in certain theologies.

sev·en·ty (sev′ən·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties 1.** The sum of sixty and ten: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 70, lxx, LXX. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing seventy units. **—** *adj.* Being ten more than sixty. [OE (*hund-*) *seofontig*] **— sev′en·ti·eth** *adj. & n.*

Seven Wonders of the World The seven works of man considered the most remarkable in the ancient world: the Egyptian pyramids, the hanging gardens of Babylon, the

temple of Diana at Ephesus, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the mausoleum of King Mausolos at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the lighthouse of Alexandria.

Seven Years' War See table for WAR.

sev·er (sev′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To put or keep apart; separate. **2.** To cut or break into two or more parts. **3.** To break off; dissolve, as a relationship or tie. — *v.i.* **4.** To come or break apart or into pieces. **5.** To go away or apart; separate. [< AF, OF < L *separare* to separate] — **sev′er·a·ble** *adj.*

sev·er·al (sev′ər·əl, sev′rəl) *adj.* **1.** More than two, yet not many. **2.** Considered individually; single; separate. **3.** Individually different; various or diverse. — *n.* Several persons or things. [< AF < Med.L < L *separ* separate]

sev·er·al·ly (sev′ər·əl·ē, sev′rəl·ē) *adv.* **1.** Individually; separately. **2.** Respectively.

sev·er·ance (sev′ər·əns, sev′rəns) *n.* **1.** The act of severing, or the condition of being severed. **2.** Separation; partition.

se·vere (si·vir′) *adj.* **·ver·er, ·ver·est 1.** Rigorous in the treatment of others; unsparing. **2.** Conforming to rigid rules; accurate. **3.** Serious and austere in disposition or manner. **4.** Causing extreme anguish: a *severe* pain. **5.** Causing extreme hardship; harsh: a *severe* snowstorm. [< MF < L *severus*] — **se·vere′ly** *adv.* — **se·vere′ness** *n.*

se·ver·i·ty (si·ver′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties 1.** The quality of being severe. **2.** Harshness or cruelty of disposition or treatment. **3.** Extreme strictness; rigor; exactness. **4.** Seriousness; austerity. **5.** Strict conformity to truth or law.

sew (sō) *v.* **sewed, sewed** or **sewn, sew·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make, mend, or fasten with needle and thread. — *v.i.* **2.** To work with needle and thread. — **to sew up** *U.S. Informal* To conclude (a deal, etc.) successfully. [OE *siwian*] — **sew′·er** *n.*

sew·age (sōō′ij) *n.* The waste matter from domestic, commercial, and industrial establishments carried off in sewers.

sew·er (sōō′ər) *n.* **1.** A conduit, usu. laid underground, to carry off drainage and excrement. ◆ Collateral adjective: *cloacal.* **2.** Any large public drain. [< OF, ult. < L *ex-* off + *aqua* water]

sew·er·age (sōō′ər·ij) *n.* **1.** A system of sewers. **2.** Systematic draining by sewers. **3.** Sewage.

sew·ing (sō′ing) *n.* **1.** The act or occupation of one who sews. **2.** That which is sewed.

sewing circle A group of women, meeting periodically to sew, usu. for some charitable purpose.

sewing machine A machine for stitching or sewing.

sewn (sōn) Alternative past participle of SEW.

sex (seks) *n.* **1.** Either of two divisions, male and female, by which organisms are distinguished with reference to the reproductive functions. **2.** The character of being male or female. **3.** The activity or phenomena of life concerned with sexual desire or reproduction. **4.** *Informal* Sexual gratification. [< OF < L, prob. orig. < *secare* to divide]

sex- *combining form* Six: also *sexi-*. [< L *sex* six]

sex·a·ge·nar·i·an (sek′sə·jə·nâr′ē·ən) *n.* A person between sixty and seventy years of age. — *adj.* Sixty years old, or between sixty and seventy. [< SEXAGENARY]

sex·ag·e·nar·y (seks·aj′ə·ner′ē) *adj.* Sexagenarian. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** A sexagenarian. [< L < *sexaginta* sixty]

sex appeal A physical quality that attracts sexual interest.

sex chromosome *Genetics* A chromosome whose presence in the reproductive cells of certain plants and animals is associated with the determination of the sex of offspring.

sex gland A gonad; either of the testes or ovaries.

sexi- Var. of SEX-.

sex·less (seks′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having or appearing to have no sex; neuter. **2.** Provoking or showing little sexual desire. — **sex′less·ly** *adv.* — **sex′less·ness** *n.*

sex linkage *Biol.* That type of inheritance that is associated with the transmission of genes attached to the sex chromosomes. — **sex-linked** (seks′ lingkt′) *adj.*

sex·ol·o·gy (seks·ol′ə·jē) *n.* The study of human sexual behavior. — **sex·o·log·ic** (sek′sə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **sex·ol′o·gist** *n.*

sext (sekst) *n. Often cap. Eccl.* Prescribed prayers constituting the fourth of the seven canonical hours. [< LL < L *sexta* (*hora*) the sixth (hour)]

sex·tant (seks′tənt) *n.* **1.** An instrument for measuring angular distance between two objects, as a heavenly body and the horizon, used esp. in determining latitude at sea. **2.** The sixth part of a circle; an arc of 60 degrees. [< L *sextus* sixth]

sex·tet (seks·tet′) *n.* **1.** *Music* A group of six singers or players; also, a musical composition for six performers: also called *sestet.* **2.** Any collection of six persons or things. Also **sex·tette′.** [Alter. of SESTET; refashioned after L *sex* six]

sex·til·lion (seks·til′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand quintillions, written as 1 followed by twenty-one zeros: a cardinal number. **2.** *Brit.* A million quintillions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by thirty-six zeros: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a sextillion in number. [< MF < *sexti-* six + (*mi*)*llion* million] — **sex·til′lionth** *adj. & n.*

sex·to·dec·i·mo (seks′tō·des′ə·mō) *n. pl.* **·mos 1.** A page size made from a printer's sheet folded so as to have 16 leaves, usu. measuring 4½ x 6⅞ inches. **2.** A book or pamphlet having pages this size. — *adj.* Having or consisting of pages this size. Also *sixteenmo.* Also written **16mo., 16°** [< L < *sextus* sixth + *decimus* tenth]

sex·ton (seks′tən) *n.* A janitor of a church having charge also of ringing the bell, overseeing burials, etc. [< OF < Med.L *sacristanus*] — **sex′ton·ship** *n.*

sex·tu·ple (seks′tōō·pəl, -tyōō-, seks·tōō′-, -tyōō′-) *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To multiply by six. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of six or of six parts. **2.** Multiplied by six. **3.** *Music* Having six beats to the measure. — *n.* A number or sum six times as great as another. [< L *sex* six, formed on analogy with *quadruple, quintuple,* etc.] — **sex′tu·ply** *adv.*

sex·tu·plet (seks′tōō·plit, -tyōō-, seks·tōō′-, -tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** A set of six similar things. **2.** One of six offspring produced at a single birth. [< SEXTUPLE on analogy with *triplet*]

sex·u·al (sek′shōō·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of sex, the sexes, or the organs or functions of sex. **2.** Having sex. **3.** *Biol.* Designating a type of reproduction involving both sexes. [< LL < L *sexus* sex] — **sex′u·al′i·ty** (-al′ə·tē) *n.* — **sex′u·al·ly** *adv.*

sex·y (sek′sē) *adj.* **sex·i·er, sex·i·est** *Slang* **1.** Provocative of sexual desire. **2.** Concerned in large degree with sex.

sfor·zan·do (sfôr·tsän′dō) *Music adj.* Accented more forcibly than the rhythm requires. — *adv.* In a sforzando manner. Also **sfor·za′to** (-tsä′tō). [< Ital. *sforzare* to force]

shab·by (shab′ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est 1.** Threadbare; ragged. **2.** Wearing worn or seedy garments. **3.** Mean; paltry. [OE *sceabb* scab + -Y¹] — **shab′bi·ly** *adv.* — **shab′bi·ness** *n.*

Sha·bu·oth (shä·vōō′ōth, shə·vōō′əs) *n.pl.* The Jewish festival of Pentecost. [< Hebrew *shebuōth,* lit., weeks]

shack (shak) *n. U.S. & Canadian Informal* A rude cabin, as of logs. [? < dial. Sp. (Mexican) *jacal* wooden hut < Nahuatl *xacalli*]

shack·le (shak′əl) *n.* **1.** A ring, clasp, or braceletlike fastening for encircling and fettering a limb. **2.** Impediment or restraint. **3.** One of various forms of fastenings. — *v.t.* **·led, ·ling 1.** To restrain or confine with shackles. **2.** To keep or restrain from free action or speech. **3.** To connect or fasten with a shackle. [OE *sceacul*] — **shack′ler** *n.*

shack·o (shak′ō) See SHAKO.

shad (shad) *n. pl.* **shad** Any of several food fishes related to the herring. [OE *sceadd*]

shad·ber·ry (shad′ber′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** The serviceberry.

shad·bush (shad′bŏŏsh′) *n.* **1.** The serviceberry (def. 1). **2.** Any of various other related plants. Also **shad′blow′** (-blō′). [< SHAD + BUSH¹; so called because it flowers when the shad appear in U.S. rivers]

shade (shād) *v.* **shad·ed, shad·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To screen from light by intercepting its rays. **2.** To make dim; darken. **3.** To screen or protect with or as with a shade. **4.** To cause to change by gradations. **5.** In graphic arts: **a** To represent (degrees of shade, colors, etc.) by gradations of light or dark lines or shading. **b** To represent varying shades, colors, etc., in (a picture, etc.) thus. **6.** To make slightly lower, as a price. — *v.i.* **7.** To change or vary by degrees. — *n.* **1.** Relative obscurity due to interception of the rays of light; darkness. **2.** The state of being outshone. **3.** A shady place; secluded retreat. **4.** *U.S.* A screen that shuts off light, heat, dust, etc. **5.** A gradation of color; also, slight degree; minute difference. **6.** The unilluminated part of a picture, etc. **7.** A disembodied spirit; ghost. — **the shades** The abode of departed spirits; Hades. [OE *sceadu*] — **shade′less** *adj.*

shad·ing (shā′ding) *n.* **1.** Protection against light or heat. **2.** The lines, dots, etc., by which degrees of darkness, color, or depth are represented in a picture. **3.** A slight variation.

shad·ow (shad′ō) *n.* **1.** A comparative darkness within an illuminated area, esp. that caused by the interception of light by a body. **2.** The dark image thus produced on a surface and representing the approximate shape of the intercepting body. **3.** The shaded portion of a picture. **4.** A mirrored image. **5.** A delusive image or semblance. **6.** A phantom; ghost; shade. **7.** A faint representation or indication; a symbol. **8.** A remnant; vestige. **9.** An insignificant trace or portion. **10.** Gloom; a saddening influence. **11.** An inseparable companion. **12.** One who trails another, as a detective. — *v.t.* **1.** To cast a shadow upon. **2.** To darken; make gloomy. **3.** To represent or foreshow dimly: with *forth* or *out.* **4.** To follow closely or secretly. **5.** To shade in painting, etc. [OE *sceadu* shade] — **shad′ow·er** *n.*

shad·ow-box (shad′ō·boks′) *v.i.* To spar with an imaginary opponent as a form of exercise. — **shad′ow-box′ing** *n.*

shad·ow·y (shad′ō·ē) *adj.* **·ow·i·er, ·ow·i·est 1.** Full of or affording shadow. **2.** Vague; dim. **3.** Unsubstantial or illusory. — **shad′ow·i·ness** *n.*

shad·y (shā′dē) *adj.* **shad·i·er, shad·i·est 1.** Full of shade; casting a shade. **2.** Shaded, sheltered, or hidden. **3.** *Informal* Questionable as to honesty or legality; dubious. —

on the shady side of Older than; past the age of. — **shad'i·ly** *adv.* — **shad'i·ness** *n.*

shaft[1] (shaft, shäft) *n.* **1.** The long narrow rod of an arrow, spear, etc. **2.** An arrow. **3.** Anything resembling a missile in appearance or effect: *shafts* of ridicule. **4.** A beam of light. **5.** A long handle, as of a hammer, etc. **6.** *Mech.* A long bar, esp. if rotating and transmitting motive power. **7.** *Archit.* **a** The portion of a column between capital and base. **b** A slender column. **8.** An obelisk or memorial column. **9.** The stem of a feather. **10.** One of two poles by which a horse is harnessed to a vehicle. [OE *sceaft*]

shaft[2] (shaft, shäft) *n.* **1.** A narrow, vertical or inclined, excavation connected with a mine. **2.** The tunnel of a blast furnace. **3.** An opening through the floors of a building, as for an elevator. [< LG *schacht* rod, shaft]

shag (shag) *n.* **1.** A rough coat or mass, as of hair. **2.** A wild growth, as of weeds. **3.** A long nap on cloth. **4.** Cloth having a rough or long nap. **5.** A coarse, strong tobacco: also **shag tobacco.** — *v.* **shagged, shag·ging** *v.t.* To make shaggy; roughen. [OE *sceacga* rough hair, wool]

shag·bark (shag'bärk') *n.* **1.** A rough-barked hickory yielding high-grade, light-colored nuts. **2.** Its tough, durable wood. Also called *shellbark.*

shag·gy (shag'ē) *adj.* **·gi·er, ·gi·est 1.** Having, consisting of, or resembling rough hair or wool; rugged; rough. **2.** Covered with any rough, tangled growth; fuzzy; scrubby. **3.** Unkempt. — **shag'gi·ly** *adv.* — **shag'gi·ness** *n.*

sha·green (shə·grēn') *n.* **1.** The rough skin of various sharks and rays. **2.** A rough-grained leather, usu. dyed green. [< F < Turkish *sāghrī* horse's hide]

shah (shä) *n.* An eastern king or ruler, esp. of Iran. [< Persian *shāh*]

shake (shāk) *v.* **shook, shak·en, shak·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move to and fro or up and down with short, rapid movements. **2.** To affect in a specified manner by or as by vigorous action: with *off, out, from,* etc. **3.** To cause to tremble or quiver; vibrate. **4.** To cause to stagger or totter. **5.** To weaken or disturb: I could not *shake* his determination. **6.** To agitate or rouse: often with *up.* **7.** *Slang* To get rid of or away from. **8.** *Music* To trill. — *v.i.* **9.** To move to and fro or up and down in short, rapid movements. **10.** To be affected in a specified way by vigorous action: with *off, out, from,* etc. **11.** To tremble or quiver, as from cold or fear. **12.** To become unsteady; totter. **13.** *Music* To trill on a note, etc. — **to shake down 1.** To cause to fall by shaking; bring down. **2.** To cause to settle. **3.** *Slang* To extort money from. — **to shake hands** To clasp hands as a form of greeting, etc. — **to shake off** To rid oneself of by or as by shaking. — **to shake up 1.** To shake, mix, or stir. **2.** *U.S. Informal* To shock or jar mentally or physically. — *n.* **1.** A shaking; concussion; agitation; vibration; shock; jolt. **2.** The state of being shaken. **3.** *pl. Informal* The chill or ague of intermittent fever. **4.** A frost or wind crack in timber; also, a tight fissure in rock. **5.** An earthquake. **6.** *Slang* An instant. **7.** *Music* A trill. — **no great shakes** *Informal* Of no great importance; mediocre. [OE *scacan*] — **shak'a·ble, shake'a·ble** *adj.*

shake·down (shāk'doun') *n. U.S. Slang* A swindle; extortion. — *adj. U.S. Informal* For the purpose of adjusting mechanical parts or habituating people: a *shakedown* cruise.

shak·er (shā'kər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which shakes. **2.** A container for shaking or pouring something: cocktail *shaker.*

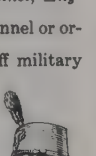
Shak·er (shā'kər) *n.* One of a sect practicing celibacy and communal living: so called from their characteristic bodily movements during religious meetings. — **Shak'er·ism** *n.*

Shake·spear·e·an (shāk·spir'ē·ən) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Shakespeare, his work, or his style. — *n.* A specialist on Shakespeare or his writings. Also **Shake·spear'i·an.** — **Shake·spear'e·an·ism** *n.*

Shakespearean sonnet A sonnet having the rhyme scheme *ababcdcdefefgg:* also called *Elizabethan sonnet, English sonnet.*

shake·up (shāk'up') *n.* A radical change of personnel or organization, as in a business office, etc.

shak·o (shak'ō) *n. pl.* **·os** A kind of high, stiff military headdress, originally of fur, having a peak and an upright plume: also spelled *shacko.* [< F < Hungarian *csákó*]


SHAKO

shak·y (shā'kē) *adj.* **shak·i·er, shak·i·est 1.** Habitually shaking or tremulous; tottering; weak; unsound. **2.** Wavering; unreliable. — **shak'i·ly** *adv.* — **shak'i·ness** *n.*

shale (shāl) *n.* A fissile claylike rock resembling slate, with fragile, uneven laminae. — **shal'y** *adj.*

shall (shal) *v.* Present *3rd person sing.* **shall**; past **should** A defective verb having a past tense that is now used only as an auxiliary followed by the infinitive without *to,* or elliptically without the infinitive, to express: **1.** In the first person, simple futurity, with a matter-of-fact attitude toward the action or state projected: We *shall* take only the usual precautions. (But see usage note below.) **2.** In the second and third persons, futurity combined with a mood or feeling of: **a** Determination: They *shall* not pass. **b** Promise: You *shall* have whatever you need. **c** Threat: You *shall* pay for this. **d** Command: No one *shall* twice be put in jeopardy. **e** Inevitability: When earthly time *shall* end, will life survive? **3.** In all persons, indefinite future time in conditional statements: If and when you or we or the divers *shall* locate the treasure, it will (or, in legal use, the mandatory *shall*) be shared out according to the agreement. **4.** In all persons, futurity involving ideal certainty, in clauses following expressions of anxiety, demand, or desire: They are anxious that you or I or both of us *shall* go, rather than any outsider. [OE *sceal* I am obliged]

◆ **shall, will** The formal view on the use of *shall* and *will* is that to indicate simple futurity *shall* is used in the first person, *will* in the second and third; their roles are reversed to express determination, command, inevitability, etc., while in questions the choice depends on the form expected in the answer. These rules apply to American usage only at the most formal level.

shal·lop (shal'əp) *n.* An open boat propelled by oars or sails. [< F < Du. *sloep.* See SLOOP.]

shal·lot (shə·lot') *n.* **1.** An onionlike vegetable allied to garlic but having milder bulbs that are used in seasoning and for pickles. **2.** A small onion. [< OF *eschalotte*]

shal·low (shal'ō) *adj.* **1.** Having the bottom not far below the surface; lacking depth. **2.** Lacking intellectual depth; not wise; superficial. — *n.* A shallow place in a body of water; shoal. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become shallow. [ME *schalowe*] — **shal'low·ly** *adv.* — **shal'low·ness** *n.*

shalt (shalt) Archaic or poetic second person singular, present tense of SHALL: used with *thou.*

sham (sham) *v.* **shammed, sham·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To assume or present the appearance of; counterfeit; feign. **2.** To represent oneself as; pretend to be. — *v.i.* **3.** To make false pretenses. — *adj.* False; counterfeit. — *n.* **1.** A pretense; imposture; deception. **2.** One who simulates a certain character; a pretender: also **sham'mer. 3.** A deceptive imitation. [Prob. dial. var. of SHAME]

sha·man (shä'mən, shā'-, sham'ən) *n.* **1.** A priest of Shamanism; a magician. **2.** A North American Indian medicine man. — *adj.* Of a shaman: also **sha·man·ic** (shə·man'ik). [< Russian < Tungusic < Skt. *śamaṇa* ascetic]

Sha·man·ism (shä'mən·iz'əm, shā'-, sham'ən-) *n.* **1.** A religion of NE Asia and Europe holding that gods and spirits work only through the shamans. **2.** Any similar religion, as of certain Indians of the American Northwest. — **Sha'man·ist** *adj. & n.* — **Sha'man·is'tic** *adj.*

sham·ble (sham'bəl) *v.i.* **·bled, ·bling** To walk with shuffling or unsteady gait. — *n.* A shambling walk; shuffling gait. [Origin uncertain]

sham·bles (sham'bəlz) *n.pl. (usu. construed as sing.)* **1.** A place where butchers kill animals; slaughterhouse. **2.** Any place of carnage. **3.** A place marked by great destruction or disorder. [OE < L < *scamnum* bench, stool]

shame (shām) *n.* **1.** A painful sense of guilt or degradation caused by consciousness of guilt or of anything degrading, unworthy, or immodest. **2.** Susceptibility to such feelings. **3.** One who or that which brings reproach or disgrace. **4.** A state of regret, dishonor, or disgrace. — **to put to shame 1.** To disgrace; make ashamed. **2.** To surpass or eclipse. — *v.t.* **shamed, sham·ing 1.** To make ashamed; cause to feel shame. **2.** To bring shame upon; disgrace. **3.** To impel by a sense of shame: with *into* or *out of.* [OE *scamu*]

shame·faced (shām'fāst') *adj.* Easily abashed; showing shame or bashfulness in one's face; modest; bashful. [< ME < OE *scamfæst* abashed] — **shame·fac·ed·ly** (shām'·fā'sid·lē, shām'fāst'lē) *adv.* — **shame'fac'ed·ness** *n.*

shame·ful (shām'fəl) *adj.* **1.** Deserving or bringing shame or disgrace; disgraceful; scandalous. **2.** Exciting shame; indecent. — **shame'ful·ly** *adv.* — **shame'ful·ness** *n.*

shame·less (shām'lis) *adj.* **1.** Impudent; brazen; immodest. **2.** Done without shame; indicating a want of pride or decency. — **shame'less·ly** *adv.* — **shame'less·ness** *n.*

sham·my (sham'ē), **sham·ois** (sham'ē) See CHAMOIS.

sham·poo (sham·pōō') *n.* **1.** Any of various liquid preparations of soap, chemical solvents, etc., used to cleanse the hair and scalp. **2.** The act or process of shampooing. — *v.t.* To cleanse (the hair and scalp) with a shampoo. [< Hind. *chāmpnā* to press] — **sham·poo'er** *n.*

sham·rock (sham'rok) *n.* Any of several trifoliate plants, accepted as the national emblem of Ireland. [< Irish < *seamar* trefoil]

shang·hai (shang'hī, shang·hī') *v.t.* **·haied, ·hai·ing 1.** To

drug or render unconscious and kidnap for service aboard a ship. **2.** To cause to do something by force or deception. [after *Shanghai*, China]

Shan·gri-la (shang′gri·lä′) *n.* Any imaginary hidden utopia or paradise. [after the locale of *Lost Horizon*, a novel by James Hilton, 1900–54, English author]

shank (shangk) *n.* **1.** The part of the leg between the knee and the ankle. **2.** A cut of meat from the leg of an animal; the shin. **3.** Something resembling a leg. **4.** The part of a tool connecting the handle with the working part. **5.** The projecting piece or loop by which some forms of buttons are attached. **6.** The straight part of a hook. **7.** *Printing* The body of a type. **13.** The narrow part of a shoe sole. [OE *scanca*]

sha'nt (shant, shänt) Shall not. Also **shan't.**

shan·tey (shan′tē) See CHANTEY.

shan·tung (shan′tung, shan·tung′) *n.* A fabric with a rough, nubby surface, originally made of wild silk, now often made of rayon combined with cotton. [after the Chinese town *Shantung*]

shan·ty[1] (shan′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** A hastily built shack or cabin; a ramshackle or rickety dwelling. [< F (Canadian) *chantier* lumberer's shack]

shan·ty[2] (shan′tē) See CHANTEY.

shape (shāp) *n.* **1.** Outward form or construction; configuration; contour. **2.** A developed expression or definite formulation; embodiment; cast: to put an idea into *shape.* **3.** A phantom. **4.** The character or form in which a thing appears; guise; aspect. **5.** A pattern or mold; in millinery, a stiff frame. **6.** The lines of a person's body; figure. **7.** Manner of execution. **8.** Condition: Everything is in good *shape.* **— to take shape** To have or assume a definite form. **—** *v.* **shaped, shaped** (*Rare* **shap·en**), **shap·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give shape to; mold. **2.** To adjust or adapt; modify. **3.** To devise; prepare. **4.** To give direction or character to. **5.** To put into or express in words. **—** *v.i.* **6.** To take shape; develop; form: often with *up* or *into.* **— to shape up** *Informal* **1.** To proceed satisfactorily or favorably. **2.** To develop proper form. [OE < *scieppan* to create] **— shap′er** *n.*

shaped (shāpt) *adj.* **1.** Formed. **2.** Resembling in shape: used in compounds: leaf-*shaped.*

shape·less (shāp′lis) *adj.* Having no definite shape; lacking symmetry. **— shape′less·ly** *adv.* **— shape′less·ness** *n.*

shape·ly (shāp′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Having a pleasing shape; well-formed; graceful. **— shape′li·ness** *n.*

shard (shärd) *n.* **1.** A broken piece of a brittle substance, as of an earthen vessel; a potsherd; a fragment: also called *sherd.* **2.** A hard, thin shell, or a wing cover, of a beetle. [OE *sceard.* Related to SHEAR.]

share[1] (shâr) *n.* **1.** A portion; allotted or equitable part. **2.** One of the equal parts into which the capital stock of a company or corporation is divided. **3.** An equitable part of something enjoyed or suffered in common. **— to go shares** To partake equally, as in an enterprise. **—** *v.* **shared, shar·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To divide and give out in shares or portions; apportion. **2.** To enjoy or endure in common; participate in. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To have a part; participate: with *in.* [OE < *scieran* to shear] **— shar′er** *n.*

share[2] (shâr) *n.* A plowshare.

share·crop·per (shâr′krop′ər) *n.* A tenant farmer who pays a share of his crop as rent for his land.

share·hold·er (shâr′hōl′dər) *n.* An owner of a share or shares of a company's stock; a stockholder.

shark[1] (shärk) *n.* One of a group of fishes, mostly marine, of medium to large size, having dun-colored bodies covered with plate-like scales. Some species are dangerous to man. **—** *v.i.* To fish for sharks. [Origin uncertain]

shark[2] (shärk) *n.* A bold and dishonest person; a rapacious swindler. Also **shark′er.** **—** *v.i.* To live by trickery. [Prob. < G *schürke* scoundrel; infl. by SHARK[1]]

shark·skin (shärk′skin′) *n.* **1.** The skin of a shark. **2.** A fabric with a smooth, almost shiny surface, made of acetate rayon and used for sports clothes.

sharp (shärp) *adj.* **1.** Having a keen edge or an acute point; capable of cutting or piercing. **2.** Coming to an acute angle; not obtuse; abrupt: a *sharp* peak. **3.** Keen of perception or discernment; also, shrewd in bargaining; artful; overreaching. **4.** Ardent; eager; keen; impetuous or fiery; attentive. **5.** Affecting the mind or senses, as if by cutting or piercing; poignant; acrimonious. **6.** Shrill. **7.** Pinching; cutting, as cold. **8.** Having an acrid or pungent taste. **9.** Distinct, as an outline. **10.** *Music* **a** Raised in pitch by a semitone. **b** Above the right, true pitch. **c** Having sharps in the key signature. **11.** Hard and rough; gritty. **12.** *Phonet.* Of consonants, voiceless: opposed to *flat.* **—** *adv.* **1.** In a sharp manner; sharply. **2.** Promptly; exactly: at 4 o'clock *sharp.* **3.** *Music* Above the proper pitch. **—** *n.* **1.** *Music* A sign (♯) placed before a note to indicate that the note is sharped; also, the note so altered. **2.** A cheat: a *cardsharp.* **—** *v.t. Music* To raise in pitch, as by a half step. [OE *scearp*] **— sharp′ly** *adv.* **— sharp′ness** *n.*

sharp·en (shär′pən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become sharp. **— sharp′en·er** *n.*

sharp·er (shär′pər) *n.* A swindler; cheat.

sharp-eyed (shärp′īd′) *adj.* **1.** Having acute eyesight. **2.** Keenly observant; alert.

sharp·ie (shär′pē) *n.* A long, sharp, flat-bottomed sailboat having a centerboard and one or two masts, each having a triangular sail, originally used for fishing. [< SHARP]

sharp·shoot·er (shärp′shōō′tər) *n.* A skilled marksman, especially in the use of the rifle. **— sharp′shoot′ing** *n.*

sharp-tongued (shärp′tungd′) *adj.* Bitter or caustic in speech.

sharp-wit·ted (shärp′wit′id) *adj.* Acute; intelligent. **— sharp′-wit′ted·ness** *n.*

shat·ter (shat′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To break into pieces suddenly, as by a blow. **2.** To break the health or tone of, as the body or mind; disorder; damage. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To break into pieces; burst. [ME *schateren*]

shave (shāv) *v.* **shaved, shaved** or **shav·en, shav·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cut hair or beard close to the skin with a razor. **—** *v.t.* **2.** To remove hair or beard from (the face, head, etc.) with a razor. **3.** To cut (hair or beard) close to the skin with a razor: often with *off.* **4.** To trim closely: to *shave* a lawn. **5.** To cut thin slices from, as in preparing the surface; pare; plane. **6.** To cut into thin slices. **7.** To touch or scrape in passing; graze; come close to. **—** *n.* **1.** The act or operation of cutting off the beard with a razor. **2.** A knife or blade, mounted between two handles, as for shaving wood: also **draw shave, spoke shave.** **3.** A shaving; thin slice. **4.** *Informal* The act of barely grazing something; a narrow escape: a close *shave.* [OE *scafan* to shave]

shave·ling (shāv′ling) *n.* **1.** One who is shaven; opprobriously, a monk or priest. **2.** A youth.

shav·en (shā′vən) Alternative past participle of SHAVE. **—** *adj.* **1.** Shaved; also, tonsured. **2.** Trimmed closely.

Sha·vi·an (shā′vē·ən) *n.* An admirer of George Bernard Shaw, his books, or his theories. **—** *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or like George Bernard Shaw, or his style and methods.

shav·ing (shā′ving) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which shaves. **2.** A thin paring shaved from anything, as a board.

shawl (shôl) *n.* A wrap, as a square cloth, or large scarf, worn over the upper part of the body. [< Persian *shāl*]

Shaw·nee (shô·nē′) *n.* One of a tribe of North American Indians of Algonquian stock, now living in Oklahoma. [< Algonquian (Shawnee) *Shawunogi* southerners]

she (shē) *pron., possessive* **her** or **hers,** *objective* **her**; *pl. nominative* **they,** *possessive* **their** or **theirs,** *objective* **them** **1.** The nominative singular pronoun of the third person, used of the female person or being previously mentioned or understood, or of things conventionally regarded as feminine, as ships, machines, etc. **2.** That woman or female; any woman: *She* who listens learns. **—** *n. pl.* **shes** A female person or being. [ME < OE *sēo, sīo,* fem. of *sē* the]

she- *combining form* Female; feminine: in hyphenated compounds: a *she*-lion; *she*-devil.

sheaf (shēf) *n. pl.* **sheaves** (shēvz) **1.** A quantity of the stalks of cut grain or the like, bound together. **2.** Any collection of things, as papers, tied together. **3.** A quiverful of arrows. **—** *v.t.* To bind in a sheaf. [OE *scēaf*]

shear (shir) *n.* **1.** A two-bladed cutting instrument; obsolete except in the plural. See SHEARS. **2.** *Physics* A deformation of a solid body, equivalent to a sliding over each other of adjacent laminar elements, with a progressive relative displacement; also **shearing stress.** **3.** The act or result of shearing. **4.** A plowshare. **—** *v.* **sheared, sheared** or **shorn, shear·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cut the hair, fleece, etc., from. **2.** To remove by cutting or clipping: to *shear* wool. **3.** To deprive; strip, as of wealth. **4.** To cut or clip with or as with shears. **—** *v.i.* **5.** To use shears. **6.** To slide or break from a shear (def. 2). **7.** To proceed by or as by cutting a way: with *through.* [OE < *scieran* to shear] **— shear′er** *n.*

shears (shirz) *n.pl.* **1.** Any large cutting or clipping instrument worked by the crossing of cutting edges. Also **pair of shears.** **2.** The ways or guides, as of a lathe. [See SHEAR.]

shear·wa·ter (shir′wô′tər, -wot′ər) *n.* Any of various farranging sea birds related to the fulmars and petrels: so called because they skim close to the water.

sheath (shēth) *n. pl.* **sheaths** (shēthz, shēths) **1.** An envelope or case, as for a sword; scabbard. **2.** A covering in plants or animals resembling a sheath. **3.** A close-fitting dress having straight, unbroken lines. **—** *v.t.* To sheathe. [OE *scæth*] **— sheath′less** *adj.*

sheathe (shēth) *v.t.* **sheathed, sheath·ing** **1.** To put into a sheath. **2.** To encase or protect with a covering. **3.** To draw in, as claws. [< SHEATH]

sheath·ing (shē′thing) *n.* **1.** A protective covering, as of a ship's hull; that which sheathes; also, the material used. **2.** The act of one who sheathes. **3.** The covering or waterproof material on outside walls or roofs.

sheave[1] (shēv) *v.t.* **sheaved, sheav·ing** To gather into sheaves; collect. [< SHEAF]

sheave[2] (shēv) *n.* A grooved pulley wheel; also, a pulley wheel and its block. [ME *schive*]
sheaves (shēvz) Plural of SHEAF[1].
She·ba (shē′bə), **Queen of** A queen who visited Solomon to test his wisdom. 1 *Kings* x 1–3.
she·bang (shi·bang′) *n. U.S. Slang* **1.** A building, vehicle, etc. **2.** Matter; affair: tired of the whole *shebang.*
She·bat (shi·bät′) *n.* The fifth month of the Hebrew year. Also spelled *Sebat.* See (Hebrew) CALENDAR.
shed[1] (shed) *v.* **shed, shed·ding** *v.t.* **1.** To pour forth in drops; emit, as tears. **2.** To cause to pour forth. **3.** To send forth; radiate. **4.** To throw off without allowing to penetrate, as rain; repel. **5.** To cast off by natural process, as hair, etc. **6.** To rid oneself of. — *v.i.* **7.** To cast off or lose skin, etc., by natural process. **8.** To fall or drop, as leaves. — **to shed blood** To kill. — *n.* **1.** That which sheds, as a sloping surface or watershed. **2.** That which has been shed. [OE *scēadan* to separate, part]
shed[2] (shed) *n.* **1.** A small low building, often with front or sides open; also, a lean-to: a wagon *shed.* **2.** *Brit.* A barn.
she'd (shēd) **1.** She had. **2.** She would.
shed·der (shed′ər) *n.* **1.** One who sheds. **2.** An animal that sheds or has lately shed its skin, as a snake.
sheen (shēn) *n.* **1.** A glistening brightness, as if from reflection. **2.** Shining attire. — *adj.* Shining; beautiful. — *v.i.* To shine; glisten. [OE *sciene* beautiful] — **sheen′y** *adj.*
sheep (shēp) *n. pl.* **sheep** **1.** A medium-sized, domesticated, even-toed ruminant, bred in many varieties for its flesh, wool, and skin. ◆ Collateral adjective: *ovine.* **2.** Sheepskin. **3.** A meek, bashful, or timid person. [OE *scēap*]
sheep·cote (shēp′kōt′) *n.* A small enclosure for the protection of sheep; a sheepfold. Also **sheep′cot′** (-kot′).
sheep dip Any of several liquid disinfectants containing creosote, nicotine, arsenic, etc., used for dipping sheep.
sheep dog A dog trained to guard and control sheep, often a collie, but also an **old English sheep dog,** a rough-coated, heavy, bobtailed dog much used by drovers in England: also called *shepherd dog, shepherd's dog.*
sheep·fold (shēp′fōld′) *n.* A pen for sheep.
sheep·herd·er (shēp′hûr′dər) *n.* A herder of sheep. — **sheep′herd′ing** *n.*
sheep·ish (shē′pish) *adj.* Foolish, as a sheep; awkwardly diffident; abashed. — **sheep′ish·ly** *adv.* — **sheep′ish·ness** *n.*
sheep ranch A ranch where sheep are bred and raised. Also *Brit.* **sheep·walk** (shēp′wôk′), *Austral.* **sheep run.**
sheep's eyes (shēps) Bashful or amorous glances.
sheep·skin (shēp′skin′) *n.* **1.** The skin of a sheep, tanned or untanned, or anything made from it. **2.** A document written on parchment, as an academic diploma.
sheep sorrel An herb growing in dry places, and having leaves of an acrid taste.
sheer[1] (shir) *v.i.* To swerve from a course; turn aside. — *v.t.* To cause to swerve. — *n.* **1.** *Naut.* **a** The rise, or the amount of rise from a level, of the lengthwise lines of a vessel's hull. **b** A position of a vessel that enables it to swing clear of a single anchor. **2.** A swerving course. [< SHEAR]
sheer[2] (shir) *adj.* **1.** Having no modifying conditions; unmitigated; absolute: *sheer* folly. **2.** Exceedingly thin and fine: said of fabrics. **3.** Perpendicular; steep. **4.** Pure; pellucid. — *n.* Any very thin fabric used for clothes. — *adv.* Steeply; perpendicularly. [ME *schere*] — **sheer′ness** *n.* — **sheer′ly** *adv.*
sheet (shēt) *n.* **1.** A very thin and broad piece of any substance; as: **a** A large rectangular piece of bed linen. **b** A piece of paper. **c** A newspaper. **d** A piece of metal or other substance hammered, rolled, fused, or cut very thin. **2.** A broad, flat surface; superficial expanse: a *sheet* of water. **3.** *Naut.* **a** A rope or chain from a lower corner of a sail to extend it or move it. **b** *pl.* In an open boat, the space at the bow and stern not occupied by the thwarts. **c** A sail. **4.** Any superficial deposit, as of gravel left by a glacier, or of soil or ice. **5.** The large, unseparated block of stamps printed by one impression of a plate. — **three sheets in the wind** *Slang* Tipsy; drunk. — *v.t.* **1.** To cover with a sheet. **2.** To furnish with sheets. [OE *scȳte* linen cloth]
sheet anchor **1.** One of two anchors for use only in emergency. **2.** One who or that which can be depended upon in danger or an emergency.
sheet bend *Naut.* A knot used to join two ropes' ends.
sheet·ing (shē′ting) *n.* **1.** The act of sheeting, in any sense. **2.** Cotton, muslin, etc., used for making sheets for beds.
sheet lightning Lightning appearing in sheetlike form as a momentary and broadly diffused radiance in the sky, caused by the reflection of a distant lightning flash.
sheet metal Metal rolled and pressed into sheets.
sheet music Music printed on unbound sheets of paper.
sheik (shēk, *Brit.* shāk) *n.* **1.** A Moslem high priest or a venerable man; also, the chief or head of an Arab tribe or family. **2.** *Archaic Slang* A man who fascinates women. Also **sheikh.** [< Arabic *sheikh, shaykh,* lit., an elder, chief]
sheik·dom (shēk′dəm) *n.* The land ruled by a sheik. Also **sheikh′dom.**
shek·el (shek′əl) *n.* **1.** An Assyrian, Babylonian, and, later, Hebrew unit of weight and money; also, a coin having this weight. **2.** *pl. Slang* Money. [< Hebrew *shāqal* to weigh]
shel·drake (shel′drāk′) *n.* **1.** A large Old World duck of southeastern Europe and North Africa. **2.** A merganser. [< dial. E *sheld* piebald, dappled + DRAKE]
shelf (shelf) *n. pl.* **shelves** (shelvz) **1.** A board or slab set horizontally against a wall, in a bookcase, etc., to support articles, as books. **2.** Contents of a shelf. **3.** Any flat projecting ledge, as of rock. **4.** A reef; shoal. **5.** A stratum of bedrock. — **on the shelf** No longer in use; discarded. [< LG *schelf* set of shelves]
shell (shel) *n.* **1.** Any of various hard structures encasing an animal, as a mollusk or other shellfish. **2.** The hard, relatively fragile outer coat of an egg. **3.** The relatively hard covering of a fruit, seed, or nut. **4.** The material composing a shell. **5.** A hollow structure or vessel, generally thin and weak; also, a case or mold for holding something: a pie *shell.* **6.** A very light, long, and narrow racing rowboat. **7.** A hollow metallic projectile filled with an explosive or chemical. **8.** A metallic or paper cartridge case for small arms. **9.** A shape or outline that merely simulates a reality; hollow form; external semblance. **10.** A reserved or impersonal attitude: to come out of one's *shell.* — *v.t.* **1.** To divest of or remove from a shell. **2.** To separate from the cob, as corn. **3.** To bombard with shells, as a fort. **4.** To cover with shells. — *v.i.* **5.** To shed the shell or pod. **6.** To fall off, as a shell. — **to shell out** *Informal* To hand over, as money. [OE *sciell* shell] — **shell′er** *n.* — **shell′y** *adj.*
she'll (shēl) She will.
shel·lac (shə·lak′) *n.* **1.** A purified lac in the form of thin plates, extensively used in varnish, sealing wax, insulators, etc. **2.** A varnishlike solution of flake shellac dissolved in methylated spirit, used for coating floors, woodwork, etc. — *v.t.* **·lacked, ·lack·ing** **1.** To cover or varnish with shellac. **2.** *Slang* To belabor; beat. **3.** *Slang* To defeat utterly. Also **shell′-lac′, shel·lack′.** [< SHELL + LAC[1]]
shel·lack·ing (shə·lak′ing) *n. U.S. Slang* **1.** A beating; assault. **2.** A thorough defeat.
shell·back (shel′bak′) *n.* A veteran sailor; an old salt; esp., one who has crossed the equator. [Prob. with reference to the shell of the sea turtle]
shell·bark (shel′bärk′) *n.* The shagbark or one of its nuts.
shell-fire (shel′fīr′) *n.* The firing of artillery shells.
shell·fish (shel′fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** Any aquatic animal having a shell, as a mollusk.
shell game **1.** A swindling game in which the victim bets on the location of a pea covered by one of three nutshells. **2.** Any game in which the victim cannot win.
shell-proof (shel′prōōf′) *adj.* Built to resist the destructive effect of projectiles and bombs.
shell shock Formerly, combat fatigue. — **shell-shocked** (shel′shokt′) *adj.*
shel·ter (shel′tər) *n.* **1.** That which covers or shields from exposure or danger; a place of safety. **2.** The state of being sheltered or protected. — *v.t.* **1.** To provide protection or shelter for; shield, as from danger or inclement weather. — *v.i.* **2.** To take shelter. [? Alter. of ME *scheltrum* < OE *scēld-truma* a body of men armed with shields, phalanx, protection] — **shel′ter·er** *n.* — **shel′ter·less** *adj.*
shelter tent *Mil.* A tent for two men, divided into two sections, each of which, called a **shelter half,** is carried as part of a soldier's field equipment: also called *pup tent.*
shelve (shelv) *v.* **shelved, shelv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To place on a shelf. **2.** To postpone indefinitely; put aside. **3.** To retire. **4.** To provide or fit with shelves. — *v.i.* **5.** To incline gradually; slope. [< SHELF] — **shelv′y** *adj.*
shelves (shelvz) Plural of SHELF.
shelv·ing (shel′ving) *n.* **1.** Shelves collectively. **2.** Material for shelves.
Shem (shem) The eldest son of Noah. *Gen.* v 32.
Shem·ite (shem′it) See SEMITE.
she·nan·i·gan (shi·nan′ə·gən) *n. Often pl. Informal* Trickery; foolery; nonsense; also, treacherous action or a treacherous act. [? < Irish *sionnach* fox]
she·ol (shē′ōl) *n.* Hell. [< Hebrew *she'ōl* cave]
She·ol (shē′ōl) In the Old Testament, a place under the earth where the departed spirits were believed to go.
shep·herd (shep′ərd) *n.* **1.** A keeper or herder of sheep. **2.** A pastor, leader, or guide. — *v.t.* To watch and tend as a shepherd. [OE *scēaphyrde*] — **shep′herd·ess** (-is) *n.fem.*
shepherd dog A sheep dog. Also **shepherd's dog.**
shep·herd's-purse (shep′ərdz·pûrs′) *n.* A weed bearing small white flowers and notched triangular pods.

Sher·a·ton (sher′ə·tən) *adj.* Denoting the graceful, straight-lined, classically chaste style of English furniture developed by Thomas Sheraton, 1751–1806, English furniture designer.

sher·bet (shûr′bit) *n.* **1.** A flavored water ice. **2.** *Brit.* A drink made of sweetened fruit juice and sometimes cooled with snow. [< Turkish *sherbet*]

sherd (shûrd) *n.* A fragment of pottery: often in combination: *potsherd*: also called *shard*. [Var. of SHARD]

she·rif (she·rēf′) *n.* **1.** A descendant of Mohammed through his daughter Fatima. **2.** An Arab chief. Also **she·reef′**. [< Arabic *sharīf* noble]

sher·iff (sher′if) *n.* The chief administrative officer of a county, who executes the mandates of courts, enforces order, etc. [OE *scīr-gerēfa* a shire reeve] — **sher′iff·dom** *n.*

she·root (shə·rōōt′) See CHEROOT.

Sher·pa (shûr′pə) *n.* One of a Tibetan tribe living on the southern slopes of the Himalayas in Nepal.

sher·ry (sher′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A fortified wine of Jerez, Spain; also, any similar wine. [after *Jerez*, Spain]

Sher·wood Forest (shûr′wŏŏd) A forest in Nottinghamshire, England, known as the home of Robin Hood.

she's (shēz) **1.** She is. **2.** She has.

Shet·land pony (shet′lənd) A small, hardy, shaggy breed of pony originally bred on the Shetland Islands.

shew (shō) *v.t. & v.i.* **shewed, shewn, shew·ing** *Archaic* To show. — **shew′er** *n.*

shew·bread (shō′bred′) *n.* Unleavened bread formerly displayed in the Jewish temple: also spelled *showbread*.

Shi·ah (shē′ə) *n.* **1.** One of the two great sects of Islam. Compare SUNNI. **2.** A Shiite. [< Arabic *shi'i* follower, sect]

shib·bo·leth (shib′ə·leth) *n.* **1.** A test word or pet phrase of a party; a watchword: from the Hebrew word *shibboleth*, given by Jephthah (*Judges* xii 4–6) as a test to distinguish his own men from the Ephraimites, who used the pronunciation *sibboleth*. **2.** A custom or use of language regarded as distinctive of a particular social class, profession, etc. [< Hebrew *shibbōleth* ear of grain]

shied (shīd) Past tense and past participle of SHY.

shield (shēld) *n.* **1.** A broad piece of defensive armor, commonly carried on the left arm. **2.** Something that protects or defends. **3.** Any device for covering or protecting something. **4.** *Heraldry* An escutcheon. **5.** A conventional figure having an oval bottom and a cusp at the top, used in flags, emblems, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To protect from danger as with a shield; defend; guard. — *v.i.* **2.** To act as a shield or safeguard. [OE *scīld*] — **shield′er** *n.*

shi·er (shī′ər) Comparative of SHY. — *n.* A horse in the habit of shying. Also spelled *shyer*.

shift (shift) *v.t.* **1.** To change or move from one position, place, etc., to another. **2.** To change for another or others of the same class. **3.** To change (gears) from one arrangement to another. **4.** *Ling.* To alter as part of a systematic change. — *v.i.* **5.** To change position, place, etc. **6.** To evade; equivocate. **7.** To shift gears. — **to shift for oneself** To do the best one can to provide for one's needs. — *n.* **1.** The act of shifting. **2.** A dodge; artifice; trick; evasion; expedient: We made *shift* to get along. **3.** *Archaic* or *Dial.* An undergarment; chemise. **4.** A straight, loosely hanging woman's garment, as a dress. **5.** A change of position, place, direction, or form: a *shift* in the wind. **6.** A relay of workers; also, the working time of each group. **7.** *Physics* Any of various displacements of spectral lines caused by velocity of the light source, gravitational effect, etc. See DOPPLER EFFECT. **8.** *Geol.* The relative displacement of areas on opposite sides of a rock fault. [OE *sciftan* to divide] — **shift′er** *n.*

shift·less (shift′lis) *adj.* **1.** Unable or unwilling to shift for oneself; inefficient or lazy. **2.** Showing lack of energy or resource. — **shift′less·ly** *adv.* — **shift′less·ness** *n.*

shift·y (shif′tē) *adj.* **shift·i·er, shift·i·est** **1.** Artful; tricky; fickle. **2.** Full of expedients; alert; capable. — **shift′i·ly** *adv.* — **shift′i·ness** *n.*

Shi·ite (shē′īt) *n.* A Moslem of the Shiah sect: distinguished from *Sunnite*: also *Shiah*. Also **Shie′ite, Shi′ite.**

shill (shil) *n. Slang* The assistant of a sidewalk peddler or gambler, who makes a purchase or bet to encourage onlookers to buy or bet; a capper. [Origin unknown]

shil·le·lagh (shi·lā′lə, -lē) *n.* In Ireland, a stout cudgel made of oak or blackthorn. Also **shil·e′lah.** [after *Shillelagh*, a town in Ireland famed for its oaks]

shil·ling (shil′ing) *n.* **1.** A British monetary unit, since the Norman Conquest equivalent to 12 pence or 1/20 pound; also, a coin of this value, first issued in 1504. **2.** A similar monetary unit of various other countries. **3.** A former coin of colonial America. [OE *scilling*]

shil·ly-shal·ly (shil′ē·shal′ē) *v.i.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** **1.** To act with indecision; be irresolute; vacillate. **2.** To trifle. — *adj.* Weak; hesitating. — *n.* Weak or foolish vacillation; irresolution. — *adv.* In an irresolute manner. [Dissimilated reduplication of *shall I?*] — **shil′ly-shal′li·er** *n.*

shi·ly (shī′lē) See SHYLY.

shim (shim) *n.* A piece of metal or other material used to fill out space, for leveling, etc. — *v.t.* **shimmed, shim·ming** To wedge up or fill out by inserting a shim. [Origin unknown]

shim·mer (shim′ər) *v.i.* To shine faintly; glimmer. — *n.* A tremulous shining or gleaming; glimmer; gleam. [OE *scimerian*] — **shim′mer·y** *adj.*

shim·my (shim′ē) *n. pl.* **·mies** *U.S.* **1.** *Informal* A chemise. **2.** A former jazz dance accompanied by shaking movements. **3.** Unusual vibration, as in automobile wheels. — *v.i.* **·mied, ·my·ing** **1.** To vibrate or wobble. **2.** To dance the shimmy. [Alter. of CHEMISE]

shin (shin) *n.* **1.** The front part of the leg below the knee; also, the shinbone. **2.** The lower foreleg: a *shin* of beef. — *v.t. & v.i.* **shinned, shin·ning** **1.** To climb (a pole) by gripping with the hands or arms and the shins or legs: usu. with *up*. **2.** To kick (someone) in the shins. [OE *scinu*]

shin·bone (shin′bōn′) *n.* The tibia.

shin·dig (shin′dig) *n. U.S. Slang* A dance or noisy party. [< SHINDY, by folk etymology, suggesting *a dig on the shin*]

shine (shīn) *v.i.* **shone** or (*esp. for def.* 5) **shined, shin·ing** **1.** To emit light; beam; glow. **2.** To gleam, as by reflected light. **3.** To excel or be conspicuous in splendor, beauty, etc. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to shine. **5.** To brighten by rubbing or polishing. — **to shine up to** *Slang* To try to please. — *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being bright or shining; radiance; luster; sheen. **2.** Fair weather; sunshine. **3.** *U.S. Informal* A liking or fancy. **4.** *U.S. Informal* A smart trick or prank. **5.** A shoeshine. — **to take a shine to** *U.S. Informal* To become fond of. [OE *scīnan*]

shin·er (shī′nər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which shines. **2.** One of various silvery fresh-water fishes related to the minnows. **3.** A silverfish, an insect. **4.** *Slang* A black eye.

shin·gle[1] (shing′gəl) *n.* **1.** A thin, tapering, oblong piece of wood or other material, used in courses to cover roofs. **2.** A small sign bearing the name of a doctor, lawyer, etc., and placed outside his office. **3.** A short haircut. — *v.t.* **·gled, ·gling** **1.** To cover (a roof, building, etc.) with or as with shingles. **2.** To cut (the hair) short. [ME < L *scandula* shingle] — **shin′gler** *n.*

shin·gle[2] (shing′gəl) *n.* **1.** Rounded, waterworn gravel, found on the seashore. **2.** A place strewn with shingle, as a beach. [Cf. Norw. *singl* coarse gravel] — **shin′gly** *adj.*

shin·gles (shing′gəlz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing. or pl.*) *Pathol.* An acute inflammatory virus disease characterized by blisters along the course of the affected nerve ganglia and accompanied by pain: also called *herpes zoster*. [Alter. of Med.L *cingulus* < L *cingulum* girdle < *cingere* to gird]

shin·ing (shī′ning) *adj.* **1.** Emitting or reflecting a continuous light; gleaming; luminous. **2.** Of unusual brilliance or excellence; conspicuous. — **shin′ing·ly** *adv.*

shin·ny[1] (shin′ē) *n.* **1.** A game resembling hockey; also, one of the sticks or clubs used by the players. **2.** *Canadian* Pond hockey. Also **shin′ney.** [< *shin ye*, a cry used in the game]

shin·ny[2] (shin′ē) *v.i.* **·nied, ·ny·ing** *U.S. Informal* To climb using one's shins: usually with *up*.

shin·plas·ter (shin′plas′tər, -pläs′-) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* Fractional currency issued by other than the constituted authorities. **2.** Any paper money issued by private enterprises. **3.** A plaster for a sore shin.

Shin·to (shin′tō) *n.* A religion of Japan, consisting chiefly in ancestor worship, nature worship, and, formerly, a belief in the divinity of the Emperor. Also **Shin′to·ism.** [< Japanese, way of the gods] — **Shin′to·ist** *n.*

shin·y (shī′nē) *adj.* **shin·i·er, shin·i·est** **1.** Glistening; glossy; polished. **2.** Bright; clear.

ship (ship) *n.* **1.** Any vessel suitable for deep-water navigation; also, its personnel. **2.** A large seagoing sailing vessel with at least three masts, carrying square-rigged sails on all three. **3.** An airship or airplane. — **when one's ship comes in** (or **home**) When one's fortune has been made or hopes realized. — *v.* **shipped, ship·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To transport by ship or other mode of conveyance. **2.** To hire and receive for service on board a vessel, as sailors. *Naut.* To receive over the side, as in rough weather: to *ship* a wave. **4.** *Informal* To get rid of. **5.** To set or fit in a prepared place on a boat or vessel, as a mast, or a rudder. — *v.i.* **6.** To go on board ship; embark. **7.** To undergo shipment: Raspberries do not *ship* well. **8.** To enlist as a seaman: usually with *out*. [OE *scip*]

-ship *suffix of nouns* **1.** The state, condition, or quality of: *friendship*. **2.** Office, rank, or dignity of: *kingship*. **3.** The art or skill of: *marksmanship*. [OE *-scipe*]

ship·board (ship′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* **1.** The side or deck of a ship. **2.** A vessel: used only in the phrase **on shipboard.**

ship·build·er (ship′bil′dər) *n.* One whose work is the building of vessels. — **ship′build′ing** *adj. & n.*

ship canal A waterway deep enough for seagoing vessels.

ship chandler One who deals in supplies for vessels.

ship·load (ship′lōd′) *n.* The quantity that a ship carries or can carry; a cargo.

ship·mas·ter (ship′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* The captain or master of a merchant ship.
ship·mate (ship′māt′) *n.* A fellow sailor.
ship·ment (ship′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of shipping. **2.** That which is shipped.
ship of the line Formerly, a man-of-war large enough to take a position in a line of battle.
ship·owner (ship′ō′nər) *n.* One owning a ship or ships.
ship·pa·ble (ship′ə·bəl) *adj.* That can be shipped or transported.
ship·per (ship′ər) *n.* One who ships goods.
ship·ping (ship′ing) *n.* **1.** Ships collectively; also, tonnage. **2.** The act of shipping.
ship·shape (ship′shāp′) *adj.* Well arranged, orderly, and neat, as on a ship, —*adv.* In an orderly manner; neatly.
ship's papers The documents required by international law to be carried by a ship.
ship·worm (ship′wûrm′) *n.* Any of various marine bivalves, resembling worms, that burrow into the timbers of ships, piers, wharfs, etc.
ship·wreck (ship′rek′) *n.* **1.** The partial or total destruction of a ship at sea. **2.** Utter or practical destruction; ruin. **3.** Scattered remnants, as of a wrecked ship; wreckage. —*v.t.* **1.** To wreck, as a vessel. **2.** To bring to disaster; ruin.
ship·wright (ship′rīt′) *n.* One who builds or repairs ships.
ship·yard (ship′yärd′) *n.* A place where ships are built or repaired.
shire (shīr) *n.* A territorial division of Great Britain; a county. [OE *scīr*]
shirk (shûrk) *v.t.* **1.** To avoid the doing of; evade doing (something that should be done). —*v.i.* **2.** To avoid work or evade obligation. —*n.* One who shirks: also **shirk′er**. [? < G *schürke* rascal]
shirr (shûr) *v.t.* **1.** To draw (material) into three or more parallel rows of gathers. **2.** To bake with crumbs in a buttered dish, as eggs. —*n.* **1.** A drawing of material into three or more parallel rows of gathers. **2.** A rubber thread woven into a fabric to make it elastic. [Origin unknown]
shirt (shûrt) *n.* **1.** A garment for the upper part of the body, usu. having collar and cuffs and a front closing. **2.** A closely fitting undergarment. **3.** A shirtwaist. **—to keep one's shirt on** *Slang* To remain calm. **—to lose one's shirt** *Slang* To lose everything. [OE *scyrte* shirt, short garment] **—shirt′less** *adj.*
shirt·ing (shûr′ting) *n.* Closely woven material of cotton, linen, silk, etc., used for making shirts, blouses, dresses, etc.
shirt·waist (shûrt′wāst′) *n.* **1.** A woman's tailored, sleeved blouse or shirt, usu. worn tucked in under a skirt or slacks. **2.** A woman's tailored dress having a bodice like a shirtwaist: also **shirtwaist dress.**
shish ke·bab (shish′kə·bob′) Meat roasted or broiled in small pieces on skewers and served with condiments. [< Turkish *shish* skewer + *kebap* roast meat]
shist (shist) See SCHIST.
Shi·va (shē′və) Siva, a Hindu god.
shiv·a·ree (shiv′ə·rē′) *n. U.S.* A charivari. [Alter. of CHARIVARI]
shiv·er[1] (shiv′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To tremble; shake; quiver. —*v.t.* **2.** *Naut.* To cause to flutter in the wind, as a sail. —*n.* The act of shivering; a tremble. [ME *chivere*] **—shiv′er·y** *adj.*
shiv·er[2] (shiv′ər) *v.t. & v.i.* To break suddenly into fragments; shatter. —*n.* A splinter; sliver. [ME *schivere*] **—shiv′er·y** *adj.*
shoal[1] (shōl) *n.* **1.** A shallow place in any body of water. **2.** A sandbank or bar, esp. one seen at low water. Compare REEF[1]. —*v.i.* **1.** To become shallow. —*v.t.* **2.** To make shallow. **3.** To sail into a lesser depth of (water): said of a ship. —*adj.* Shallow. [OE *sceald* shallow]
shoal[2] (shōl) *n.* **1.** An assemblage or multitude; throng. **2.** A school of fish. —*v.i.* **1.** To throng in multitudes. **2.** To school: said of fish. [OE *scolu* troop, multitude]
shoal·y (shō′lē) *adj.* **shoal·i·er, shoal·i·est** Abounding in shoals. **—shoal′i·ness** *n.*
shock[1] (shok) *n.* **1.** A violent collision or concussion; impact; blow. **2.** A sudden and violent sensation: a *shock* of paralysis. **3.** A sudden and severe agitation of the mind or emotions, as in horror or great sorrow. **4.** *Pathol.* Prostration of bodily functions, as from sudden injury. **5.** The physical reactions produced by the passage of a strong electric current through the body, as involuntary muscular contractions. —*v.t.* **1.** To shake by sudden collision; jar. **2.** To disturb the emotions or mind of; horrify; disgust. **3.** To give an electric shock to. [< F < *choquer* < Gmc.] **—shock′er** *n.*
shock[2] (shok) *n.* A number of sheaves of grain, stalks of maize, or the like, stacked for drying upright in a field. —*v.t. & v.i.* To gather (grain) into a shock or shocks. [ME *schokke* < Gmc. Cf. MLG *schok*.] **—shock′er** *n.*
shock[3] (shok) *adj.* Shaggy; bushy. —*n.* A coarse, tangled mass, as of hair. [Back formation < *shock dog*]
shock absorber *Mech.* A device designed to absorb the force of shocks, as the springs of an automobile.
shock·ing (shok′ing) *adj.* **1.** Causing a mental or emotional shock, as with horror or disgust. **2.** *Informal* Terrible; awful. **—shock′ing·ly** *adv.* **—shock′ing·ness** *n.*
shock therapy *Psychiatry* The treatment of certain psychotic disorders by the injection of drugs, or by electrical shocks, both methods inducing coma, with or without convulsions.
shock troops *Mil.* Seasoned men selected to lead an attack.
shock wave *Physics* A compression wave following a sudden and violent disturbance of the transmitting medium, through which it is propagated with a velocity equal to or greater than that of sound.
shod (shod) Past tense and alternative past participle of SHOE.
shod·dy (shod′ē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** Wool obtained by shredding discarded woolens or worsteds; also, cloth made of such wool. **2.** Any inferior goods made to resemble those of better quality. —*adj.* **shod·di·er, shod·di·est** **1.** Made of or containing shoddy. **2.** Sham; inferior. [Origin uncertain] **—shod′di·ly** *adv.* **—shod′di·ness** *n.*
shoe (shōō) *n. pl.* **shoes** **1.** An outer covering, usu. of leather, for the human foot. **2.** Something resembling a shoe in position or use. **3.** A rim or plate of iron to protect the hoof of an animal. **4.** A strip of iron, steel, etc., fitted under a sleigh runner to receive friction. **5.** The part of the brake that presses upon a wheel or drum. **6.** The tread or outer covering of a pneumatic tire, as for an automobile. **7.** The sliding contact plate on an electric car or locomotive by which it obtains current from the third rail. —*v.t.* **shod, shod** or **shod·den, shoe·ing** **1.** To furnish with shoes or the like. **2.** To furnish with a guard of metal, wood, etc., for protection, as against wear. [OE *scōh*]
shoe·black (shōō′blak′) *n.* One who cleans or polishes shoes as an occupation.
shoe·horn (shōō′hôrn′) *n.* A smooth curved implement of horn, metal, etc., used to help put on a shoe.
shoe·lace (shōō′lās′) *n.* A lace or cord for fastening shoes.
shoe·mak·er (shōō′mā′kər) *n.* One who makes or repairs shoes, boots, etc. **—shoe′mak′ing** *n.*
sho·er (shōō′ər) *n.* One who shoes horses.
shoe·shine (shōō′shīn′) *n.* **1.** The waxing and polishing of a pair of shoes. **2.** The polished look of shined shoes.
shoe·string (shōō′string′) *n.* A shoelace. **—on a shoestring** With a small sum of money with which to begin a business, etc.
shoe·tree (shōō′trē′) *n.* A form for inserting in a shoe to preserve its shape or to stretch it.
sho·far (shō′fär) *n.* A ram's horn used in Jewish ritual, sounded on solemn occasions and in war: also spelled *shophar*. [< Hebrew *shōphār*]
sho·gun (shō′gun, -gōōn) *n.* Any of the hereditary military dictators who ruled Japan until the 19th century and under whom the emperor was a figurehead. [< Japanese < Chinese *chiang-chün* leader of an army]
sho·ji (shō′jē) *n.* A translucent paper screen forming a partition, door, etc., in a Japanese house. [< Japanese]
shone (shōn, shon) Past tense and past participle of SHINE.
shoo (shōō) *interj.* Begone! be off!: used in driving away fowls, etc. —*v.t.* **1.** To drive away, as by crying "shoo." —*v.i.* **2.** To cry "shoo." [Imit.]
shoo-fly (shōō′flī) *n. pl.* **·flies** *U.S.* **1.** An enclosed child's rocker with sides representing horses, swans, etc. **2.** A kind of pie with a syrupy filling made with molasses and brown sugar.
shoo-in (shōō′in′) *U.S. Informal* *n.* A contestant, candidate, etc., who is certain to win.
shook (shōōk) Past tense of SHAKE.
shoot (shōōt) *v.* **shot, shoot·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To hit, wound, or kill with a missile discharged from a weapon. **2.** To discharge (a missile) from a bow, rifle, etc. **3.** To discharge (a weapon): often with *off*: to *shoot* a cannon. **4.** To take the altitude of with a sextant, etc.: to *shoot* the sun. **5.** To send forth as if from a weapon, as questions, glances, etc. **6.** To pass over or through swiftly: to *shoot* rapids. **7.** To go over (an area) in hunting game. **8.** To emit, as rays of light: **9.** To photograph; film. **10.** To cause to stick out or protrude; extend. **11.** To put forth in growth; send forth (buds, leaves, etc.). **12.** To push into or out of the fastening, as the bolt of a door. **13.** To propel, discharge, or dump, as down a chute or from a container. **14.** To variegate, as with streaks of color: usually in the past participle: His paintings are *shot* with pink and brown. **15.** In games: **a** To score (a goal, point, etc.) by kicking or otherwise forcing the ball, etc., to the objective. **b** To play (golf, craps, pool, etc.). **c**

To play (marbles). **d** To cast (the dice). — *v.i.* **16.** To discharge a missile from a bow, firearm, etc. **17.** To go off; discharge. **18.** To move swiftly; dart. **19.** To hunt game. **20.** To jut out; extend or project. **21.** To put forth buds, leaves, etc.; germinate; sprout. **22.** To take a photograph. **23.** To start the cameras, as in motion pictures. **24.** In games, to make a play by propelling the ball, puck, etc., in a certain manner. — **to shoot at** (or **for**) *Informal* To strive for; attempt to attain or obtain. — **to shoot down** To bring to earth by shooting. — **to shoot off one's mouth** *Slang* To talk too freely or too much. — *n.* **1.** A young branch or sucker of a plant; offshoot. **2.** A narrow passage in a stream; a rapid. **3.** An inclined passage down which anything may be shot; a chute. **4.** The act of shooting; a shot. **5.** A shooting match, hunting party, etc. **6.** *U.S. Informal* A rocket or missile launching. **7.** The thrust of an arch. **8.** Any new growth, as a new antler. **9.** Shooting distance; range. [OE *scēotan*] — **shoot'er** *n.*

shoot·ing (shōō'ting) *n.* The act of one who or that which shoots.

shooting gallery A place, usu. enclosed, where one can shoot at targets.

shooting star **1.** A meteor. **2.** Any of certain small perennial herbs, having clusters of white, rose, or crimson flowers.

shop (shop) *n.* **1.** A place for the sale of goods at retail. Also **shoppe.** **2.** A place for making or repairing any article, or the carrying on of any artisan craft: a blacksmith's *shop.* **3.** One's own craft or business as a subject of conversation: to talk *shop.* — *v.i.* **shopped, shop·ping** To visit shops or stores to purchase or look at goods. [OE *sceoppa* booth]

shop·girl (shop'gûrl') *n.* A girl who works in a shop.

sho·phar (shō'fär) See SHOFAR.

shop·keep·er (shop'kē'pər) *n.* One who runs a shop or store; a tradesman.

shop·lift·er (shop'lif'tər) *n.* One who steals goods exposed for sale in a shop. — **shop'lift'ing** *n.*

shop·per (shop'ər) *n.* **1.** One who shops. **2.** An employee of a store who compares the merchandise of competitors as to quality, price, etc. — **shop'ping** *n.*

shop steward A union worker chosen by fellow workers to represent them to management in seeking redress of grievances, etc. Also **shop chairman.**

shop·talk (shop'tôk') *n.* Conversation limited to one's job or profession.

shop·walk·er (shop'wô'kər) *n. Brit.* A floorwalker.

shop·worn (shop'wôrn', -wōrn') *adj.* **1.** Soiled or otherwise deteriorated from having been handled or on display in a shop. **2.** Worn out, as from overuse: stale.

shore[1] (shôr, shōr) *n.* **1.** The coast or land adjacent to an ocean, sea, lake, or large river. ◆ Collateral adjective: *littoral.* **2.** Land: to be on *shore.* — **in shore** Near or toward the shore. — *v.t.* **shored, shor·ing** **1.** To set on shore. **2.** To surround as with a shore. [ME *schore*]

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** *Shore, coast, beach,* and *bank* denote the land adjacent to a body of water. *Shore* is the general term; we speak of the *shore* of the sea, of a lake, or of a river. *Coast* is the ocean *shore,* especially along a great extent of land: the *coast* of Florida. A *beach* is a low, gently sloping expanse of sand or gravel; a *bank* is a more or less steep slope: the *banks* of the Red River.

shore[2] (shôr, shōr) *v.t.* **shored, shor·ing** To prop, as a wall, by a vertical or sloping timber: usu., with *up.* — *n.* A beam set endwise as a prop or temporary support against the side of a building, a ship in drydock, etc. [Cf. Du. *schoor* prop, ON *skortha* stay]

shore·less (shôr'lis, shōr'-) *adj.* **1.** Having no shore. **2.** Boundless.

shore·line (shôr'līn', shōr'-) *n.* The contour of a shore.

shore patrol A detail of the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps assigned to police duties ashore.

shore·ward (shôr'wərd, shōr'-) *adj. & adv.* Toward the shore. Also **shore'wards** (-wərdz).

shor·ing (shôr'ing, shō'ring) *n.* **1.** The operation of propping, as with shores. **2.** Shores, collectively.

shorn (shôrn, shōrn) Alternative past participle of SHEAR.

short (shôrt) *adj.* **1.** Having little linear extension; not long; of no great distance. **2.** Being below the average stature; not tall. **3.** Having little extension in time; of limited duration; brief. **4.** Abrupt in manner or spirit; cross. **5.** Not reaching or attaining a requirement, result, or mark; inadequate: often with *of.* **6.** Having a scant or insufficient amount: followed by *on.* **7.** Having little scope or breadth: a *short* view. **8.** In commerce: **a** Not having in possession when selling, but having to procure in time to deliver as contracted. **b** Of or pertaining to stocks or commodities not in possession of the seller: *short* sales. **9.** Not comprehensive or retentive; in error: a *short* memory. **10.** Breaking easily; crisp. **11.** *Phonet.* Denoting the vowel sounds of *Dan, den, din, don, duck,* as contrasted with those of *Dane, dean, dine, dome, dune.* **12.** In English prosody, unaccented. **13.** Less than: with *of.* **14.** Concise; compressed. — *n.* **1.** Anything that is short. **2.** A deficiency, as in a payment. **3.** A short syllable or vowel. **4.** A short contract or sale; one who has sold short; a bear. **5.** *pl.* Bran mixed with coarse meal or flour. **6.** *pl.* Trousers with legs extending part way to the knees. **7.** *pl.* A man's undergarment covering the loins and often a portion of the legs. **8.** In baseball slang, shortstop. **9.** *Electr.* A short circuit. **10.** A short subject. — **for short** For brevity: Edward was called Ed *for short.* — **in short** In a word; briefly. — *adv.* **1.** Abruptly: to stop *short.* **2.** Curtly; crossly. **3.** So as not to reach or extend to a certain point, condition, etc.: to fall *short.* **4.** Without having in actual possession that which is sold: to sell *short.* — *v.t. & v.i.* To short-circuit. [OE *sort*] — **short'ness** *n.*

short·age (shôr'tij) *n.* The amount by which anything is short; deficiency.

short·bread (shôrt'bred') *n.* A rich, dry cake or cooky made with shortening.

short·cake (shôrt'kāk') *n.* **1.** A cake made short and crisp with butter or other shortening. **2.** Cake or biscuit served with fruit; strawberry *shortcake.*

short·change (shôrt'chānj') *v.t.* **·changed, ·chang·ing** *Informal* To give less change than is due to; also, to cheat or swindle. — **short'chang'er** *n.*

short-cir·cuit (shôrt'sûr'kit) *v.t. & v.i.* To make a short circuit (in).

short circuit *Electr.* **1.** A path of low resistance established between any two points in an electric circuit, thus shortening the distance traveled by the current. **2.** Any defect in an electric circuit or apparatus that may result in a dangerous leakage of current.

short·com·ing (shôrt'kum'ing) *n.* A failure or deficiency in character, action, etc.

short-cut (shôrt'kut') *v.t. & v.i.* **·cut, ·cut·ting** To take a short cut (in).

short cut **1.** A byway or path between two places that is shorter than the regular way. **2.** Any means or method that saves distance or time.

short·en (shôr'tən) *v.t.* **1.** To make short or shorter; curtail. **2.** To reduce; diminish; lessen. **3.** To furl or reef (a sail) so that less canvas is exposed to the wind. **4.** To make brittle or crisp, as pastry, by adding shortening. — *v.i.* **5.** To become short or shorter. — **short'en·er** *n.*

short·en·ing (shôr'tən·ing) *n.* **1.** A fat, such as lard or butter, used to make pastry crisp. **2.** An abbreviation. **3.** The act of one who shortens.

short-hand (shôrt'hand') *n.* Any system of rapid writing, usu. employing symbols other than letters, words, etc. — *adj.* **1.** Written in shorthand. **2.** Using shorthand.

short-hand·ed (shôrt'han'did) *adj.* Not having a sufficient or the usual number of assistants, workmen, etc.

short·horn (shôrt'hôrn') *n.* One of a breed of cattle with short horns, originally from northern England.

short-lived (shôrt'livd', -livd') *adj.* Living or lasting but a short time.

short·ly (shôrt'lē) *adv.* **1.** In a short time; quickly; soon. **2.** In few words; briefly. **3.** Curtly; abruptly.

short order Food requiring little time to prepare. — **in short order** Without any delay; quickly; abruptly. — **short-or·der** (shôrt'ôr'dər) *adj.*

short shrift **1.** A short time in which to confess before dying. **2.** Little or no mercy or delay, as in dealing with a person. — **to make short shrift of** To dispose of quickly.

short-sight·ed (shôrt'sī'tid) *adj.* **1.** Unable to see clearly at a distance; myopic; near-sighted. **2.** Lacking foresight. **3.** Resulting from or characterized by lack of foresight. — **short'-sight'ed·ly** *adv.* — **short'sight'ed·ness** *n.*

short-spo·ken (shôrt'spō'kən) *adj.* Characterized by shortness or curtness of speech or manner; abrupt; gruff.

short·stop (shôrt'stop') *n.* In baseball, an infielder stationed between second and third bases; also, his position.

short story A narrative prose story shorter than a novel or novelette, usu. under 10,000 words.

short subject A motion picture of relatively short duration, often displayed between showings of the feature attraction on a program: also called *short.*

short-tem·pered (shôrt'tem'pərd) *adj.* Easily angered.

short-term (shôrt'tûrm') *adj.* In finance, due or payable within a short time, usu. one year: said of loans, etc.

short ton See under TON[1].

short waves Electromagnetic waves that are 60 meters or less in length. — **short-wave** (shôrt'wāv') *adj.*

short-wind·ed (shôrt'win'did) *adj.* Affected with difficulty of breathing; becoming easily out of breath.

Sho·sho·ne (shō·shō'nē) *n.* **1.** One of a large tribe of North American Indians of northern Shoshonean stock of the Uto-Aztecan family, formerly occupying parts of Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. **2.** The Shoshonean language of this tribe. Also **Sho·sho'ni.**

Sho·sho·ne·an (shō·shō'nē·ən, shō'shə·nē'ən) *n.* The largest branch of the Uto-Aztecan family of North American Indians, including the Comanche, Ute, and Shoshone pla-

teau tribes, and the Hopi Indians. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to this linguistic branch. Also **Sho·sho′ni·an.**

shot[1] (shot) *n.* *pl.* **shots**; *for def.* 1 **shot** 1. A solid missile, as a ball of iron, or a bullet or pellet of lead, to be discharged from a firearm; also, such pellets collectively. 2. The act of shooting; any stroke, hit, or blow. 3. One who shoots; a marksman. 4. The distance traversed or that can be traversed by a projectile; range. 5. *U.S. Informal* The firing of a rocket, etc., that is directed toward a specific target: a moon *shot*. 6. A blast, as in mining. 7. A stroke, esp. in certain games, as in billiards. 8. A conjecture; guess. 9. An attempted performance or try. 10. A metal sphere that a competitor puts, pushes, or slings, in a distance contest. 11. *Informal* A hypodermic injection of a drug. 12. *Informal* A drink of liquor. 13. A single action or scene recorded on motion-picture or television film or tape. 14. A photograph or a snapshot. 15. *Naut.* A unit of chain length: in the U.S., 15 fathoms; in Great Britain, 12½ fathoms. — *v.t.* **shot·ted, shot·ting** 1. To load or weight with shot. 2. To clean, as bottles, by partially filling with shot and shaking. [OE *scot*]

shot[2] (shot) Past tense and past participle of SHOOT. — *adj.* 1. Of changeable color, as when warp and weft are of different colors; also, streaked or mixed irregularly with other colors: a sky *shot* with pink. 2. *Informal* Completely done for; ruined; also, worn out; completely broken.

shot[3] (shot) *n.* *Brit. & Canadian* A reckoning or charge, or a share of such a reckoning; scot. [Var. of SCOT]

shot effect *Electronics* The background noise resembling the patter of small shot, developed in an electron tube by the fluctuating emission of electrons from the heated filament. Also **shot noise.**

shot·gun (shot′gun′) *n.* A light, smoothbore gun, either single or double barreled, adapted for the discharge of shot at short range. — *adj.* 1. Having a clear passageway straight through: a *shotgun* house. 2. Coerced with, or as with, a shotgun: a *shotgun* wedding.

shot-put (shot′pŏŏt′) *n.* 1. An athletic contest in which a shot is thrown, or put, for distance. 2. A single put of the shot. — **shot′-put′ter** *n.*

shot·ten (shot′n) *adj.* Having spawned: said of a fish, esp. a herring. [Obs. pp. of SHOOT]

should (shŏŏd) Past tense of SHALL, but rarely a true past, rather chiefly used as a modal auxiliary that, while conveying varying shades of present and future time, expresses a wide range of subtly discriminated feelings and attitudes: 1. Obligation or propriety in varying degrees, but milder than *ought*: You *should* write that letter; *Should* we tell him the truth about his condition? 2. Condition: **a** Simple contingency, but involving less probability than *shall* or the present with future sense: If I *should* go, he would go too. **b** Assumption: *Should* (*Assuming that*) the space platform prove practicable, as seems almost certain, a trip to the moon will be easy. 3. Surprise at an unexpected event in the past: When I reached the station, whom *should* I run into but the detective! 4. Expectation: I *should* be at home by noon. 5. *U.S. Informal* Irony, in positive statement with negative force: He'll be fined heavily, but with all his money he *should* (*need not*) worry! ◆ In American usage the first person may be followed by either *should* or *would* in such expressions as I *should*/*would* be glad to see you. [OE *scolde*, pt. of *sculan* to owe]

shoul·der (shōl′dər) *n.* 1. The part of the trunk between the neck and the free portion of the arm or forelimb; also, the joint connecting the arm or forelimb with the body. 2. Anything that supports, bears up, or projects like a shoulder. 3. The forequarter of various animals. 4. An enlargement, projection, or offset, as for keeping something in place, or preventing movement past the projection. 5. Either edge of a road or highway. 6. The angle of a bastion included between a face and the adjacent flank; also **shoulder angle.** — **shoulder to shoulder** 1. Side by side and close together. 2. With united effort; in cooperation. — **straight from the shoulder** *Informal* Candidly; straightforwardly. — **to cry on (one's) shoulder** To seek sympathy and understanding from (one). — **to give the cold shoulder to** 1. To treat with scorn, contempt, or coldness. 2. To ignore, shun, or avoid. — **to put (one's) shoulder to the wheel** To work with great vigor and purpose. — *v.t.* 1. To assume as something to be borne; sustain; bear. 2. To push with or as with the shoulder or shoulders. 3. To fashion with a shoulder or abutment. — *v.i.* 4. To push with the shoulder or shoulders. — **to shoulder arms** To rest a rifle against the shoulder, holding the butt with the hand. [OE *sculdor*]

shoulder blade *Anat.* The scapula.

shoulder patch A cloth insignia worn on the upper part of the sleeve of a uniform to indicate one's branch or unit.

shoulder strap 1. A strap worn on or over the shoulder to support an article of dress. 2. A strap of cloth marked with insignia of rank, worn by army and navy officers.

should·n't (shŏŏd′nt) Should not.

shouldst (shŏŏdst) Archaic second person singular of SHALL: used with *thou*. Also **should·est** (shŏŏd′ist).

shout (shout) *n.* A sudden and loud outcry, often expressing joy, anger, etc., or used as a call or command. — *v.t.* 1. To utter with a shout; say or express loudly. — *v.i.* 2. To utter a shout. [Cf. ON *skūta* a taunt] — **shout′er** *n.*

shove (shuv) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **shoved, shov·ing** 1. To push, as along a surface. 2. To press forcibly (against); jostle. — **to shove off** 1. To push along or away, as a boat. 2. *Informal* To depart. — *n.* The act of pushing or shoving. [OE *scūfan*] — **shov′er** *n.*

shov·el (shuv′əl) *n.* A somewhat flattened scoop with a handle, as for digging, lifting earth, rock, snow, etc.; also, any large, usu. toothed device for extensive, heavy digging. — *v.* **shov·eled** or **·elled, shov·el·ing** or **·el·ling** *v.t.* 1. To take up and move with a shovel. 2. To toss hastily or in large quantities as if with a shovel. 3. To clear with a shovel, as a path. — *v.i.* 4. To work with a shovel. [OE *scofl*]

shov·el·board (shuv′əl·bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* Shuffleboard.

shov·el·er (shuv′əl·ər, shuv′lər) *n.* 1. One who or that which shovels. 2 A large river duck with a spatulate bill: also called *spoonbill*: also **shov·el·bill** (shuv′əl·bil′). Also **shov′el·ler.**

show (shō) *v.* **showed, shown** or, sometimes **showed, show·ing** *v.t.* 1. To cause or permit to be seen; exhibit, display. 2. To give in a marked or open manner; bestow: to *show* favor. 3. To cause or allow (something) to be understood or known; reveal; tell. 4. To cause (someone) to understand or see; teach. 5. *Law* To advance an allegation; plead: to *show* cause. 6. To make evident by logical process; demonstrate. 7. To guide; introduce, as into a room or building: with *in* or *up*; to *show* a caller in. 8. To indicate: The thermometer *shows* the temperature. 9. To enter in a show or exhibition. — *v.i.* 10. To become visible or known. 11. To seem. 12. To make one's or its appearance; be present. 13. *Informal* To give a theatrical performance; appear. 14. In racing, to finish third: distinguished from *place*, *win*. Also, *Archaic*, *shew*. — **to show off** 1. To exhibit proudly or ostentatiously. 2. To make an ostentatious display of oneself, or of one's accomplishments. — **to show up** 1. To expose or be exposed, as faults. 2. To be evident or prominent. 3. To make an appearance. 4. *Informal* To be better than; outdo. — *n.* 1. An entertainment or performance: a Broadway *show*. 2. Anything shown or manifested. 3. An elaborate display: a *show* of wealth. 4. A pretense or semblance: a *show* of piety. 5. Any public exhibition, contest, etc.: an art *show*. 6. An appearance: a bad *show*. 7. An indication; promise: a *show* of ore. 8. The third position among the first three winners of a race. 9. The act of showing. — **show of hands** A display of raised hands indicating the vote of a group. [OE *scēawian*] — **show′er** *n.*

show bill A poster announcing a play or show.

show·boat (shō′bōt′) *n.* A boat on which a traveling troupe gives a theatrical performance.

show·bread (shō′bred′) See SHEWBREAD.

show business The entertainment arts, esp. the theater, motion pictures, television, etc., collectively considered as an industry or profession.

show·case (shō′kās′) *n.* A glass case for exhibiting and protecting articles for sale.

show·down (shō′doun′) *n.* 1. In poker, the play in which the hands are laid on the table face up. 2. Any action or disclosure that brings an issue to a head.

show·er (shou′ər) *n.* 1. A fall of rain, hail, or sleet, esp. heavy rain of short duration within a local area. 2. A copious fall, as of tears, sparks, etc. 3. A shower bath. 4. An abundance or profusion of something. 5. A variety of fireworks for simulating a shower of stars. 6. A party for the bestowal of gifts, as to a bride; also, the gifts. — *v.t.* 1. To sprinkle or wet with or as with showers. 2. To discharge in a shower; pour out. 3. To bestow with liberality. — *v.i.* 4. To fall as in a shower. 5. To take a shower bath. [OE *scūr*] — **show′er·y** *adj.*

shower bath A bath in which water is sprayed on the body from an overhead, perforated nozzle; also, the area or room in which this is done.

show·ing (shō′ing) *n.* 1. A show or display, as of a quality. 2. A presentation or statement, as of a subject.

show·man (shō′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) 1. One who exhibits or owns a show. 2. One who is skilled in presenting something. — **show′man·ship** *n.*

Show Me State Nickname of Missouri.

shown (shōn) Past participle of SHOW.

show-off (shō′ôf′, -of′) *n.* *Informal* 1. The act of showing off; ostentatious display. 2. One who shows off.

show·piece (shō′pēs′) *n.* **1.** A prized object considered worthy of special exhibit. **2.** An object on display.
show place A place exhibited for its beauty, historic interest, etc.
show room A room in which things, as merchandise, are displayed for sale or advertising.
show·y (shō′ē) *adj.* **show·i·er, show·i·est** **1.** Making a great or brilliant display. **2.** Given to cheap display; gaudy; ostentatious. — **show′i·ly** *adv.* — **show′i·ness** *n.*
shrank (shrangk) Past tense of SHRINK.
shrap·nel (shrap′nəl) *n.* *pl.* **·nel** *Mil.* **1.** A field artillery projectile for use against personnel, containing a quantity of metal balls and a time fuse and base charge that expel the balls in mid-air. **2.** Shell fragments. [after Henry *Shrapnel*, 1761–1842, British artillery officer]
shred (shred) *n.* **1.** A small irregular strip torn or cut off. **2.** A bit; fragment; particle. — *v.t.* **shred·ded** or **shred, shred·ding** To tear or cut into shreds. [OE *scrēade*] — **shred′der** *n.*
shrew (shrōō) *n.* **1.** Any of numerous diminutive, chiefly insectivorous mammals having a long pointed snout and soft fur, as the **long-tailed shrew** of North America. Also **shrew′mouse′** (-mous′). **2.** A woman of vexatious, scolding, or nagging disposition. [OE *scrēawa*]
— **Syn. 2.** scold, vixen, termagant, virago.
shrewd (shrōōd) *adj.* **1.** Sharp or wise; sagacious. **2.** Artful; sly. [ME < *shrew* malicious person] — **shrewd′ly** *adv.* — **shrewd′ness** *n.*
shrew·ish (shrōō′ish) *adj.* Like a shrew; ill-tempered; nagging. — **shrew′ish·ly** *adv.* — **shrew′ish·ness** *n.*
shriek (shrēk) *n.* A sharp shrill outcry or scream. — *v.i.* **1.** To utter a shriek. — *v.t.* **2.** To utter with or in a shriek. [ME] — **shriek′er** *n.*
shrift (shrift) *n.* **1.** The act of shriving. **2.** Confession or absolution, as to or from a priest. [OE *scrift*]
shrike (shrīk) *n.* Any of numerous predatory birds with hooked bill, short wings, and long tail. [OE *scrīc* thrush]
shrill (shril) *adj.* **1.** Having a high-pitched and piercing tone quality. **2.** Emitting a sharp, piercing sound. — *v.t.* **1.** To cause to utter a shrill sound. — *v.i.* **2.** To make a shrill sound. — *adv.* Shrilly. [< Gmc.] — **shrill′y** *adv.* — **shrill′ness** *n.*
shrimp (shrimp) *n.* *pl.* **shrimp** or **shrimps** *for def. 1*, **shrimps** *for def. 2* **1.** Any of numerous small, long-tailed, principally marine animals, some species of which are used as food. **2.** *Slang* A small or unimportant person. [Akin to OE *scrimman* to shrink, G *schrimpfen*]

SHRIMP
a Cephalothorax. *b* Abdomen. *c* Tail. *t* Telson.

shrine (shrīn) *n.* **1.** A receptacle for sacred relics. **2.** A place, as a tomb or a chapel, sacred to some holy personage. **3.** A thing or spot made sacred by historic or other association. — *v.t.* **shrined, shrin·ing** *Rare & Poetic* To enshrine. [OE < L *scrīnium* case, chest]
shrink (shringk) *v.* **shrank** or **shrunk, shrunk** or, sometimes, **shrunk·en, shrink·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To draw together; contract, as from heat, cold, etc. **2.** To diminish. **3.** To draw back, as from disgust, horror, or timidity; recoil: with *from*. **4.** To flinch; wince. — *v.t.* **5.** To cause to shrink, contract, or draw together. — *n.* **1.** The act of shrinking. **2.** *Slang* A psychiatrist. [OE *scrincan*] — **shrink′a·ble** *adj.*
shrink·age (shringk′ij) *n.* **1.** The act or fact of shrinking; contraction. **2.** The amount lost by such shrinking. **3.** Decrease in value; depreciation.
shrive (shrīv) *v.* **shrove** or **shrived, shriv·en** or **shrived, shriv·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To receive the confession of and give absolution to. **2.** To obtain absolution for (oneself) by confessing one's sins and doing penance. — *v.i.* **3.** To make confession. **4.** To hear confession. [OE *scrīfan*, ult. < L *scribere* to write, prescribe] — **shriv′er** *n.*
shriv·el (shriv′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **shriv·eled** or **·elled, shriv·el·ing** or **·el·ling** **1.** To contract into wrinkles; shrink and wrinkle: often with *up*. **2.** To make or become impotent; wither. [Origin uncertain]
shriv·en (shriv′ən) Alternative past participle of SHRIVE.
Shrop·shire (shrop′shir, -shər) *n.* A breed of black-faced, hornless sheep, noted for heavy fleece and superior mutton, originating in Shropshire.
shroud[1] (shroud) *n.* **1.** A dress or garment for the dead. **2.** Something that envelops or conceals like a garment: the *shroud* of night. — *v.t.* **1.** To dress for the grave; clothe in a shroud. **2.** To envelop, as with a garment. [OE *scrūd* garment] — **shroud′less** *adj.*
shroud[2] (shroud) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* One of a set of ropes, often of wire, stretched from a masthead to the sides of a ship, serving as means of ascent and as a support for the masts. **2.** *Usu. pl.* A guy, as a support for a smokestack. **3.** One of the supporting ropes attached to the edges of a parachute canopy. [< SHROUD[1]]
shrove (shrōv) Alternative past tense of SHRIVE.
Shrove·tide (shrōv′tīd′) *n.* The three days immediately preceding Ash Wednesday, **Shrove Sunday** (Quinquagesima Sunday), **Shrove Monday, Shrove Tuesday**, on which confession is made in preparation for Lent. [ME *schroftide*]
shrub (shrub) *n.* A woody perennial plant of low stature, characterized by persistent stems and branches springing from the base. [OE *scrybb* brushwood]
shrub·ber·y (shrub′ər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ber·ies** **1.** Shrubs collectively. **2.** A collection of shrubs, as in a garden.
shrub·by (shrub′ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est** **1.** Containing many shrubs; covered with shrubs. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or like a shrub. — **shrub′bi·ness** *n.*
shrug (shrug) *v.t. & v.i.* **shrugged, shrug·ging** To draw up (the shoulders), as in displeasure, doubt, surprise, etc. — *n.* **1.** The act of shrugging the shoulders. **2.** A very short sweater or jacket, open in front. [ME *schrugge*]
shrunk (shrungk) Alternative past tense and past participle of SHRINK.
shrunk·en (shrungk′ən) Alternative past participle of SHRINK. — *adj.* Contracted and atrophied.
shuck (shuk) *n.* **1.** A husk, shell, or pod. **2.** A shell of an oyster or a clam. — *v.t.* **1.** To remove the husk or shell from (corn, oysters, etc.). **2.** *Informal* To take off or cast off, as clothes. [Origin unknown] — **shuck′er** *n.*
shucks (shuks) *interj.* *U.S. Informal* A mild ejaculation expressing annoyance, disgust, etc.
shud·der (shud′ər) *v.i.* To tremble or shake, as from fright or cold; shiver; quake. — *n.* The act of shuddering; a convulsive shiver, as from horror or fear; tremor. [ME *shodder*]
shuf·fle (shuf′əl) *n.* **1.** A mixing or changing of the order of things, as of cards in a pack before each deal. **2.** A hesitating, evasive, or tricky action; artifice. **3.** A scraping of the feet, as in walking; a slow, dragging gait. **4.** A dance, or the step used in it, where the dancer pushes his foot along the floor at each step. — *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.t.* **1.** To shift this way and that; mix; confuse; disorder; esp. to change the order of by mixing, as cards in a pack. **2.** To move (the feet) along the ground or floor with a dragging gait. **3.** To change from one place to another. **4.** To make up or remove fraudulently or hastily; also, to put aside carelessly: with *up*, *off*, or *out*. — *v.i.* **5.** To change position. **6.** To resort to indirect methods. **7.** To dance the shuffle. **8.** To scrape the feet along. **9.** To scrape or struggle along awkwardly. [Prob. < LG *schuffeln* to move with dragging feet, mix cards, etc.] — **shuf′fler** *n.*
shuf·fle·board (shuf′əl·bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* **1.** A game in which wooden or composition disks are slid by means of a pronged cue along a smooth surface toward numbered spaces. **2.** The board or surface on which the game is played. Also called *shovelboard*.
shun (shun) *v.t.* **shunned, shun·ning** To keep clear of; avoid; refrain from. [OE *scunian*] — **shun′ner** *n.*
shunt (shunt) *n.* **1.** The act of shunting. **2.** A railroad switch. **3.** *Electr.* A conductor joining two points in a circuit and serving to divert part of the current to an auxiliary circuit: also called *by-pass*. — *v.t.* **1.** To turn aside. **2.** To switch, as a train or car, from one track to another. **3.** *Electr.* To distribute by means of shunts. **4.** To evade by turning away from; put off on someone else, as a task. — *v.i.* **5.** To move to one side. **6.** *Electr.* To be diverted by a shunt: said of current. **7.** To shift or transfer one's views or course. [ME *schunten*] — **shunt′er** *n.*
shunt-wound (shunt′wound′) *adj.* *Electr.* Designating a type of direct-current motor in which the armature circuit and field circuit are connected in parallel.
shush (shush) *v.t.* To quiet, as by making the sound "sh."
shut (shut) *v.* **shut, shut·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To bring into such position as to close an opening or aperture; close, as a door, lid, or valve. **2.** To close (an opening, aperture, etc.) so as to prevent ingress or egress. **3.** To close and fasten securely, as with a latch or lock. **4.** To forbid entrance into or exit from. **5.** To keep from entering or leaving: with *in*, *out*, *from*, etc. **6.** To close, fold, or bring together, as extended, expanded, or unfolded parts: to *shut* an umbrella. **7.** To hide from view; obscure. — *v.i.* **8.** To be or become closed or in a closed position. — **to shut down** **1.** To cease from operating, as a factory or mine; close up; stop work. **2.** To lower; come down close: the fog *shut down*. **3.** *Informal* To suppress: with *on*. — **to shut one's eyes to** To ignore. — **to shut out** In sports, to keep (an opponent) from scoring during the course of a game. — **to shut up** **1.** *Informal* To stop talking or cause to stop talking. **2.** To close all the entrances to, as a house. **3.** To imprison; confine. — *adj.* **1.** Made fast or closed. **2.** Not sonorous; dull: said of sound. — *n.* **1.** The act of shutting. **2.** The time or place of shutting or closing. [OE *scyttan*]
shut-down (shut′doun′) *n.* The closing of or ceasing of work in a mine, mill, factory, or other industrial plant.
shut-eye (shut′ī′) *n.* *Slang* Sleep.
shut-in (shut′in′) *n.* An invalid who is unable to go out. — *adj.* Obliged to stay at home.

shut-off (shut′ôf′, -of′) *n. Mech.* A device for shutting something off.

shut-out (shut′out′) *n.* **1.** A shutting out; esp., a lockout. **2.** In sports, a game in which one side is prevented from scoring.

shut-ter (shut′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which shuts. **2.** That which shuts out or excludes; esp., a cover or screen, usu. hinged, for closing a window. **3.** *Photog.* Any of various mechanisms for momentarily admitting light through a camera lens to the film or plate. — *v.t.* To furnish, close, or divide off with shutters.

shut-tle (shut′l) *n.* **1.** A device used in weaving to carry the weft to and fro between the warp threads. **2.** A similar rotating or other device in a sewing machine or used in tatting. **3.** A transport system operating between two nearby points. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To move to and fro, like a shuttle. [OE *scytel* missile]

shut-tle-cock (shut′l-kok′) *n.* A rounded piece of cork, with a crown of feathers, used in badminton and battledore; also, the game of battledore. — *v.t.* To send or knock back and forth like a shuttlecock.

shy[1] (shī) *v.i.* **shied, shy·ing** **1.** To start suddenly aside, as in fear: said of a horse. **2.** To draw back, as from doubt or caution: with *off* or *away*. — *adj.* **shi·er** or **shy·er, shi·est** or **shy·est** **1.** Easily frightened or startled; timorous. **2.** Bashful; coy. **3.** Circumspect, as from motives of caution; wary: with *of*. **4.** Not easy to perceive, seize, or secure; elusive. **5.** Not prolific: said of plants, trees, or, rarely, birds. **6.** *Informal* Having less money than is called for or required: to be *shy* a dollar. **7.** *Informal* Short; lacking: often with *on*. — *n.* A starting aside, as in fear. [OE *scēoh* timid] — **shy′ness** *n.*

shy[2] (shī) *v.t. & v.i.* **shied, shy·ing** To throw with a swift sidelong motion. — *n. pl.* **shies** A careless throw or fling. [Origin unknown]

shy·er (shī′ər) *n.* **1.** One who shies. **2.** See SHIER.

Shy·lock (shī′lok) In Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, a revengeful usurer. — *n. Slang* Any relentless creditor.

shy·ly (shī′lē) *adv.* In a shy manner: also spelled *shily*.

shy·ster (shis′tər) *n. Slang* Anyone, esp. a lawyer, who conducts his business in an unscrupulous or tricky manner. [Origin uncertain]

si[1] (sē) *n. Music* Formerly ti[1].

si[2] (sē) *adv.* Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and sometimes French, for "yes." [< L *sic* thus]

Si *Chem.* Silicon.

sial- *combining form* Saliva; pertaining to saliva. Also, before vowels, **sial-**. [< Gk. *sialon* saliva]

Si·a·mese (sī′ə·mēz′, -mēs′) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to Thailand (Siam), its people, or their language. **2.** Closely connected; twin. — *n.* **1.** *pl.* **·mese** A native of Siam, belonging to the Thai stock. **2.** The Thai language of the people of Siam, now officially called *Thai*.

Siamese cat A breed of short-haired cat, typically fawn-colored, with dark-tipped ears, tail, feet, and face, and blue, gently slanting eyes.

SIAMESE CAT (About 11 inches high at shoulder)

Siamese twins Any twins joined together at birth. [after the two Chinese males, Eng and Chang, 1811–74, born in Siam, whose bodies were joined by a fleshy band]

sib (sib) *Rare n.* **1.** A blood relation; kinsman. **2.** Kinsmen collectively; relatives. — *adj.* **1.** Related by blood; akin. **2.** Related; similar. Also **sibb.** [OE *sibb*]

sib·bo·leth (sib′ə·leth) See SHIBBOLETH.

sib·i·lant (sib′ə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Hissing. **2.** *Phonet.* Denoting those consonants produced by the fricative passage of breath through a very narrow orifice, in the front part of the mouth, as (s), (z), (sh), and (zh). — *n. Phonet.* A sibilant consonant. [< L *sibilans, -antis*, ppr. of *sibilare* to hiss] — **sib′i·lance, sib′i·lan·cy** *n.* — **sib′i·lant·ly** *adv.*

sib·ling (sib′ling) *n.* A brother or sister. [OE, a relative]

sib·yl (sib′əl) *n.* **1.** In ancient Greece and Rome, any of several women who prophesied under the supposed inspiration of some deity. **2.** A fortuneteller; sorceress. [< F < L *sibylla* < Gk.] — **sib′yl·line** (-īn, -ēn, in), **si·byl·ic** (si·bil′·ik), **si·byl′lic** *adj.*

sic[1] (sik) *adv.* So; thus: inserted in brackets after a quotation to indicate that it is accurately reproduced even though it may seem questionable or incorrect. [< L]

sic[2] (sik) *v.t.* **sicked, sick·ing** To sick. See SICK[2].

Si·cil·i·an (si·sil′ē·ən, -sil′yən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Sicily or its people: also **Si·ca′ni·an** (-ka′nē·ən). — *n.* An inhabitant or native of Sicily.

sick[1] (sik) *adj.* **1.** Affected with disease; ill. **2.** Of or used by ill persons: often used in combination: *sickroom*. **3.** Affected by nausea; desiring to vomit. **4.** Expressive of or experiencing disgust or unpleasant emotion. **5.** Impaired or unsound from any cause. **6.** Mentally unsound. **7.** Pallid; wan. **8.** Depressed and longing: *sick* for the sea. **9.** Disinclined by reason of satiety or disgust; surfeited: with *of*. **10.** Sadistic or macabre; morbid: *sick* jokes. — *n.* Sick people collectively: with *the*. [OE *sēoc*]

— **Syn. 2, 3.** In U.S. usage, *sick* is a general term that may refer to a slight ailment or the most severe illness; it may also mean nauseated, the sense it always bears in British usage. *Ill* is a close synonym but may refer to a greater variety of symptoms. *Unwell* is similar to *ill*, but is sometimes felt to be affected. *Ailing* and *indisposed* refer to slight illnesses. *Ailing* implies a minor, but chronic, condition; *indisposed* suggests a trivial or temporary illness that prevents normal activity.

sick[2] (sik) *v.t.* **1.** To attack: used in the imperative as an order to a dog. **2.** To urge to attack: I'll *sick* the dog on you. Also spelled *sic*. [Var. of SEEK]

sick·bay (sik′bā′) *n.* That part of a ship or of a naval base set aside for the care of the sick.

sick·bed (sik′bed′) *n.* The bed a sick person lies on.

sick call *Mil.* **1.** The daily period during which all nonhospitalized sick or injured personnel report to the medical officer. **2.** The call or signal that announces this.

sick·en (sik′ən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become sick or disgusted. — **sick′en·er** *n.*

sick·en·ing (sik′ən·ing) *adj.* Disgusting; revolting; nauseating. — **sick′en·ing·ly** *adv.*

sick headache Headache with nausea, esp., migraine.

sick·ish (sik′ish) *adj.* **1.** Somewhat sick. **2.** Slightly nauseating. — **sick′ish·ly** *adv.* — **sick′ish·ness** *n.*

sick·le (sik′əl) *n.* An implement with a curved or crescent-shaped blade mounted on a short handle, used for cutting tall grass, grains, etc. — *v.t.* **·led, ·ling** To cut with a sickle, as grass. [OE < L *secare* to cut]

sickle cell A crescent-shaped red blood corpuscle containing a genetically transmitted type of hemoglobin in which the oxygen concentration is below normal, and causing an anemia (**sickle cell anemia**) occurring chiefly among Negroes.

sick·ly (sik′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** **1.** Habitually indisposed; ailing; unhealthy. **2.** Marked by the prevalence of sickness: a *sickly* summer. **3.** Nauseating; disgusting. **4.** Pertaining to or characteristic of sickness: a *sickly* appearance. **5.** Weak; faint. — *adv.* In a sick manner; poorly: also **sick′li·ly.** — *v.t.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** To make sickly, as in color or complexion. — **sick′li·ness** *n.*

sick·ness (sik′nis) *n.* **1.** The state of being sick. **2.** A particular form of disease. **3.** Nausea.

sick·room (sik′rōōm′, -rŏŏm′) *n.* A room in which a sick person lies or stays.

side (sīd) *n.* **1.** Any one of the bounding lines of a surface or of the bounding surfaces of a solid object; also, a particular line or surface other than top or bottom: the *side* of a mountain. **2.** A lateral part of a surface or object, usu. designated as *right* or *left*. **3.** Either of the two surfaces of a piece of paper, cloth, etc.; also, a specific surface of something: the rough *side* of sandpaper. **4.** One of two or more contrasted directions, parts, or places: the east *side* of town. **5.** A distinct party or body of competitors or partisans. **6.** An opinion, aspect, or point of view: my *side* of the question. **7.** Family connection, esp. by descent through one parent. **8.** The lateral half of a slaughtered animal. **9.** Either half of the human body. **10.** The space beside someone. **11.** In billiards, a lateral spin given to the cue ball. **12.** In sports, a team. — **side by side** Beside or next to each other. — **to take sides** To support a particular opinion, point of view, etc. — **Syn.** See PHASE. — *adj.* **1.** Situated at or on one side: a *side* window. **2.** Being or viewed as if from one side: a *side* glance. **3.** Directed towards one side: a *side* blow. **4.** Not primary; subordinate: a *side* issue. — *v.t.* **sid·ed, sid·ing** To provide with sides, as a building. — **to side with** To support or take the part of. [OE *sīde*]

side-arm (sīd′ärm) *adj.* Executed with the hand level with the elbow, as a pitch. — *adv.* In a sidearm manner.

side arms Weapons worn at the side, as pistols, etc.

side-band (sīd′band′) *n. Telecom.* One of the two bands immediately adjacent to a carrier frequency, corresponding to the band-width of the modulating signal.

side-board (sīd′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* A piece of dining-room furniture for holding tableware.

side-burns (sīd′bûrnz′) *n.pl. Chiefly U.S.* The hair growing on the sides of a man's face below the hairline, esp. when worn as whiskers. [Alter. of BURNSIDES]

side-car (sīd′kär′) *n.* A small, one-wheeled passenger car attached to the side of a motorcycle.

sid·ed (sī′did) *adj.* Having or characterized by (a specified kind or number of) sides: used in combination: *one-sided*.

side effect A secondary, usu. injurious effect, as of a drug.
side·kick (sīd′kik′) *n. U.S. Slang* A close friend; buddy.
side·light (sīd′līt′) *n.* **1.** A side window. **2.** A light coming from the side. **3.** Incidental facts or information.
side·line (sīd′līn′) *n.* **1.** An auxiliary line of goods sold by a store or a commercial traveler. **2.** Any additional or secondary work differing from one's main job. **3.** In sports: **a** One of the lines bounding the two sides of a football field, tennis court, etc. **b** *Often pl.* The area just outside these lines. Also **side line.** — *v.t.* **·lined, ·lin·ing** To prevent or remove (someone) from active participation.
side·long (sīd′lông′, -long′) *adj.* **1.** Inclining, tending or directed to one side. **2.** Indirect; sly. — *adv.* In a lateral or oblique direction.
side·piece (sīd′pēs′) *n.* A piece at or forming a side.
si·de·re·al (sī·dir′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to stars. **2.** Measured by means of the stars: *sidereal* year. [< L < *sidus* star] — **si·de′re·al·ly** *adv.*
sidereal year The period of 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 9 seconds in which the sun apparently returns to the same position among the stars.
sidero-[1] *combining form* Iron; of or pertaining to iron. Also, before vowels, **sider-**. [< Gk. *sidēros* iron]
sidero-[2] *combining form* Star; stellar. Also, before vowels, **sider-**. [< L *sidus* star]
sid·er·o·lite (sid′ər·ə·līt′) *n.* A meteorite consisting of iron containing embedded grains of certain minerals.
side·sad·dle (sīd′sad′l) *n.* A woman's saddle having one stirrup and designed so that both legs of the rider are on the same side of the horse. — *adv.* On or as on a sidesaddle.
side show **1.** A small show incidental to but connected with a larger or more important one: a circus *side show.* **2.** Any subordinate issue or attraction.
side·slip (sīd′slip′) *v.i.* **·slipped, ·slip·ping** To slip or skid sideways. — *n.* **1.** A lateral skid. **2.** *Aeron.* A downward, sideways slipping of an airplane along the lateral axis.
side·split·ting (sīd′split′ing) *adj.* **1.** Hearty and uproarious, as laughter. **2.** Causing great laughter or hilarity.
side·step (sīd′step′) *v.* **·stepped, ·step·ping** *v.i.* **1.** To step to one side. **2.** To avoid responsibility, conflict, etc. — *v.t.* **3.** To avoid, as an issue, or postpone, as a decision; evade.
side step **1.** A step to one side, as of a pugilist. **2.** *Usu. pl.* One of a series of steps at the side of a building, etc.
side·swipe (sīd′swīp′) *n.* A sweeping blow along the side. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·swiped, ·swip·ing** To strike or collide with such a blow.
side·track (sīd′trak′) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To move to a siding, as a railroad train. **2.** To divert or distract from the main issue or subject. — *n.* A railroad siding; also, a branch line.
side·walk (sīd′wôk′) *n. U.S.* A path or pavement at the side of the street, for the use of pedestrians.
side·ward (sīd′wərd) *adj.* Directed or moving toward or from the side; lateral. — *adv.* Toward or from the side; laterally: also **side′wards** (-wərdz).
side·ways (sīd′wāz′) *adv.* **1.** From the side. **2.** So as to incline toward the side, or with the side forward: Hold it *sideways.* **3.** Toward one side; obliquely. — *adj.* Moving to or from one side. Also **side′way′, side′wise′** (-wīz′).
side wheel A wheel at the side; esp., one of two paddle wheels on either side of a steamboat. — **side-wheel** (sīd′hwēl′) *adj.* — **side′-wheel′er** *n.*
sid·ing (sī′ding) *n.* **1.** A railway track by the side of the main track. **2.** The boarding that covers the side of a wooden house, etc.
si·dle (sīd′l) *v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** To move sideways, esp. in a cautious or stealthy manner. — *n.* A sideways movement. [Back formation < obs. *sidling* sidelong] — **si′dler** *n.*
siege (sēj) *n.* **1.** The act of surrounding any fortified area with the intention of capturing it. **2.** A steady attempt to win something. **3.** The time during which one undergoes a protracted illness or difficulty. — **to lay siege to** To attempt to capture or gain; besiege. — *v.t.* **sieged, sieg·ing** To lay siege to. [< OF < L < *sedere* to sit]
Sieg·fried (sēg′frēd, *Ger.* zēkh′frēt) The hero of the *Nibelungenlied* and several other Germanic legends.
si·en·na (sē·en′ə) *n.* **1.** A brownish yellow clay containing oxides of iron and manganese, used as a pigment. **2.** The brownish yellow color of this pigment. [< Ital. (*terra di*) *Siena* (earth of) Siena]
si·er·ra (sē·er′ə) *n.* A mountain range or chain, esp. one having a jagged outline. [< Sp. < L *serra* saw]
si·es·ta (sē·es′tə) *n.* A midday or afternoon nap. [< Sp. < L *sexta* (*hora*) sixth (hour), noon]
sieve (siv) *n.* A utensil for straining or sifting, consisting of a frame with a bottom of wire mesh, etc. — *v.t. & v.i.* **sieved, siev·ing** To pass through a sieve. [OE *sife* sieve]
sift (sift) *v.t.* **1.** To pass through a sieve in order to separate the fine parts from the coarse. **2.** To scatter as by a sieve. **3.** To examine carefully. **4.** To separate; distinguish: to *sift* fact from fiction. — *v.i.* **5.** To use a sieve. **6.** To fall through or as through a sieve. [OE *siftan*] — **sift′er** *n.*
sigh (sī) *v.i.* **1.** To draw in and exhale a deep, audible breath, as in expressing sorrow, weariness, etc. **2.** To make a sound suggestive of a sigh, as the wind. **3.** To yearn; long. — *v.t.* **4.** To express with a sigh. — *n.* The act or sound of sighing. [Back formation < ME *sighte* < OE *sīcan* to sigh]
sight (sīt) *n.* **1.** The act or fact of seeing. **2.** That which is seen; a view. **3.** *pl.* Things worth seeing: the *sights* of the town. **4.** The faculty of seeing; vision. **5.** The range or scope of vision. **6.** A device to assist aim, as on a gun, etc. **7.** An aim or observation taken with a telescope or other sighting instrument. **8.** *Informal* Something unusual or ugly to look at: He was a *sight.* **9.** *Dial.* A great quantity or number: a *sight* of people. — **at** (or **on**) **sight** As soon as seen. — **not by a long sight** **1.** Never; not at all. **2.** Not nearly. — **sight unseen** Without ever having seen the object in question. — *v.t.* **1.** To perceive with the eyes; observe. **2.** To take a sight of. **3.** To furnish with sights, or adjust the sights of, as a gun. — *v.i.* **4.** To take aim. **5.** To make an observation or sight. [OE *gesiht*]
sight draft A draft or bill payable on presentation.
sight·less (sīt′lis) *adj.* **1.** Lacking sight; blind. **2.** Invisible. — **sight′less·ly** *adv.* — **sight′less·ness** *n.*
sight·ly (sīt′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** **1.** Pleasant to the view; comely. **2.** Affording a fine view. — **sight′li·ness** *n.*
sight·see·ing (sīt′sē′ing) *n.* The visiting of places of interest. — **sight·seer** (sīt′sē′ər).
sig·ma (sig′mə) *n.* The 18th letter in the Greek alphabet, written Σ (capital), *σ* (small initial or medial), or *ς* (small final), and corresponding to English *s* in *so.* See ALPHABET.
sig·moid (sig′moid) *adj.* Shaped like the Greek capital letter sigma (Σ), or like the letter S. Also **sig·moi·dal** (sig·moid′l). [< Gk. *sigmoeidēs*]
sign (sīn) *n.* **1.** A motion or action indicating a thought, desire, command, etc. **2.** A board, placard, etc., generally bearing an inscription conveying information of some kind: a street *sign*; an advertising *sign.* **3.** Any arbitrary mark, symbol, or token used to indicate a word, etc., or having its own specific meaning: a *sign* of mourning. **4.** Any indication, trace, or evidence: *signs* of poverty. **5.** A vestige; trace. **6.** Any omen or miraculous occurrence. **7.** One of the twelve equal divisions of the zodiac. — *v.t.* **1.** To write one's signature or initials on. **2.** *Law* To acknowledge an instrument by affixing a mark or seal to. **3.** To mark or consecrate with a sign, esp. with a cross. **4.** To engage by obtaining the signature of to a contract; also, to hire (oneself) out for work: often with *on.* **5.** To dispose of or transfer title to by signature: with *off, over,* or *away.* **6.** To express or indicate with a sign. — *v.i.* **7.** To make signs or signals. **8.** To write one's signature or initials. — **to sign off** *Telecom.* To announce the close of a program from a broadcasting station and stop transmission. — **to sign up** To enlist, as in a military service. [< OF < L *signum*] — **sign′er** *n.*
sig·nal (sig′nəl) *n.* **1.** A sign or means of communication agreed upon or understood, and used to convey information, a command, etc. **2.** *Telecom.* An electromagnetic impulse that transmits information, whether direct or in code. **3.** Anything that incites to action or movement. **4.** In some card games, a lead or play that conveys certain information to one's partner. — *adj.* **1.** Notable; conspicuous. **2.** Used to signal. — *v.* **sig·naled** or **·nalled, sig·nal·ing** or **·nal·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To make signals to. **2.** To communicate by signals. — *v.i.* **3.** To make a signal or signals. [< F < L *signum* sign] — **sig′nal·er** or **sig′nal·ler** *n.*
Signal Corps A branch of the U.S. Army responsible for communications equipment and systems, photography, electronic reconnaissance devices, and related matters.
sig·nal·ize (sig′nəl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To render noteworthy. **2.** To point out with care.
sig·nal·ly (sig′nəl·ē) *adv.* In a signal manner; eminently.
sig·nal·man (sig′nəl·mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who makes or interprets signals, esp. railroad signals.
sig·na·to·ry (sig′nə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Bound by the terms of a signed document; having signed: *signatory* powers. — *n.* One who has signed or is bound by a document; esp., a nation so bound. [< L < *signum* sign]
sig·na·ture (sig′nə·chər) *n.* **1.** The name of a person written by himself; also, the act of signing one's name. **2.** A distinctive mark, characteristic, etc. **3.** *Printing* **a** A distinguishing mark, letter, or number on the first page of each form or sheet of a book, as a guide to the binder. **b** The form or sheet on which this mark is placed. **c** A large printed sheet that, when folded, forms four, or a multiple of four, pages of a book. **4.** *Music* A symbol or group of symbols at the beginning of a staff, indicating meter or key. **5.** *Telecom.* The musical number or sound effect that introduces or closes a program. [< F < Med.L < L *signum* sign]
sign·board (sīn′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* A board on which a sign, direction, or advertisement is displayed.
sig·net (sig′nit) *n.* **1.** A seal, esp. one used to authenticate documents, etc. **2.** An impression made by or as by a seal. [< F *signe* sign < L *signum*]

signet ring A seal ring.
sig·nif·i·cance (sig·nif′ə·kəns) *n.* **1.** The character or state of being significant. **2.** Meaning. **3.** Importance; consequence. Also **sig·nif′i·can·cy.**
sig·nif·i·cant (sig·nif′ə·kənt) *adj.* **1.** Having or expressing a meaning; bearing or embodying a meaning. **2.** Conveying or having some covert meaning: a *significant* look. **3.** Important; weighty; momentous. [< L < *signum* sign + *facere* to do, make] — **sig·nif′i·cant·ly** *adv.*
sig·ni·fi·ca·tion (sig′nə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** Meaning; sense; import. **2.** The act of signifying; communication. — **sig·nif·i·ca·tive** (sig·nif′ə·kā′tiv, -kə·tiv) *adj.*
sig·ni·fy (sig′nə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make known by signs or words; express. **2.** To betoken in any way; import. **3.** To amount to; mean. — *v.i.* **4.** To have some meaning or importance; matter. — **sig′ni·fi′er** *n.*
sign language A system of communication by means of signs, largely manual.
si·gnor (sēn′yôr) *n.* An anglicized form of the Italian title *signore.* Also **si′gnior.**
si·gno·ra (sē·nyô′rä) *n. pl.* **·re** (-rā) *Italian* The Italian title of courtesy for a married woman, equivalent to *Mrs.*
si·gno·re (sē·nyô′rē) *n. pl.* **·ri** (-rē) The Italian title of courtesy for a man, equivalent to *Mr., sir.*
si·gno·ri·na (sē′nyô·rē′nä) *n. pl.* **·ne** (-nā) The Italian title of courtesy for an unmarried woman, equivalent to *Miss.*
sign·post (sīn′pōst′) *n.* **1.** A post bearing a sign. **2.** Any sign, clue, or indication.
Sig·urd (sig′ōōrd) In German mythology, a hero who corresponds to Siegfried, the hero of the *Nibelungenlied.*
Sikh (sēk) *n.* One of a religious and military sect founded in India early in the 16th century. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Sikhs. [< Hind., lit., disciple] — **Sikh′ism** *n.*
si·lage (sī′lij) *n.* Ensilage. [< ENSILAGE]
si·lence (sī′ləns) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being silent. **2.** Absence of sound or noise; stillness. **3.** A failure to mention or take note of something. — *v.t.* **·lenced, ·lenc·ing 1.** To make silent. **2.** To stop the motion or activity of. **3.** To force (guns, etc.) to cease firing, as by bombing, etc. — *interj.* Be silent. [< F < L *silere* to be silent]
si·lenc·er (sī′lən·sər) *n.* **1.** A tubular device attached to the muzzle of a firearm to reduce the sound of the report. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* A muffler (def. 1). **3.** One who or that which silences.
si·lent (sī′lənt) *adj.* **1.** Not making any sound or noise; noiseless; still; mute. **2.** Not given to speech; taciturn. **3.** Making no mention or allusion. **4.** Unspoken or unuttered: *silent* grief. **5.** Free from activity, motion, or disturbance; calm; quiet: a *silent* retreat. [< L *silere* to be silent] — **si′·lent·ly** *adv.* — **si′lent·ness** *n.*
silent butler A small receptacle with a handle and hinged lid, used for collecting refuse from ashtrays, etc.
silent partner One who has invested money in a business but does not participate in its management or its affairs.
si·lex (sī′leks) *n.* **1.** Silica. **2.** Glass that is resistant to heat. [< L, flint]
Si·lex (sī′leks) *n.* A coffee maker: a trade name. Also **si′lex.**
sil·hou·ette (sil′ōō·et′) *n.* **1.** A profile drawing or portrait having its outline filled in with uniform color, commonly black, and often cut out of paper, etc. **2.** The figure cast by a shadow; also, the outline of a solid figure. — *v.t.* **·et·ted, ·et·ting** To cause to appear in silhouette; outline; make a silhouette profile of. [after Étienne de *Silhouette,* 1709–67, French minister of finance]
silic- Var. of SILICO-.
sil·i·ca (sil′i·kə) *n.* A white or colorless, very hard, crystalline silicon dioxide, SiO_2, the principal constituent of quartz and sand: also called *silex.* [< NL < L *silex, silicis* flint]
sil·i·cate (sil′i·kit) *n. Chem.* A salt or ester of silicic acid.
si·li·ceous (si·lish′əs) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, resembling, or containing silica. **2.** Growing or living on soil rich in silica. Also **si·li′cious.** [< L < *silex, silicis* flint]
si·lic·ic (si·lis′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or derived from silica or silicon. [< SILIC- + -IC]
silicic acid *Chem.* Any of several gelatinous and easily decomposed compounds of silica and water; esp., H_4SiO_4, associated in the formation of many metallic silicates.
silico- *combining form* Silicon; of, related to, or containing silicon. Also, before vowels, *silic-.* [< L *silex, silicis* flint]
sil·i·con (sil′ə·kən, -kon) *n.* A widely distributed nonmetallic element (symbol Si) prepared as a dull brown amorphous powder, as shining metallic scales, or as a steel-gray crystalline mass. See ELEMENT. [< L *silex, silicis* flint]
sil·i·cone (sil′ə·kōn) *n. Chem.* Any of various compounds containing a silicon-carbon bond, used as lubricants, insulating resins, waterproofing materials, etc. [< SILICON]
sil·i·co·sis (sil′ə·kō′sis) *n. Pathol.* A pulmonary disease caused by the inhalation of finely powdered silica or quartz.
silk (silk) *n.* **1.** The creamy-white or yellowish, very fine natural fiber produced by the larvae of silkworms. **2.** A similar filamentous material spun by other insects. **3.** Cloth, thread, or garments made of silk. **4.** Anything resembling silk. — **to hit the silk** *Slang* To descend from an aircraft by parachute. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of silk. **2.** Resembling silk. **3.** Of or pertaining to silk. — *v.t.* **1.** To clothe or cover with silk. — *v.i.* **2.** To produce the portion of the flower called silk: said of corn. [OE < L *sericus* silken]
silk cotton The silky seed covering of various tropical American trees; esp., kapok fiber.
silk·en (sil′kən) *adj.* **1.** Made of silk. **2.** Like silk; glossy; delicate; smooth. **3.** Dressed in silk. **4.** Luxurious.
silk hat A high cylindrical hat covered with fine silk plush, worn by men in dress clothes.
silk-screen process (silk′skrēn′) A stencil process that prints designs by forcing ink through the open meshes of a silk screen.
silk-stock·ing (silk′stok′ing) *adj.* **1.** Wearing silk stockings. **2.** Wealthy; luxurious. — *n.* One who wears silk stockings; a member of the wealthy class.
silk·worm (silk′wûrm′) *n.* The caterpillar of certain moths that spin a dense silken cocoon; esp., the **common silkworm,** yielding commercial silk.
silk·y (sil′kē) *adj.* **silk·i·er, silk·i·est 1.** Made of or resembling silk; soft; lustrous. **2.** Long and fine, as hairs, or covered with such hairs, as leaves. **3.** Gentle or insinuating in manner. — **silk′i·ly** *adv.* — **silk′i·ness** *n.*
sill (sil) *n.* **1.** *Archit.* A horizontal, lower member of something, as the bottom of a door or window casing. **2.** A timber in the frame of the floor of a railroad car: end *sill.* [OE *syll*]
sil·ly (sil′ē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est 1.** Destitute of ordinary good sense; foolish. **2.** Stupid; absurd. **3.** *Informal* Stunned, as by a blow. — *n. pl.* **·lies** *Informal* A silly person. [OE *sǽsig* happy] — **sil′li·ly** *adv.* — **sil′li·ness** *n.*
si·lo (sī′lō) *n. pl.* **·los** A pit or tower in which fodder, grain, or other food is stored green to be fermented and used as feed for cattle, etc. — *v.t.* **·loed, ·lo·ing** To put or preserve in a silo; turn into ensilage. [< Sp. < L < Gk. *siros* pit for corn]

SILO (Showing interior and pit)

silt (silt) *n.* An earthy sediment consisting of fine particles of rock and soil suspended in and carried by water. — *v.i.* **1.** To become filled or choked with silt: usu. with *up.* **2.** To ooze; drift. — *v.t.* **3.** To fill or choke with silt or mud: usually with *up.* [ME *cylte*] — **silt′y** *adj.*
Si·lu·ri·an (si·lōōr′ē·ən, sī-) *adj. Geol.* Of the period or rock system of the Paleozoic era. See chart for GEOLOGY. — *n. Geol.* The Silurian period or system.
sil·ver (sil′vər) *n.* **1.** A white, ductile, and very malleable metallic element (symbol Ag) of high electric conductivity, found native as well as in combination, and used in medicine, industry, and the arts: also called *argentum.* See ELEMENT. **2.** Silver regarded as a commodity or as a standard of currency. **3.** Silver coin; cash or change; money in general. **4.** Articles for domestic use made of silver or silver plate; silverware. **5.** A lustrous, pale gray color resembling that of silver. — *adj.* **1.** Made of or coated with silver. **2.** Of, containing, or producing silver. **3.** Having a silvery lustre. **4.** Having the soft, clear tones of a silver bell. **5.** Persuasive; eloquent. **6.** White or hoary, as the hair. **7.** Favoring the use of silver as a monetary standard. — *v.t.* **1.** To coat or plate with silver or with a silver-like substance. **2.** To make silvery. — *v.i.* **3.** To become silver or white. [OE *seolfor*] — **sil′ver·er** *n.*
silver anniversary A 25th anniversary.
silver certificate *U.S.* Paper currency representing one dollar in silver bullion on deposit in the U.S. treasury, and valid as full legal tender.
sil·ver·fish (sil′vər·fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es 1.** A silvery-white variety of the goldfish. **2.** Any of numerous flat-bodied, wingless insects that damage books, papers, etc.
silver fox 1. A color phase of the red fox of North America, having fur that is interspersed with white-tipped hairs. **2.** The fur of this animal.
silver gray A light, slightly bluish gray, the color of silver.
silver nitrate *Chem.* A crystalline, poisonous compound, $AgNO_3$, obtained by treating silver with nitric acid, widely used in industry, photography, and medicine.
silver plate Articles, as table utensils, made of silver or metal plated with silver.
sil·ver·smith (sil′vər·smith′) *n.* A worker in silver; a maker of silverware.
silver standard A monetary standard or system based on silver.

Silver Star A U.S. military decoration, first issued in 1932, awarded for gallantry in action. See DECORATION.
Silver State Nickname of Nevada.
sil·ver-tongued (sil′vər·tungd′) *adj.* Eloquent.
sil·ver·ware (sil′vər·wâr′) *n.* Articles, esp., for table use, made of silver.
sil·ver·y (sil′vər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Containing or adorned with silver. **2.** Resembling silver, as in luster or hue. **3.** Soft and clear in sound. — **sil′ver·i·ness** *n.*
s'il vous plait (sēl vōō plā′) *French* If you please; please.
Sim·chath To·rah (sim′khäs tō′rə) A Jewish holiday; literally, the rejoicing over the Law. Also **Sim′hath To′rah.**
Sim·e·on (sim′ē·ən) In the Old Testament, a son of Jacob and Leah. *Gen.* xxix 33. — *n.* The tribe of Israel descended from him.
sim·i·an (sim′ē·ən) *adj.* Pertaining to, resembling, or characteristic of apes and monkeys. — *n.* An ape or monkey. [< L *simia* ape]
sim·i·lar (sim′ə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Bearing resemblance to one another or to something else; like, but not completely identical. **2.** Of like characteristics, nature, or degree; of the same scope, order, or purpose. **3.** *Geom.* Shaped alike, as figures that may become congruent by the alteration of linear dimensions, the angles remaining unchanged. [< F < L *similis* like] — **sim′i·lar·ly** adv.
sim·i·lar·i·ty (sim′ə·lar′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The quality or state or being similar. **2.** The point in which the objects compared are similar. **3.** *pl.* Things that coincide with or resemble each other. — **Syn.** See ANALOGY.
sim·i·le (sim′ə·lē) *n.* A figure of speech expressing comparison or likeness by the use of such terms as *like, as, so,* etc.: distinguished from *metaphor.* [< L, neut. of *similis* similar] — **Syn.** *Simile* is a literary device to conjure up a vivid picture; "an Alpine peak like a frosted cake" is a *simile.* A *metaphor* omits "like" or "as", the words of comparison; "the silver pepper of the stars" is a *metaphor.* A *comparison* brings together things of the same kind or class.
si·mil·i·tude (si·mil′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* **1.** Similarity. **2.** A counterpart or likeness. [< OF < L < *similis* like]
sim·mer (sim′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To boil gently or with a subdued sound; be or stay at or just below the boiling point. **2.** To be on the point of breaking forth, as with rage. — *v.t.* **3.** To keep at or just below the boiling point. — **to simmer down** **1.** To reduce liquid content by boiling gently. **2.** *Informal* To subside from a state of anger or excitement. — *n.* The state or process of simmering. [< obs. *simper* to boil]
Si·mon Le·gree (sī′mən li·grē′) **1.** A cruel overseer of slaves in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* **2.** Any brutal master.
Simon Peter See PETER.
si·mon-pure (sī′mən·pyōōr′) *adj.* Real; genuine; authentic. [after *Simon Pure,* a character in the comedy *A Bold Stroke for a Wife* (1718), who is impersonated by a rival]
si·mo·ny (sī′mə·nē, sim′ə-) *n.* Traffic in sacred things; the purchase or sale of ecclesiastical preferment. [< Med.L < *Simon* (*Magus*), who offered Peter money for the gift of the Holy Spirit] — **si′mon·ist** *n.*
si·moom (si·mōōm′, sī-) *n. Meteorol.* A hot dry wind of the desert in northern Africa, Arabia, etc. Also **si·moon′** (-mōōn′). [< Arabic < *samma* poison]
sim·per (sim′pər) *v.i.* **1.** To smile in a silly, self-conscious manner; smirk. — *v.t.* **2.** To say with a simper. — *n.* A silly, self-conscious smile. [< Scand. Cf. Sw. and Norw. *semper* coy.] — **sim′per·er** *n.* — **sim′per·ing·ly** *adv.*
sim·ple (sim′pəl) *adj.* **·pler, ·plest** **1.** Consisting of one thing; single; uncombined. **2.** Not complex or complicated; easy. **3.** Without embellishment; plain; unadorned. **4.** Free from affectation; sincere; artless. **5.** Of humble rank; lowly. **6.** Silly; feeble-minded. **7.** Insignificant; trifling. **8.** Lacking luxury; frugal. **9.** Having nothing added; mere. **10.** *Chem.* Of one element; also, unmixed. **11.** *Bot.* Not divided; entire. — *n.* **1.** That which is simple; an uncomplex, or natural thing. **2.** A simpleton. [< OF < L *simplex*]
simple fraction *Math.* A fraction in which both numerator and denominator are integers.
simple interest Interest computed on the original principal alone.
simple machine Any of certain elementary mechanical contrivances, as the lever, the wedge, the inclined plane, the screw, the wheel and axle, and the pulley.
sim·ple-mind·ed (sim′pəl·mīn′did) *adj.* **1.** Artless or unsophisticated. **2.** Mentally defective. **3.** Stupid; foolish. — **sim′ple-mind′ed·ly** *adv.* — **sim′ple-mind′ed·ness** *n.*
simple sentence See under SENTENCE.
sim·ple·ton (sim′pəl·tən) *n.* A weak-minded or silly person.
simplici- *combining form* Simple. Also, before vowels, **simplic-**. [< L *simplex, simplicis* simple]
sim·plic·i·ty (sim·plis′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being simple; freedom from admixture, ostentation, subtlety, difficulty, etc. **2.** Sincerity; unaffectedness. **3.** Lack of intelligence or good sense. [< OF < L *simplicitas*]
sim·pli·fy (sim′plə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To make more simple or less complex. [< F < Med.L < L *simplex* simple + *facere* to make] — **sim′pli·fi·ca′tion** *n.* — **sim′pli·fi′er** *n.*
sim·plis·tic (sim·plis′tik) *adj.* Tending to ignore complications or details. — **sim′plism** *n.* — **sim·plis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
sim·ply (sim′plē) *adv.* **1.** In a simple manner; intelligibly. **2.** Without ostentation or extravagance. **3.** Without subtlety or affectation; unassumingly. **4.** Merely. **5.** Without sense or discretion; foolishly. **6.** Really; absolutely: *simply* charming: sometimes used ironically.
sim·u·la·crum (sim′yə·lā′krəm) *n. pl.* **·cra** (-krə) **1.** An image. **2.** An imaginary, visionary, or shadowy semblance. **3.** A sham. [See SIMULATE.]
sim·u·late (*v.* sim′yə·lāt; *for adj., also* -lit) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To have the appearance or form of, without the reality; counterfeit; imitate. **2.** To make a pretense of. — *adj.* Pretended. [< L < *similis* like] — **sim′u·la′tor** *n.*
sim·u·la·tion (sim′yə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of simulating; counterfeit; sham. **2.** The taking on of a particular aspect or form. — **sim′u·la′tive, sim′u·la·to′ry** (-lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **sim′u·la′tive·ly** *adv.*
si·mul·cast (sī′məl·kast′, -käst′) *v.t.* **·cast, ·cast·ing** To broadcast by radio and television simultaneously. — *n.* A broadcast transmitted by radio and television simultaneously. [< SIMUL(TANEOUS) + (BROAD)CAST]
si·mul·ta·ne·ous (sī′məl·tā′nē·əs, sim′əl-) *adj.* Occurring, done, or existing at the same time. [< LL < L *simul* at the same time] — **si′mul·ta′ne·ous·ly** *adv.* — **si′mul·ta′ne·ous·ness, si′mul·ta·ne′i·ty** (-tə·nē′ə·tē) *n.*
sin (sin) *n.* **1.** A transgression, esp., when deliberate, of a law having divine authority. **2.** A particular instance of such transgression. **3.** Any offense against a standard: a literary *sin.* — *v.* **sinned, sin·ning** *v.i.* **1.** To commit sin; transgress the divine law. **2.** To violate any requirement of right, duty, etc.; do wrong. — *v.t.* **3.** To commit or do wrongfully. [OE *synn*]
Si·nai (sī′nī, -nē·ī′), **Mount** The mountain where Moses received the law from God. *Ex.* xix.
since (sins) *adv.* **1.** From a past time, mentioned or referred to, up to the present. **2.** At some time between a certain past time or event and the present. **3.** In time before the present; ago; before now. — *prep.* **1.** During or within the time after or later than: *since* you left. **2.** Continuously throughout the time after: *since* noon. — *conj.* **1.** During or within the time after which. **2.** Continuously from the time when. **3.** Because of or following upon the fact that; inasmuch as. [ME < OE *siththan* afterwards]
sin·cere (sin·sir′) *adj.* **1.** Being in reality as it is in appearance; genuine. **2.** Free from hypocrisy; honest. [< L < *sin-* without + stem of *caries* decay] — **sin·cere′ly** *adv.*
sin·cer·i·ty (sin·ser′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state or quality of being sincere; honesty of purpose or character; freedom from hypocrisy, deceit, or simulation. Also **sin·cere′ness.**
sine[1] (sīn) *n. Trig.* In a right triangle, a function of an acute angle, equal to the ratio of the side opposite the angle to the hypotenuse. [< L *sinus* a bend]
si·ne[2] (sī′nē) *prep. Latin* Without.
si·ne·cure (sī′nə·kyōōr, sin′ə-) *n.* **1.** An office or position for which recompense is received, but involving few or no duties. **2.** *Eccl.* A benefice without cure of souls. [< L *sine* without + *cura* care] — **si′ne·cur·ism** *n.* — **si′ne·cur·ist** *n.*
si·ne di·e (sī′nē dī′ē) *Latin* Without setting a day for reassembling; literally, without a day.
si·ne qua non (sī′nē kwä non′) *Latin* That which is indispensable; an essential; literally, without which not.
sin·ew (sin′yōō) *n.* **1.** A tendon or similar fibrous cord. **2.** Strength, or that which supplies strength. — *v.t.* To strengthen or knit together. [OE *seono*] — **sin′ew·less** *adj.*
sin·ew·y (sin′yōō·ē) *adj.* **1.** Characteristic or consisting of a sinew or sinews. **2.** Well supplied with sinews; strong; brawny. **3.** Forceful; vigorous: a *sinewy* style.
sin·ful (sin′fəl) *adj.* Characterized by, suggestive of, or tainted with sin; wicked; immoral. [OE *synfull*] — **sin′ful·ly** *adv.* — **sin′ful·ness** *n.*
sing (sing) *v.* **sang** or (*less commonly*) **sung, sung, sing·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To produce word sounds that differ from speech in that vowels are lengthened and pitches are clearly defined. **2.** To use the voice in this manner for musical rendition or performance. **3.** To produce melodious sounds, as a bird. **4.** To make a melodious sound suggestive of singing, as a teakettle. **5.** To buzz or hum; ring. **6.** To be suitable for singing. **7.** To relate something in verse. — *v.t.* **8.** To produce (a tone or tones) with the voice. **9.** To render (a song, etc.) by singing. **10.** To chant, intone, or utter in a songlike manner. **11.** To bring to a specified condition by singing: *Sing* me to sleep. **12.** To relate in or as in song; acclaim: they *sing* his fame. — **to sing out** *Informal* To call out loudly; shout. — *n.* **1.** A humming sound, as of a bullet in flight. **2.** *Informal* A gathering for general participation in singing. [OE *singan*] — **sing′a·ble** *adj.*
singe (sinj) *v.t.* **singed, singe·ing** **1.** To burn slightly or su-

perficially; scorch. **2.** To remove bristles or feathers from by passing through flame. **3.** To burn the ends of (hair, etc.). — *n.* **1.** The act of singeing, esp. as performed by a barber. **2.** A superficial burn; scorch. [OE *sengan* to scorch, hiss, causative of *singan* to sing]

sing·er[1] (sing′ər) *n.* **1.** One who sings, esp. as a profession. **2.** That which produces a songlike utterance, as a songbird.

sing·er[2] (sin′jər) *n.* One who or that which singes.

Sin·gha·lese (sing′gə·lēz′, -lēs′) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Ceylon, to a people constituting the majority of the inhabitants of Ceylon, or to their language. — *n.* **1.** One of the Singhalese people. **2.** The Indic language of the Singhalese. Also *Sinhalese*. [< Skt. *Sinhala* Ceylon]

sin·gle (sing′gəl) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of one only; individual. **2.** Having no companion or assistant; alone. **3.** Unmarried. **4.** Pertaining to the unmarried state. **5.** Consisting of only one part. **6.** Unswerving in purpose, intention, etc.; sincere. **7.** Designed for use by only one person or individual: a *single* bed. **8.** Engaged in by individuals in opposition to one another: *single* combat. — *n.* **1.** One who or that which is single; a unit. **2.** In baseball, a base hit that enables the batter to reach first base. **3.** A hotel room for one person. **4.** A golf match between two players only: opposed to *foursome*. **5.** In cricket, a hit that scores one run. **6.** *pl.* In tennis, etc., a game having one player on each side. — *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To choose or select (one) from others: usu. with *out*. — *v.i.* **2.** To single-foot. **3.** In baseball, to make a one-base hit. [< OF < L *singulus*] — **sin′gle·ness** *n.*

single bed A bed wide enough for one person.

sin·gle-breast·ed (sing′gəl·bres′tid) *adj.* Having only one thickness of cloth over the breast and fastening in front with a single set of buttons, loops, etc., as a coat or jacket.

single file A line of people, animals, etc., disposed one behind the other, with no two abreast.

sin·gle-hand·ed (sing′gəl·han′did) *adj.* **1.** Having no assistance; unaided. **2.** Having or using but one hand. **3.** Capable of being used with a single hand. **4.** Having only one workman. — **sin′gle-hand′ed·ly** *adv.*

sin·gle-heart·ed (sing′gəl·här′tid) *adj.* Sincere; straightforward; loyal. — **sin′gle-heart′ed·ly** *adv.*

sin·gle-mind·ed (sing′gəl·mīn′did) *adj.* **1.** Having but one purpose or aim. **2.** Free from duplicity; ingenuous; sincere. — **sin′gle-mind′ed·ly** *adv.* — **sin′gle-mind′ed·ness** *n.*

sin·gle-phase (sin′gəl·fāz′) *adj. Electr.* Designating an alternating-current circuit having one phase at any given instant.

sin·gle-stick (sing′gəl·stik′) *n.* **1.** A cudgel. **2.** A stick with a basket-shaped hilt, used in fencing. **3.** The art or practice of fencing with singlesticks.

single tax A tax to be obtained from a single source, esp. from a levy on land and natural resources, as a substitute for all other forms of taxation.

sin·gle·ton (sing′gəl·tən) *n.* **1.** In a hand of cards dealt to one player, a single card of a suit. **2.** Any single thing or individual, as distinguished from a pair or larger group.

sin·gle·tree (sing′gəl·trē′) *n.* A whiffletree.

sin·gly (sing′glē) *adv.* **1.** Without companions or associates; unaided, as an individual. **2.** One by one; one at a time.

sing·song (sing′sông′, -song′) *n.* **1.** Monotonous cadence in speaking or reading. **2.** Inferior verse; doggerel. — *adj.* Monotonous; droning, as verse, speech, etc.

sin·gu·lar (sing′gyə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Extraordinary; remarkable; uncommon. **2.** Odd; peculiar; not customary or usual. **3.** Representing the only one of its type; unique. **4.** *Gram.* Of or designating a word form that denotes one person or thing, or a class considered as a unit: distinguished from *dual, plural*. — *n. Gram.* The singular number, or a singular word form. [< OF < L < *singulus* single] — **sin′gu·lar′i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.* — **sin′gu·lar·ly** *adv.* — **sin′gu·lar·ness** *n.*

sin·gu·lar·ize (sing′gyə·lə·rīz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make or designate as singular.

Sin·ha·lese (sin′hə·lēz′, -lēs′) *adj. & n.* Singhalese.

sin·is·ter (sin′is·tər) *adj.* **1.** Underhandedly or suspiciously wrong or wicked. **2.** Malevolent; evil. **3.** Boding, tending toward, or attended with disaster; unlucky: often with *to*. **4.** *Heraldry* Being on the wearer's left, and hence on the observer's right: opposed to *dexter*. [< F < L *sinister* left] — **sin′is·ter·ly** *adv.* — **sin′is·ter·ness** *n.*

sin·is·tral (sin′is·trəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or turned toward the left. **2.** Left-handed. — **sin′is·tral·ly** *adv.*

sin·is·trorse (sin′is·trôrs, sin′is·trôrs′) *adj. Bot.* Twining spirally toward the left, as certain climbing plants: opposed to *dextrorse*. Also **sin′is·tror′sal**. [< L, ult. < *sinister* left + *versum* turned] — **sin′is·tror′sal·ly** *adv.*

sink (singk) *v.* **sank** or (*less commonly*) **sunk, sunk** (*Obs.* **sunk·en**), **sink·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To go beneath the surface or to the bottom, as of a liquid. **2.** To descend to a lower level; go down, esp. slowly or by degrees. **3.** To descend toward or below the horizon, as the sun. **4.** To incline downward; slope, as land. **5.** To pass into a specified state: to *sink* into a coma. **6.** To fail, as from ill health or lack of strength; approach death. **7.** To become less in force, volume, or degree: His voice *sank* to a whisper. **8.** To become less in value, price, etc. **9.** To decline in moral level, prestige, wealth, etc. **10.** To permeate: The oil *sank* into the wood. **11.** To become hollow; cave in, as the cheeks. **12.** To be impressed or fixed, as in the mind: with *in*. — *v.t.* **13.** To cause to go beneath the surface or to the bottom. **14.** To cause to fall or drop; lower. **15.** To force or drive into place: to *sink* a fence post. **16.** To make (a mine shaft, well, etc.) by digging or excavating. **17.** To reduce in force, volume, or degree. **18.** To debase or degrade, as one's character or honor. **19.** To suppress, hide, or omit. **20.** To defeat; ruin. **21.** To invest. **22.** To invest and subsequently lose. — *n.* **1.** A box-shaped or basinlike porcelain or metal receptacle with a drainpipe and usu. with a water supply. **2.** A cesspool, etc. **3.** A place where corruption and vice gather or are rampant. **4.** A natural pool, marsh, or basin in which a river terminates by evaporation or percolation. [OE *sincan*] — **sink′a·ble** *adj.*

sink·er (singk′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which sinks, or causes to sink. **2.** A weight for sinking a fishing line.

sink·hole (singk′hōl′) *n.* A natural cavity, esp. a drainage cavity, as a hole worn by water through a rock along a joint.

sinking fund A fund established and invested so that its gradual accumulations will wipe out a debt.

sin·less (sin′lis) *adj.* Having no sin; guiltless; innocent. — **sin′less·ly** *adv.* — **sin′less·ness** *n.*

sin·ner (sin′ər) *n.* One who has sinned; esp., one who has transgressed against religious laws or moral principles.

Sinn Fein (shin fān) An Irish political society that originated about 1905, having as its aims both independence and the cultural development of the Irish people. [< Irish, we ourselves] — **Sinn Fein′er** — **Sinn Fein′ism**

Sino- *combining form* Chinese; of or pertaining to the Chinese people, language, etc. Compare CHINO-. [< LL *Sinae* the Chinese]

Si·no-Ti·bet·an (sī′nō·ti·bet′n) *n.* A putative family of languages spoken over a wide area in central and SE Asia, comprising the two established subfamilies **Sino-Thai** (sī′nō·tī′) and **Tibeto-Burman**: also called *Indochinese*. — *adj.* Of these languages or the people who speak them.

sin·ter (sin′tər) *n. Metall.* Metal particles made cohesive by sintering. — *v.t. & v.i. Metall.* To make or become cohesive by the combined action of heat and pressure. [< G, dross of iron]

sin·u·ate (*adj.* sin′yōō·it, -āt; *v.* sin′yōō·at) *adj.* **1.** Winding in and out; sinuous. **2.** *Bot.* Having a wavy or undulating margin, as a leaf. Also **sin′u·at′ed**. — *v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To curve in and out; wind. [< L *sinuatus*, pp. of *sinuare* to turn, wind] — **sin′u·ate·ly** *adv.* — **sin′u·a′tion** *n.*

sin·u·ous (sin′yōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by bends, curves, or folds; winding; undulating. **2.** *Bot.* Sinuate. **3.** Devious; erring. [< L *sinus* bend] — **sin′u·os′i·ty** (-os′ə·tē) *n.* — **sin′u·ous·ly** *adv.* — **sin′u·ous·ness** *n.*

si·nus (sī′nəs) *n.* **1.** A recess formed by a bending or folding; an opening or cavity. **2.** *Anat.* **a** Any of the air-filled cavities in the cranial bones, communicating with the nostrils. **b** A channel or receptacle for venous blood. **c** A dilated part of a blood vessel. **3.** *Pathol.* Any narrow opening leading to an abscess. **4.** *Bot.* A recess or rounded curve between two projecting lobes or teeth of a leaf. [< L]

si·nu·si·tis (sī′nə·sī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of a sinus or sinuses, esp. in the cranial bones.

-sion Var. of -TION.

Si·on (sī′ən) See ZION.

Sioux·an (sōō′ən) *n.* A large family of North American Indian languages formerly spoken from the west banks of the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to this family of languages.

Sioux (sōō) *n. pl.* **Sioux** One of a group of North American Indian tribes formerly occupying the Dakotas and parts of Minnesota and Nebraska: also called *Dakota*.

sip (sip) *v.* **sipped, sip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To drink by swallowing small quantities at a time. **2.** To drink from by sips. **3.** To imbibe. — *v.i.* **4.** To drink in sips. — *n.* **1.** A small amount of liquid swallowed at one time. **2.** The act of sipping. [ME < OE *sypian* to absorb] — **sip′per** *n.*

si·phon (sī′fən) *n.* **1.** A bent or flexible tube through which liquids may be passed from a higher to a lower level over an intervening elevation by making use of atmospheric pressure. **2.** A siphon bottle. **3.** *Zool.* A tubular structure in certain aquatic animals, as the squid, for drawing in or expelling liquids: for illus. see SQUID. — *v.t.* **1.** To draw off or cause to pass through or as through a siphon. — *v.i.* **2.** To pass through a siphon. Also spelled *syphon*. [< F < L < Gk. *siphōn*] — **si′phon·al** *adj.*

siphon bottle A bottle containing aerated or carbonated water that can be expelled by pressure on a valve through a bent tube in the neck of the bottle.
sir (sûr) *n.* The conventional term of respectful address to men, used absolutely, and not followed by a proper name. [< SIRE]
Sir (sûr) *n.* A title of baronets and knights, used before the Christian name or the full name.
sire (sīr) *n.* **1.** A father; begetter: sometimes used in combination: *grandsire.* **2.** The male parent of a mammal. **3.** A form of address to a superior, now used in addressing a king or sovereign. — *v.t.* **sired, sir·ing** To beget: now used chiefly of domestic animals. [< OF < L *senior* older]
si·ren (sī′rən) *n.* **1.** In Greek legend, one of a group of nymphs living on an island, who lured sailors to destruction by their sweet singing. **2.** A fascinating, dangerous woman. **3.** An acoustical device having a perforated rotating disk or disks through which sharp puffs of steam or compressed air are permitted to escape so as to produce a continued musical note or a loud whistle, often used as a warning signal. **4.** *Zool.* Any of a family of eellike amphibians, as the mud eel. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a siren. **2.** Alluring; dangerously fascinating. [< OF < L < Gk. *seirēn*]
Sir·i·us (sir′ē·əs) The brightest star, −1.58 magnitude; Alpha in the constellation Canis Major: also called *Dog Star.* [< Gk. *seirios* hot, scorching]
sir·loin (sûr′loin) *n.* A loin of beef, esp. the upper portion. [< OF < *sur-* over, above + *longe* loin]
si·roc·co (si·rok′ō) *n. pl.* **·cos** *Meteorol.* **1.** A hot, dry, and dusty southerly wind blowing from the African coast to Italy, Sicily, and Spain. **2.** A warm, sultry wind blowing from a warm region toward a center of low barometric pressure. [< Ital. < Arabic *sharq* the east, the rising sun]
sir·rah (sir′ə) *n. Archaic* Fellow; sir: a term of address expressing contempt or annoyance. [Var. of SIR]
sir·up (sir′əp) See SYRUP.
sis (sis) *n. Informal* Sister.
si·sal (sī′səl, sī′zəl, sis′əl, sē′səl) *n.* **1.** A strong fiber obtained from the leaves of an agave of the West Indies. **2.** The plant yielding this fiber. Also **sisal grass, sisal hemp.** [after *Sisal,* town in Yucatán, Mexico]
sis·si·fied (sis′i·fīd) *adj. U.S. Informal* Effeminate.
sis·sy (sis′ē) *n. pl.* **·sies** *U.S. Informal* **1.** An effeminate man or boy; a milksop. **2.** A coward or weakling. [< SIS] — **sis′sy·ish** *adj.*
sis·ter (sis′tər) *n.* **1.** A female having the same parents as another or others of either sex. **2.** Something characterized as female, and closely associated with another of the same kind. **3.** A member of a sisterhood; a nun. **4.** *Brit.* A head nurse in the ward of a hospital; also, popularly, any nurse. — *adj.* Bearing the relationship of a sister or one suggestive of sisterhood. [OE *sweostor*]
sis·ter-ger·man (sis′tər·jûr′mən) *n. pl.* **sis·ters-ger·man** A full sister.
sis·ter·hood (sis′tər·hŏŏd) *n.* **1.** The relationship of or state of being sisters, esp. by blood. **2.** A body of women or girls united by some bond of fellowship or sympathy. **3.** A community of women bound by monastic vows or pledged to works of mercy and faith.
sis·ter-in-law (sis′tər·in·lô′) *n. pl.* **sis·ters-in-law** **1.** A sister of a husband or wife. **2.** A brother's wife. **3.** The wife of a wife's or husband's brother.
sis·ter·ly (sis′tər·lē) *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of a sister. — *adv.* As a sister. — **sis′ter·li·ness** *n.*
Sis·y·phus (sis′ə·fəs) In Greek mythology, a crafty, greedy king of Corinth, condemned in Hades forever to roll uphill a huge stone that always rolled down again.
sit (sit) *v.* **sat** (*Archaic* **sate**), **sat, sit·ting** *v.i.* **1.** To rest with the buttocks on a supporting surface, with the body bent at the hips, and the spine nearly vertical. **2.** To occupy a chair, bench, etc., in such a position. **3.** To perch or roost, as a bird; also, to cover eggs so as to give warmth for hatching. **4.** To be or remain in a seated or settled position. **5.** To remain passive or inactive, or in a position of idleness or rest. **6.** To assume an attitude or take a position for a special purpose; pose, as for a portrait. **7.** To meet in assembly; hold a session. **8.** To occupy or be entitled to a seat in a deliberative body. **9.** To have or exercise judicial authority. **10.** To fit or be adjusted; suit: That hat *sits* well. **11.** To be suffered or borne, as a burden. **12.** To be situated or located: The wind *sits* in the east. **13.** To baby-sit, serve as company for someone ill, etc. — *v.t.* **14.** To have or keep a seat or a good seat upon: to *sit* a horse. **15.** To seat (oneself, etc.). — **to sit in** (on) *U.S.* To join or take part. — **to sit out** **1.** To sit or remain quietly till the end of: to *sit out* an entertainment. **2.** To sit aside during: They *sat out* a dance. **3.** To stay longer than. — **to sit tight** *Informal* To wait for the next move. [OE *sittan*]
si·tar (si·tär′) *n.* An East Indian stringed instrument resembling a guitar. [< Hind. *sitār*]
sit-down strike (sit′doun′) A strike during which strikers refuse to leave their place of employment until agreement is reached. Also **sit′-down′.**
site (sīt) *n.* **1.** Place of location. **2.** A plot of ground set apart for some specific use. [< F < L *situs* position]
sit-in (sit′in′) *n.* A demonstration of protest, as by Negroes in the southern U.S., in which participants enter and remain seated in a public place, commercial establishment, etc., from which they are customarily excluded.
sito- *combining form* Food. [< Gk. *sitos* food]
sit·ter (sit′ər) *n.* **1.** One who sits. **2.** A baby sitter. **3.** A person posing as a model. **4.** A setting hen.
sit·ting (sit′ing) *adj.* **1.** Being in a seated position. **2.** Used for sitting: *sitting* room. — *n.* **1.** The act or position of one who sits. **2.** A seat; also, the place of or the right to a seat. **3.** A single period of remaining seated for a specific purpose. **4.** A session or term. **5.** A period of hatching. **6.** The number of eggs on which a bird sits at one incubation.
sitting duck *Informal* Any easy target.
sitting room A parlor; living room.
sit·u·ate (sich′ōō·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To fix a site for; locate. **2.** To place in a certain position or under certain conditions or circumstances. [< Med.L *situatus,* pp. of *situare* to place]
sit·u·at·ed (sich′ōō·ā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Having a fixed place or location; placed. **2.** Placed in (usu. specified) circumstances or conditions: He is *well* situated.
sit·u·a·tion (sich′ōō·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** Condition as modified or determined by surroundings or attendant circumstances; status. **2.** A combination of circumstances, often leading to a complication, climax, or crisis. **3.** The place in which something is situated; locality. **4.** A salaried post of employment, usu. subordinate. — **sit′u·a′tion·al** *adj.*
Si·va (sē′və, shē′-) The Hindu god of destruction and reproduction, forming with Brahma and Vishnu the Hindu trinity: also *Shiva.* [< Hind. < Skt. *śivás* propitious] — **Si′va·ism** *n.* — **Si′va·ist** *n.* — **Si′va·is′tic** *adj.*
Si·van (sē·vän′) *n.* The ninth month of the Hebrew year. See (Hebrew) CALENDAR. Also **Si·wan′** (-vän′).
six (siks) *n.* **1.** The sum of five and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 6, vi, VI. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing six units. — **at sixes and sevens** **1.** In a state of confusion. **2.** At odds; estranged. — **six of one, half-dozen of another** A situation offering no obvious choice. — *adj.* Being one more than five. [OE]
six·pence (siks′pəns) *n.* A British silver coin of the value of six pennies, equivalent to half a shilling.
six·pen·ny (siks′pen′ē, -pən·ē) *adj.* **1.** Worth or sold for sixpence. **2.** Paltry; trashy. **3.** Denoting a size of nails.
six-shoot·er (siks′shōō′tər) *n. Informal* A revolver that may be fired six times without reloading.
six·teen (siks′tēn′) *n.* **1.** The sum of fifteen and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 16, xvi, XVI. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing sixteen units. — *adj.* Being one more than fifteen. [OE *sixtȳne*] — **six′teenth′** *adv. & n.*
six·teen·mo (siks·tēn′mō) *adj. & n.* Sextodecimo.
sixteenth note *Music* A note having one sixteenth the time value of a whole note: also, *chiefly Brit., semiquaver.*
sixth (sikstth) *adj.* **1.** Next after the fifth: the ordinal of *six.* **2.** Being one of six equal parts. — *n.* **1.** One of six equal parts. **2.** That which follows the fifth. **3.** *Music* **a** The interval between any tone and another tone five steps from it in a diatonic scale. **b** A tone separated by this interval from any other, considered with reference to that other; esp., the sixth above the keynote. — *adv.* In the sixth order, place, or rank: also, in formal discourse, **sixth′ly.**
sixth sense Intuitive perception supposedly independent of the five senses.
six·ty (siks′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The sum of fifty and ten: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 60, lx, LX. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing sixty units. — *adj.* Being ten more than fifty. [OE *sixtig*] — **six′ti·eth** *adj. & n.*
six·ty-fourth note (siks′tē·fôrth′, -fōrth′) *Music* A note having one sixty-fourth the time value of a whole note: also, *chiefly Brit., hemidemisemiquaver.*
siz·a·ble (sī′zə·bəl) *adj.* Of comparatively large size. Also **size′a·ble.** — **siz′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **siz′a·bly** *adv.*
size[1] (siz) *n.* **1.** Measurement or extent of a thing as compared with some standard. **2.** Comparative magnitude or bulk. **3.** One of a series of graded measures, as of hats, shoes, etc. **4.** A standard of measurement; specified quantity. **5.** Mental caliber; character. **6.** *Informal* State of affairs; true situation: That's the *size* of it. — *v.t.* **sized, siz·ing** **1.** To estimate the size of. **2.** To distribute or classify according to size. **3.** To cut or otherwise shape (an article) to the required size. — **to size up** *Informal* **1.** To form an estimate, judgment, or opinion of. **2.** To meet specifications. [< F *assise* to assize]
size[2] (siz) *n.* A solution of gelatinous material, usu. glue, casein, wax, or clay, used to glaze paper, coat wall surfaces,

etc. — *v.t.* **sized, siz·ing** **1.** To treat with size. **2.** To make plastic, as clay. [< OItal. *sisa* painter's glue]

sized (sīzd) *adj.* Being of a definite or specified size: often used in combination: *good-sized*.

siz·ing (sī′zing) *n.* **1.** Size[2]. **2.** The process of adding or applying size to a fabric, surface, etc.

siz·y (sī′zē) *adj.* **siz·i·er, siz·i·est** Glutinous. [< SIZE[2]]

siz·zle (siz′əl) *v.i.* **·zled, ·zling** **1.** To burn, fry, quench, etc., with or as with a hissing sound; emit a hissing sound under the action of heat. **2.** To be extremely hot. — *n.* A hissing sound as from frying or effervescence. [Imit.]

siz·zler (siz′lər) *n. Informal* Something extremely hot, as a summer day. [< SIZZLE]

skate[1] (skāt) *n.* **1.** A device consisting of a metal runner attached to the sole of a boot or shoe, enabling the wearer to glide over ice; also, such a runner. **2.** A roller skate. — *v.i.* **skat·ed, skat·ing** To glide or move over ice or some other smooth surface on or as on skates. [< earlier *skates* < Du. < OF *escache* stilt < Gmc.] — **skat′er** *n.*

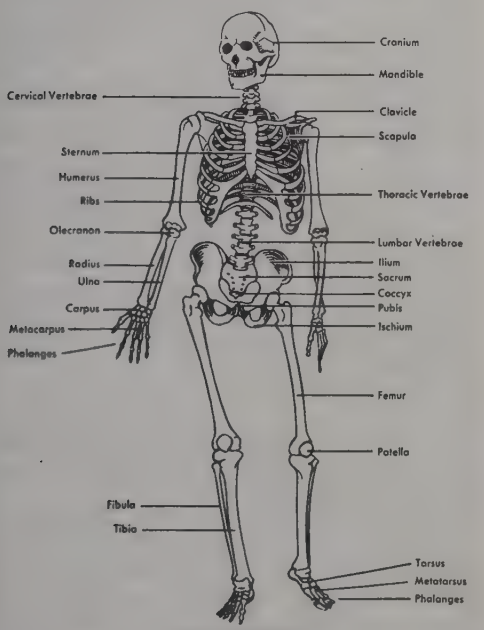
skate[2] (skāt) *n.* Any of various ray fishes having large pectoral fins and a pointed snout. [< ON *skata*]

ske·dad·dle (ski·dad′l) *Informal v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** To flee in haste. — *n.* Hasty flight. [Origin unknown]

skeet (skēt) *n.* A variety of trapshooting in which a succession of targets simulating the flight of birds are fired at from various angles by the shooter. [Ult. < ON *skjota* to shoot]

skein (skān) *n.* **1.** A quantity of yarn, thread, etc., wound in a loose, elongated coil. **2.** Something resembling or suggestive of this. **3.** A flight of geese, etc. [< OF *escaigne*]

skel·e·ton (skel′ə·tən) *n.* **1.** The supporting or protective framework of a human or animal body, consisting of the bones and connective cartilage (endoskeleton) in man and the vertebrates, or of a hard outer structure (exoskeleton), as in crustaceans, insects, etc. **2.** A sketch or outline, as of a written work. **3.** A very thin or emaciated person or animal. **4.** A structure, group, etc., consisting of few parts, reduced numbers, or bare essentials. — **skeleton in the closet** A secret source of shame or discredit. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting merely of a framework, outline, or few parts or members. **2.** Resembling a skeleton in nature or appearance; meager; emaciated. [< NL < Gk. *skeleton* (*sōma*) dried (body), mummy < *skeletos* dried up] — **skel′e·tal** *adj.*



HUMAN SKELETON

skeleton crew A work crew barely sufficient for the job.

skel·e·ton·ize (skel′ə·tən·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To reduce to a skeleton, framework, or outline by removing soft tissues, extraneous parts, etc. **2.** To reduce greatly in size or numbers. **3.** To draft in outline.

skeleton key A key filed to a slender shape, and used to open a number of different locks.

skep·tic (skep′tik) *n.* **1.** One who doubts, disbelieves, or disagrees with generally accepted ideas. **2.** One who by nature doubts or questions what he hears, reads, etc. **3.** One who questions the fundamental doctrines of a religion, esp. the Christian religion. **4.** *Sometimes cap.* An adherent of any philosophical school of skepticism. Also spelled *sceptic*. [< F < L < LGk. *skeptikos* reflective]

— **Syn.** *Skeptic* is a general term, and refers to a person who does not feel that the state of human knowledge, or the evidence available, is sufficient to establish the doctrine. A *freethinker* is one who refuses to accept a doctrine, especially a religious doctrine, simply on authority, and demands empiric proof. An *agnostic* rejects a doctrine because he believes that human knowledge is, and always will be, incapable of determining its truth or falsity.

Skep·tic (skep′tik) *n.* In ancient Greek philosophy, a member of a school of skepticism. [< SKEPTIC]

skep·ti·cal (skep′ti·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Doubting; questioning; disbelieving. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a skeptic or skepticism. Also spelled *sceptical*. — **skep′ti·cal·ly** *adv.* — **skep′ti·cal·ness** *n.*

skep·ti·cism (skep′tə·siz′əm) *n.* **1.** A doubting or incredulous state of mind; disbelieving attitude. **2.** *Philos.* The doctrine that absolute knowledge is unattainable and that judgments must be continually questioned and doubted. Also spelled *scepticism*.

sketch (skech) *n.* **1.** A rapid, incomplete, or hasty delineation or presentation, intended to give a general impression of a work, study, etc., to be completed; an outline. **2.** An artist's rough or rapid drawing or study. **3.** A short, slight, or unpretentious literary or dramatic composition. **4.** A short scene, play, or musical act in a revue, musical comedy, etc. **5.** *Informal* An amusing person; joker. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a sketch or sketches of; outline. — *v.i.* **2.** To make a sketch or sketches. — **to sketch in** To present or explain (details) in a rapid summary, way. — **to sketch out** To present or explain in a rapid, summary way. [< Du. < Ital. < L < Gk. *schedios* improvisation] — **sketch′a·ble** *adj.* — **sketch′er** *n.*

sketch·book (skech′bo͝ok′) *n.* **1.** A book of paper used for sketching. **2.** A set or collection of literary sketches. Also **sketch book.**

sketch·y (skech′ē) *adj.* **sketch·i·er, sketch·i·est** **1.** Resembling or consisting of a sketch; roughly suggested without detail. **2.** Incomplete. — **sketch′i·ly** *adv.* — **sketch′i·ness** *n.*

skew (sky o͞o) *v.i.* **1.** To take an oblique direction; swerve. **2.** To look obliquely or askance; squint. — *v.t.* **3.** To give an oblique position, direction, or form to; make lopsided. **4.** To shift or twist the meaning or significance of; distort. — *adj.* **1.** Placed or turned obliquely; twisted to one side; lopsided. **2.** Distorted in effect or meaning. — *n.* A deviation from symmetry or straightness; oblique direction or position. [< AF *eskiuer*, OF *eschiuver* to shun < Gmc.]

skew·er (sky o͞o′ər) *n.* **1.** A long pin of wood, or metal, thrust into meat to hold it or keep it in shape while roasting or broiling. **2.** Any of various articles of similar shape or use. — *v.t.* To run through or fasten with or as with a skewer. [Var. of SKIVER]

ski (skē, *Norw.* shē) *n.* *pl.* **skis** or **ski** One of a pair of wooden or metal runners with turned-up points, attached to the feet and used in sliding over snow, esp. on slopes. — *v.i.* **skied** (skēd), **ski·ing** **1.** To glide or travel on skis. **2.** To engage in the sport of gliding over snow-covered inclines on skis. [< Norw. < ON *skith* snowshoe]

skid (skid) *n.* **1.** The act of skidding or slipping. **2.** A small frame or platform upon which merchandise is stacked to be moved about or temporarily stored. **3.** One of a pair of timbers used to support a heavy tilting or rolling object, or a log used as a track in sliding heavy articles about, or forming an inclined plane to ease their descent. **4.** In lumbering, one of several logs used to make a skid road or skidway. **5.** A shoe or drag on a wagon wheel. **6.** *Aeron.* A runner in an airplane's landing gear. — **on the skids** *U.S. Slang* Rapidly declining in prestige or power. — *v.* **skid·ded, skid·ding** *v.i.* **1.** To slide instead of revolving, as a wheel that does not rotate. **2.** Of a wheel, vehicle, etc., to slide or slip sideways because of loss of traction. **3.** *Aeron.* To move sideways, because of insufficient banking. — *v.t.* **4.** To furnish with skids; put, drag, or haul on skids. **5.** To brake or hold back with a skid. [? < ON *skith* piece of wood]

skid road A road or track along which logs are hauled.

skid row *U.S. Slang* An urban section inhabited by vagrants and derelicts. [< SKID ROAD]

ski·er (skē′ər) *n.* One who skis.

skiff (skif) *n.* A light rowboat or small, open sailing vessel light enough to be rowed with ease. [< F < Ital. < OHG *scif* ship, boat]

ski·ing (skē'ing) *n.* The act or sport of one who skis.

ski jump 1. A jump or leap made by a person wearing skis. 2. A course prepared for making such jumps.

ski lift Any of various devices, usu. an endless cable running on towers, with attached bars or chairs, used to transport skiers to the top of a slope or trail.

skill (skil) *n.* 1. Proficiency or technical ability in any art, science, handicraft, etc. 2. A specific art, trade, or technique. — **Syn.** See DEXTERITY. [< ON *skil* knowledge]

skilled (skild) *adj.* 1. Possessing or showing skill; proficient. 2. Having specialized ability or training, as a worker. 3. Requiring specialized ability or training, as a job.

skil·let (skil'it) *n.* A frying pan or similar cooking pot having a long handle. [ME *skelet*, ? < OF *esculette* dish]

skill·ful (skil'fəl) *adj.* 1. Having skill; clever; dexterous; able. 2. Characterized by or requiring skill. Also *Brit.* **skil'·ful.** — **skill'ful·ly** *adv.* — **skill'ful·ness** *n.*

skim (skim) *v.* **skimmed, skim·ming** *v.t.* 1. To remove floating matter from the surface of, as with a ladle: to *skim* milk. 2. To remove thus: to *skim* cream. 3. To cover with a thin film, as of ice. 4. To move lightly and quickly across or over. 5. To cause to pass swiftly and lightly, as a flat stone across a pond. 6. To read or glance over hastily or superficially. — *v.i.* 7. To move quickly and lightly across or near a surface; glide. 8. To make a hasty and superficial perusal; glance: with *over* or *through*. 9. To become covered with a thin film. — *n.* 1. The act of skimming. 2. That which has been skimmed, as skim milk. 3. A thin film or layer. — *adj.* Skimmed: *skim* milk. [Var. of SCUM]

skim·mer (skim'ər) *n.* 1. A flat ladle or other utensil for skimming. 2. One who or that which skims. 3. A hat having a shallow crown and a wide, round brim.

skim milk Milk from which the cream has been removed.

skimp (skimp) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To scrimp or scamp. — *adj.* Scant; meager. [Prob. < ON *skemma* to shorten]

skimp·y (skim'pē) *adj.* **skimp·i·er, skimp·i·est** 1. Insufficient in size, amount, etc. 2. Excessively saving or sparing. — **skimp'i·ly** *adv.* — **skimp'i·ness** *n.*

skin (skin) *n.* 1. The membranous tissue covering the body of an animal; the integument. ◆ Collateral adjectives: *cutaneous, dermal.* 2. The pelt of a small animal, removed from its body, whether raw or dressed. 3. A vessel for holding liquids, made of skin. 4. An outside layer, coat, or covering as the rind of a fruit, etc. 5. One's life: to save one's *skin*. — **by the skin of one's teeth** Very closely or narrowly; barely. — **to get under one's skin** 1. To be provoking or irritating. 2. To be an obsession. — **under the skin** In a close but not apparent figurative relationship: sisters *under the skin*. — *v.* **skinned, skin·ning** *v.t.* 1. To remove the skin of; flay; peel. 2. To cover with or as with skin. 3. To remove or peel off hastily. 4. *Slang* To cheat or swindle. — *v.i.* 5. To shed the skin. [< ON *skinn*]

skin-deep (skin'dēp') *adj.* Superficial. — *adv.* Superficially.

skin-dive (skin'dīv') *v.i.* **-dived** (*U.S. Informal* **-dove**), **-dived, -div·ing** To engage in skin diving.

skin diving Underwater swimming or exploration in which the swimmer is equipped with goggles and foot fins, and sometimes with a scuba or snorkel. — **skin diver**

skin·flint (skin'flint) *n.* A miser or niggardly person.

skin game 1. A crooked or rigged gambling game in which the players have no chance. 2. Any swindle.

skink (skingk) *n.* One of a group of lizards having smooth scales and short limbs. [< L < Gk. *skinkos* kind of lizard]

skin·ner (skin'ər) *n.* 1. One who flays or sells the skins of animals. 2. *U.S. Slang* A mule driver.

skin·ny (skin'ē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** 1. Very thin or emaciated; lean. 2. Consisting of or resembling skin. — **skin'·ni·ness** *n.*

skin-tight (skin'tīt') *adj.* Fitting tightly to the skin.

skip (skip) *v.* **skipped, skip·ping** *v.i.* 1. To move with light springing steps; caper. 2. To bounce over, ricochet from, or skim a surface. 3. To pass from one point to another omitting or not noticing what lies between. 4. *Informal* To leave or depart hurriedly; flee. 5. To be advanced in school beyond the next grade in order. — *v.t.* 6. To leap lightly over. 7. To cause to skim or ricochet. 8. To pass over or by; omit. 9. *Informal* To leave (a place) hurriedly. — *n.* 1. A light bound or hop. 2. A passing over without notice. [Prob. < Scand. Cf. Sw. *skuppa* to skip.]

ski pants Long trousers that fit snugly, esp. at the ankles, worn for skiing, etc.

skip·jack (skip'jak') *n.* Any of various fishes that leap from or skip along the surface of the water, as the bonito.

skip·per[1] (skip'ər) *n.* 1. One who or that which skips. 2. Any of a family of small butterflies.

skip·per[2] (skip'ər) *n.* 1. The captain of a ship. 2. One in a position of leadership. [< Du. *schip* ship]

skirl (skûrl, skirl) *Scot. v.i.* To produce a shrill sound, as a bagpipe. — *n.* A shrill cry or sound. [ME *scrille*]

skir·mish (skûr'mish) *v.i.* To fight in a preliminary or desultory way. — *n.* 1. A light engagement, as between small parties or groups. 2. Any encounter or action that evades the main contention or business. — **Syn.** See BATTLE. [< OF *eskermir* to fence, fight] — **skir'mish·er** *n.*

skirt (skûrt) *n.* 1. The part of a dress, gown, or robe that hangs from the waist downward. 2. A separate garment hanging from the waist and covering the lower portion of the body. 3. *pl.* The border, fringe, or edge of a particular area: on the *skirts* of the town. 4. One of the flaps or loose, hanging parts of a saddle. 5. *Slang* A woman or girl. — *v.t.* 1. To lie along or form the edge of; to border. 2. To surround or border: with *with*. 3. To pass around or about. 4. To evade or avoid (a subject, issue, etc.). — *v.i.* 5. To pass or be near the edge or border of something. [ON *skyrt* shirt]

skit (skit) *n.* 1. A short, usu. humorous dramatic scene or presentation. 2. A brief, humorous, often satirical piece of writing. [< Scand. Cf. ON *skjota* to shoot]

ski tow A type of ski lift consisting of an endless rope.

skit·ter (skit'ər) *v.i.* 1. To glide or skim along, touching a surface at intervals. — *v.t.* 2. To cause to skitter. [Freq. of SKITE]

skit·tish (skit'ish) *adj.* 1. Easily frightened, as a horse. 2. Capricious; uncertain; unreliable. 3. Tricky; deceitful. [< dial. E *skit* to caper, as a horse] — **skit'tish·ly** *adv.* — **skit'·tish·ness** *n.*

skit·tle (skit'l) *n.* 1. *pl.* A game of ninepins, in which a flattened ball or thick rounded disk is thrown to knock down the pins. 2. One of the pins used in this game. — **beer and skittles** Carefree existence; drink and play. [Prob. < Dan. *skyttel* a child's earthen ball]

skiv·vy (skiv'ē) *n.* *pl.* **·vies** *U.S. Slang* 1. A man's short-sleeved undershirt. Also **skivvy shirt.** 2. *pl.* Men's underwear. [Origin uncertain]

skoal (skōl) *interj.* To your good health: a toast in drinking, used esp. by Scandinavians. [< Scand.]

sku·a (skyōō'ə) *n.* A predatory gull-like bird of northern regions. [< Faroese *skúgvur* < ON *skúfr*]

skul·dug·ger·y (skul·dug'ər·ē) *n.* *U.S.* Trickery; underhandedness. [Var. of dial. *sculduddery*; origin uncertain]

skulk (skulk) *v.i.* 1. To move about furtively; lie close or keep hidden. 2. To shirk; evade work or responsibility. — *n.* One who skulks. [< Scand.] — **skulk'er** *n.*

skull (skul) *n.* 1. The bony framework of the head of a vertebrate animal; the cranium. 2. The head considered as the seat of brain; the mind. [< Scand.]

skull and crossbones A representation of the human skull over two crossed bones, used as a symbol of death, as a warning label on poison, and as an emblem of piracy.

skull-cap (skul'kap') *n.* A small, snug, brimless cap, often worn indoors.

skunk (skungk) *n.* 1. A carnivorous mammal of North America, usu. black with a white stripe and a bushy tail, and ejecting at will a malodorous liquid. 2. *Informal* A hateful or contemptible person. — *v.t.* *Slang* To defeat utterly in a game or contest. [< Algonquian *seganku*]

skunk cabbage A perennial plant of the arum family, emitting a strong odor, esp. when crushed or bruised. Also **skunk·weed** (skungk'wēd').

sky (skī) *n.* *pl.* **skies** 1. The region of the upper air seen as a high vault or arch over the earth; the firmament. 2. *Often pl.* Atmospheric condition or appearance of the upper air: cloudy *skies*. 3. The celestial regions; heaven. — *v.t.* **skied, sky·ing** *Informal* To bat or throw (a ball, etc.) high into the air. [< ON *sky* cloup]

sky blue A blue like the color of the sky on a clear day. — **sky-blue** (skī'blōō') *adj.*

sky·div·ing (skī'dī'ving) *n.* The sport of jumping from an airplane and performing various maneuvers and assuming various positions before opening the parachute.

Skye terrier (skī) A small terrier having a long body, short legs, and long, straight hair.

sky-high (skī'hī') *adj.* & *adv.* Extremely high.

sky·lark (skī'lärk) *n.* A lark of the Old World that sings as it rises in flight. — *v.i.* To indulge in hilarious or boisterous frolic. — **sky'lark'er** *n.*

sky·light (skī'līt') *n.* A window in a roof or ceiling, admitting daylight from above.

sky·line (skī'līn') *n.* 1. The visible horizon. 2. The outline of a group of buildings, etc., seen against the sky.

sky pilot *Slang* A clergyman or a chaplain.

sky·rock·et (skī'rok'it) *n.* A rocket, as in a fireworks display, projected so as to explode high in the air. — *v.i.* To rise rapidly or suddenly.

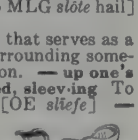
sky·sail (skī'səl, -sāl') *n.* *Naut.* A light sail above the royal in a square-rigged vessel.

sky·scrap·er (skī'skrā'pər) *n.* A very high building.

sky·ward (skī'wərd) *adv.* Toward the sky. Also **sky'·wards.** — *adj.* Moving or directed toward the sky.

sky·way (skī′wā′) *n.* **1.** An air travel route. **2.** An elevated highway.
sky·writ·ing (skī′rī′ting) *n.* **1.** The forming of words in the air by the release of vapor from an airplane. **2.** The words or letters thus formed. — **sky′writ′er** *n.*
slab (slab) *n.* **1.** A flat plate, piece, mass, or slice, as of metal, stone, etc. **2.** The outside piece of a log sawed for lumber, often with the bark remaining on it. **3.** *U.S. Slang* In baseball, the pitcher's plate. — *v.t.* **slabbed, slab·bing 1.** To make or form into slabs. **2.** To cover with slabs. **3.** To saw slabs from, as a log. [ME. Origin uncertain.]
slack[1] (slak) *adj.* **1.** Hanging or extended loosely. **2.** Loose or careless in performance; remiss; slovenly. **3.** Flaccid; loose: a *slack* mouth. **4.** Lacking activity; not busy: a *slack* season. **5.** Listless; limp: a *slack* grip. **6.** Flowing or moving sluggishly, as wind, water, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To slacken. **2.** To slake, as lime. — *v.i.* **3.** To be or become slack. — **to slack off** To slow down; be less diligent. — *n.* **1.** A part of a rope, sail, etc., that is slack or loose. **2.** Slack condition; looseness. **3.** A period of inactivity. **4.** An extent of water where there is no current. — *adv.* In a slack manner. [OE *sleac*] — **slack′ly** *adv.* — **slack′ness** *n.*
slack[2] (slak) *n.* Screenings or small pieces of coal. [Cf. Flemish *slecke*, LG *slacke*]
slack·en (slak′ən) *v.i.* **1.** To become less active, productive, etc. **2.** To become less tense or tight. **3.** To become slow or less intense. — *v.t.* **4.** To become slow, negligent, or remiss in: to *slacken* one's efforts. **5.** To make slack.
slack·er (slak′ər) *n.* One who shirks his duties or avoids military service in wartime; shirker.
slack-off (slak′ôf′) *n. Informal* A slowdown; abatement.
slacks (slaks) *n.pl.* Trousers worn by men or women for casual or sports wear.
slag (slag) *n.* **1.** *Metall.* The fused residue separated in the reduction of metals from their ores. **2.** Volcanic lava in small, cinderlike pieces. — *v.t. & v.i.* **slagged, slag·ging** To form into slag. [< MLG *slagge*] — **slag′gy** *adj.*
slain (slān) Past participle of SLAY.
slake (slāk) *v.* **slaked, slak·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To quench or satisfy, as thirst or an appetite. **2.** To lessen the force or intensity of. **3.** To moisten or refresh. **4.** To mix with water or moist air, as in the preparation of slaked lime. — *v.i.* **5.** To become disintegrated and hydrated, as lime. [OE *slacian* to retard < *sleac* slack[1]]
slaked lime See under LIME[1].
sla·lom (slä′ləm, slā′-) *n.* In skiing, a race or descent over a winding downhill course laid out between posts and marked with flags. — *v.i.* To ski in such a course. [< Norw.]
slam[1] (slam) *v.* **slammed, slam·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To shut or push with violence and a loud noise. **2.** To put, dash, throw, etc., with violence and a loud noise; bang. **3.** *Slang* To hit or strike violently. **4.** *Slang* To disparage or criticize harshly. — *v.i.* **5.** To close, swing, etc., with force and noise. **6.** To make a noisy entrance. — *n.* **1.** The act or noise of slamming. **2.** *Slang* Harsh criticism; abuse. [< Scand. Cf. dial. Norw. *slamra* slam.]
slam[2] (slam) *n.* In bridge, the winning of all (grand slam) or all but one (little or small slam) of the tricks in a round of play; also, a bid to do so. [Origin uncertain]
slam-bang (slam′bang′) *adv.* Violently; noisily. — *v.i.* To move with noise and violence.
slan·der (slan′dər) *n.* **1.** *Law* **a** An oral statement of a false, malicious, or defamatory nature, tending to damage another's reputation, means of livelihood, etc. **b** The utterance of such a statement. **2.** A maliciously false tale or report. — *v.t.* **1.** To injure by maliciously uttering a false report. — *v.i.* **2.** To utter slander. [< AF < L *scandalum* cause of stumbling] — **slan′der·er** *n.*
slan·der·ous (slan′dər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Uttering or containing slander. **2.** Characterized by slander; calumnious. — **slan′der·ous·ly** *adv.* — **slan′der·ous·ness** *n.*
slang (slang) *n.* **1.** Language, words, or phrases of a vigorous, colorful, facetious, or taboo nature, invented for specific occasions or uses, or derived from the unconventional use of the standard vocabulary. **2.** The special vocabulary of a certain class, group, or profession: college *slang*. **3.** Formerly, the argot or jargon of thieves and vagrants. — *v.t. & v.i.* To address with or use slang. [Origin uncertain]
slang·y (slang′ē) *adj.* **slang·i·er, slang·i·est 1.** Like or consisting of slang. **2.** Using slang. — **slang′i·ly** *adv.* — **slang′i·ness** *n.*
slant (slant) *v.t.* **1.** To give an oblique or sloping direction to; incline. **2.** To write or edit (news or other literary matter) so as to express a special attitude, bias, or opinion. — *v.i.* **3.** To have or take an oblique direction; slope. **4.** To have a certain bias or attitude. — **Syn.** See TIP[1]. — *adj.* Lying at an angle; sloping. — *n.* **1.** A slanting direction, course, or plane; slope. **2.** A bent, bias, or leaning. **3.** Point of view; attitude. [< earlier *slent* < Scand. Cf. Norw. *slenta* slope.] — **slant′ing·ly** *adv.*
slant·wise (slant′wīz′) *adj.* Slanting; oblique. — *adv.* At a slant or slope; obliquely. Also **slant′ways′** (-wāz′).
slap (slap) *n.* **1.** A blow delivered with the open hand or with something flat. **2.** A sharp rebuke; insult; slur. — *v.* **slapped, slap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To hit or strike with the open hand or with something flat. **2.** To rebuff; insult. **3.** To put or place violently or carelessly. — *v.i.* **4.** To strike or beat as if with slaps. — *adv.* **1.** Suddenly and forcibly; abruptly. **2.** *Informal* Directly; straight. [< LG *slapp*] — **slap′per** *n.*
slap·dash (slap′dash′) *adj.* Done or acting in a dashing or reckless way; impetuous; careless. — *n.* Offhand or careless work, behavior, etc. — *adv.* In a careless manner.
slap·hap·py (slap′hap′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** *Slang* **1.** Dazed or giddy from or as from repeated blows. **2.** Silly; irresponsible. — **slap′hap′pi·ness** *n.*
slap·jack slap′jak′) *n. U.S.* A griddlecake; flapjack.
slap·stick (slap′stick′) *n.* **1.** Boisterous, loud comedy. **2.** A flexible paddle formerly used in farces and pantomimes to make a loud report when an actor was struck with it. — *adj.* Using or suggestive of slapstick: *slapstick* humor.
slash (slash) *v.t.* **1.** To strike or cut violently with or as with an edged instrument. **2.** To whip; lash. **3.** To make long gashes, cuts, or slits in. **4.** To cut slits in, as a garment, so as to expose lining. **5.** To criticize severely. **6.** To reduce sharply, as prices, wages, etc. — *v.i.* **7.** To make sweeping, violent, or haphazard strokes with or as with something sharp. — *n.* **1.** The act or result of slashing. **2.** A slit or gash, esp. an ornamental slit in a garment. **3.** An opening or gap left in a forest after logging, a destructive fire, or a high wind. **4.** *Printing* A virgule. [? < OF *esclachier* to break] — **slash′er** *n.*
slash·ing (slash′ing) *adj.* **1.** Aggressively or destructively severe; violent. **2.** *Informal* Very fine; splendid. — *n.* A slash. — **slash′ing·ly** *adv.*
slat (slat) *n.* A thin, narrow strip of wood or metal, as one of those in a crate, window blind, etc. — *v.t.* **slat·ted, slat·ting** To provide or make with slats. [< OF *esclat* splinter]
slate (slāt) *n.* **1.** A compact, fine-grained rock that splits readily into thin and even layers. **2.** A piece, slab, or plate of slate used for roofing, writing upon, etc. **3.** A record of one's past performance or behavior: a clean *slate*. **4.** A prearranged list, as of political candidates before their nomination or election. **5.** A dull bluish gray color resembling slate. — *adj.* **1.** Made of slate. **2.** Having the color of slate. — *v.t.* **slat·ed, slat·ing 1.** To roof with slate. **2.** To put on a political slate or a list of any sort. **3.** To designate or mark, as for a specific change in condition. [< OF *esclate*, fem. of *esclat* chip, splinter] — **slat′er** *n.* — **slat′y** *adj.*
slath·er (slath′ər) *Informal* or *Dial. v.t.* **1.** To daub thickly. **2.** To spend or use profusely. [Origin uncertain]
slat·tern (slat′ərn) *n.* An untidy or slovenly woman. — *adj.* Untidy; slovenly. [< dial. E *slatter* to slop, spill] — **slat′tern·li·ness** *n.* — **slat′tern·ly** *adj. & adv.*
slaugh·ter (slô′tər) *n.* **1.** The act of killing; esp. the butchering of cattle and other animals for market. **2.** Wanton or savage killing, esp. of human beings; massacre; carnage. — **Syn.** See MASSACRE. — *v.t.* **1.** To kill for the market; butcher. **2.** To kill wantonly or savagely. [< ON *slātr* butcher's meat] — **slaugh′ter·er** *n.* — **slaugh′ter·ous** *adj.* — **slaugh′ter·ous·ly** *adv.*
slaugh·ter·house (slô′tər·hous′) *n.* A place where animals are butchered; a scene of carnage.
Slav (släv, slav) *n.* A member of any of the Slavic-speaking peoples of northern or eastern Europe, comprising the Russians, Poles, Czechs, Moravians, Wends, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Serbians, Croats, Slovenes, etc.
slave (slāv) *n.* **1.** A person over whose life, liberty, and property someone has absolute control. **2.** A person in mental or moral subjection to a habit, vice, or influence. **3.** One who labors like a slave; a drudge. — *v.i.* **slaved, slav·ing** To work like a slave. [< F < Med.L *slavus, sclavus*]
slave driver 1. A person who oversees slaves at work. **2.** Any severe or exacting employer.
slave·hold·er (slāv′hōl′dər) *n.* An owner of slaves. — **slave′hold′ing** *adj. & n.*
slav·er[1] (slav′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To dribble saliva over. — *v.i.* **2.** To dribble saliva; drool. — *n.* Saliva issuing or dribbling from the mouth. [Prob. < ON *slafra*] — **slav′er·er** *n.*
slav·er[2] (slā′vər) *n.* A person or a vessel engaged in the slave trade.
slav·er·y (slā′vər·ē, slāv′rē) *n.* **1.** The holding of human beings as property or chattels; also, the condition of a slave. **2.** Mental, moral, or spiritual bondage. **3.** Slavish toil.
slave trade The business of dealing in slaves; esp. the bringing of Negro slaves to America. — **slave trader**

slav·ey (slā′vē, slav′ē) *n. pl.* **slav·eys** *Brit. Informal* A female servant, esp. a maid of all work.
Slav·ic (slä′vik, slav′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Slavs or their languages. — *n.* A branch of the Balto-Slavic subfamily of the Indo-European language family, consisting of the following groups: **East Slavic** (Russian, including Great Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian); **West Slavic** (Czech, Slovak, Polish, Wendish); **South Slavic** (Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Slovenian, Macedonian). — **Church Slavic** or **Church Slavonic** The liturgical language of the Eastern Orthodox Slavs and of certain Uniats: also called *Old Church Slavic, Old Church Slavonic, Old Slavic.*
slav·ish (slā′vish) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or befitting a slave; servile; base. **2.** Extremely hard or laborious. **3.** Dependent; imitative. — **slav′ish·ly** *adv.* — **slav′ish·ness** *n.*
Sla·von·ic (slə·von′ik) *adj. & n.* Slavic.
slaw (slô) *n.* Cole slaw.
slay (slā) *v.t.* **slew, slain, slay·ing** To kill, esp. by violence. [OE *slēan*] — **slay′er** *n.*
slea·zy (slē′zē, slā′-) *adj.* **·zi·er, ·zi·est** **1.** Lacking firmness of texture or substance; poorly made. **2.** Cheap; shoddy. [Origin uncertain] — **slea′zi·ly** *adv.* — **slea′zi·ness** *n.*
sled (sled) *n.* **1.** A vehicle on runners, designed for carrying people or loads over snow and ice; a sledge. **2.** A small, light frame mounted on runners, used by children for sliding on snow and ice. — *v.* **sled·ded, sled·ding** *v.t.* **1.** To convey on a sled. — *v.i.* **2.** To ride on a sled. [< MLG *sledde*] — **sled′der** *n.*
sled·ding (sled′ing) *n.* **1.** The condition of roads for sleds. **2.** The act of using a sled. **3.** State or circumstances of progress, work, etc.: hard *sledding.*
sledge[1] (slej) *n.* A vehicle or sled for moving loads over snow and ice. — *v.t. & v.i.* **sledged, sledg·ing** To travel or convey on a sledge. [< MDu. *sleedse*]
sledge[2] (slej) *n.* A heavy hammer wielded with one or both hands, for blacksmiths' use, or for breaking stone, coal, etc.: also **sledge hammer.** — *v.t.* **sledged, sledg·ing** To hammer, break, or strike with a sledge. [OE *slecg*]
sleek (slēk) *adj.* **1.** Smooth and glossy; polished. **2.** Smooth-spoken; flattering; unctuous. — *v.t.* **1.** To make smooth, even, or glossy. **2.** To soothe; mollify. [Var. of SLICK] — **sleek′ly** *adv.* — **sleek′ness** *n.* — **sleek′y** *adj.*
sleep (slēp) *n.* **1.** A state or period of reduced activity, accompanied by a complete or partial unconsciousness. **2.** A period of slumber. **3.** Any condition of inactivity, torpor, or rest. — *v.* **slept, sleep·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To be or fall asleep; slumber. **2.** To be dormant, inactive or quiet, or to rest in death. — *v.t.* **3.** To rest or repose in: to *sleep* the sleep of the dead. **4.** To provide with sleeping quarters; lodge. — **to sleep away** (or **off** or **out**) To pass or get rid of by or as by sleep: to *sleep off* a hangover. — **to sleep on** To postpone a decision upon. [OE *slǣp*]
sleep·er (slē′pər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which sleeps. **2.** A railroad sleeping car. **3.** *U.S. Informal* A play, motion picture, or book that achieves unexpected and striking success.
sleeping bag A large bag with a warm lining, used for sleeping, esp. out of doors.
sleeping car A passenger railroad car with accommodations for sleeping.
sleeping pill *Med.* A sedative; esp., one of the barbiturates taken to relieve acute or persistent insomnia.
sleeping sickness *Pathol.* The final stage of a disease prevalent in tropical Africa, marked by lethargy, fever and headaches and terminating in death.
sleep·less (slēp′lis) *adj.* Unable to sleep; wakeful; restless; unquiet. — **sleep′less·ly** *adv.* — **sleep′less·ness** *n.*
sleep·walk·ing (slēp′wô′king) *n.* The act or practice of one who walks while asleep. — **sleep′walk′er** *n.*
sleep·y (slē′pē) *adj.* **sleep·i·er, sleep·i·est** **1.** Inclined to sleep. **2.** Drowsy; sluggish; dull; heavy. **3.** Conducive to sleep. — **sleep′i·ly** *adv.* — **sleep′i·ness** *n.*
sleep·y·head (slē′pē·hed′) *n.* A sleepy person. — **sleep′y·head′ed** *adj.*
sleet (slēt) *n.* **1.** A mixture of snow or hail and rain. **2.** A drizzle or shower of partly frozen rain. **3.** A thin coating of ice. — *v.i.* To pour or shed sleet. [Akin to MLG *slōte* hail] — **sleet′y** *adj.*
sleeve (slēv) *n.* **1.** The part of a garment that serves as a covering for the arm. **2.** *Mech.* A tube surrounding something, as a shaft, for protection or connection. — **up one's sleeve** Hidden but at hand. — *v.t.* **sleeved, sleev·ing** To furnish or fit with a sleeve or sleeves. [OE *slīefe*] — **sleeve′less** *adj.*
sleigh (slā) *n.* A light vehicle, usu. drawn by a horse with runners for use on snow and ice. — *v.i.* To ride or travel in a sleigh. [< Du. *slee*, contr. of *slede* sledge] — **sleigh′er** *n.* — **sleigh′ing** *n.*


SLEIGH

sleight (slīt) *n.* **1.** The quality of being skillful in manipulation. **2.** Craft; cunning. [< ON *slǣgth* slyness]
sleight of hand **1.** A juggler's or magician's trick so deftly done that the manner of performance escapes observation: also called *legerdemain.* **2.** The performance of such tricks.
slen·der (slen′dər) *adj.* **1.** Having a small diameter or circumference in proportion to the length or height; slim; thin. **2.** Having little strength or vigor; feeble; frail. **3.** Having slight basis or foundation; of little validity. **4.** Small or inadequate; moderate; insignificant. [ME *slendre*] — **slen′·der·ly** *adv.* — **slen′der·ness** *n.*
slen·der·ize (slen′də·rīz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make or become slender.
slept (slept) Past tense and past participle of SLEEP.
sleuth (slōōth) *n.* **1.** *U.S. Informal* A detective. **2.** A bloodhound. — *v.t.* **1.** To follow; track. — *v.i.* **2.** To play the detective. [< ON *slōth* track, trail]
slew[1] (slōō) Past tense of SLAY.
slew[2] (slōō) See SLOUGH (def. 2).
slew[3] (slōō) *n. U.S. Informal* A large number, crowd, or amount; a lot: also spelled *slue.* [Cf. Irish *sluagh* crowd]
slew[4] (slōō) See SLUE[1].
slice (slīs) *n.* **1.** A thin, broad piece cut off from a larger piece. **2.** Any of various tools or devices having a broad, flat blade. **3.** In golf, a stroke that causes the ball to veer to the right. — *v.* **sliced, slic·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cut or remove from a larger piece: often with *off.* **2.** To cut into broad, thin pieces; divide; apportion. **3.** In golf, to hit (the ball) with a slice. — *v.i.* **4.** In golf, to slice a ball. [< OF < OHG *slizan* to slit] — **slic′er** *n.*
slick (slik) *adj.* **1.** Smooth; slippery; sleek. **2.** Flattering; obsequious. **3.** *Informal* Dexterously done; cleverly said. **4.** Smart and clever, but often of little depth. **5.** Smooth; oily, as the surface of water. **6.** Glazed, as paper; also, printed on glazed paper: *slick* magazines. **7.** *Slang* Agreeable; excellent. — *n.* **1.** A smooth place on a surface of water, as from oil. **2.** A broad chisel for paring or slicking: also **slick chisel.** **3.** *Usu. pl. U.S.* A magazine printed on glazed paper: distinguished from *pulp.* — *adv. Slang* In a slick or smooth manner; deftly. — *v.t.* **1.** To make smooth, trim, glossy, or oily. **2.** *Informal* To trim up; make presentable: often with *up.* [ME *slike,* ? < OE *nīgslȳcod* glossy]
slick·er (slik′ər) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A waterproof overcoat of oilskin, plastic, etc. **2.** *Informal* A clever, shifty person.
slide (slīd) *v.* **slid** (slid), **slid** or **slid·den** (slid′n), **slid·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To pass along over a surface with a smooth, slipping movement. **2.** To move easily or smoothly; pass gradually or imperceptibly. **3.** To proceed without being acted upon or directed: to let the matter *slide.* **4.** To lose one's equilibrium or foothold; slip. **5.** In baseball, to throw oneself along the ground toward a base. — *v.t.* **6.** To cause to slide, as over a surface. **7.** To move, put, enter, etc., with quietness or dexterity: with *in* or *into.* — *n.* **1.** An act of sliding. **2.** The slipping of a mass of earth, snow, etc., from a higher to a lower level; avalanche. **3.** An inclined plane or channel for sliding, as for children to slide upon. **4.** A small plate of glass on which a specimen is mounted and examined through a microscope. **5.** A small plate bearing a single image for projection on a screen. **6.** *Music* In a trumpet or trombone, a U-shaped portion of the tubing that is pushed in and out to vary the pitch. **7.** *Mech.* A sliding part. [OE *slīdan*] — **slid′er** *n.*
slide fastener A zipper.
slide projector An optical device for projecting magnified images from transparent slides onto a wall or screen.
slide rule A device consisting of a rigid ruler with a central sliding piece, both ruler and slide being graduated in a similar logarithmic scale to permit rapid calculations.
sliding door A door that opens and closes by moving sidewise along grooves.
sliding scale A schedule affecting imports, prices, or wages, varying under conditions of consumption, demand, or the market price of some article.
slight (slīt) *adj.* **1.** Of small importance; trifling. **2.** Small in quantity, intensity, or degree; inconsiderable. **3.** Slender; frail; delicate; flimsy. — *v.t.* **1.** To manifest neglect of or disregard for; ignore. **2.** To do imperfectly or thoughtlessly; shirk. **3.** To treat as trivial or insignificant. — *n.* An act or omission involving failure in courtesy or respect toward another. [ME] — **slight′ing** *adj.* — **slight′ing·ly** *adv.* — **slight′ly** *adv.* — **slight′ness** *n.*
sli·ly (slī′lē) See SLYLY.
slim (slim) *adj.* **slim·mer, slim·mest** **1.** Small in thickness in proportion to height or length, as a human figure or a tree. **2.** Insufficient; meager: a *slim* attendance. — *v.t. & v.i.* **slimmed, slim·ming** To make or become thin or thinner. [< Du. *slim* bad] — **slim′ly** *adv.* — **slim′ness** *n.*
slime (slīm) *n.* **1.** Any soft, sticky, or dirty substance. **2.** Soft, moist, adhesive mud or earth; muck. **3.** A mucous exudation from the bodies of certain animals, as fishes and snails, and certain plants. — *v.* **slimed, slim·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To smear or cover with or as with slime. **2.** To remove slime from. [OE *slīm*]

slim·y (slīˈmē) *adj.* **slim·i·er, slim·i·est** **1.** Covered or bedaubed with slime. **2.** Containing slime. **3.** Slimelike; foul. — **slimˈi·ly** *adv.* — **slimˈi·ness** *n.*

sling[1] (sling) *n.* **1.** A strap or pocket usu. with a string attached to each end, for hurling a stone or other missile by whirling the whole and releasing one of the strings. **2.** Any of various ropes, straps, etc., for suspending or hoisting something, as for holding up an injured limb, carrying a rifle, etc. **3.** The act of slinging; a sudden throw; cast; fling. — *v.t.* **slung, sling·ing** **1.** To fling from or as from a sling; hurl. **2.** To place or hang up in or as in a sling; move or hoist, as by a rope or tackle. [OE *slingan*] — **slingˈer** *n.*

sling[2] (sling) *n. U.S.* A drink of brandy, whisky, or gin, with sugar and nutmeg, lemon juice, and ice.

sling·shot (slingˈshotˈ) *n.* A weapon or toy consisting of a forked stick with an elastic strap attached to the prongs for catapulting small missiles: also called *catapult.*

slink (slingk) *v.i.* **slunk, slunk, slink·ing** To creep or steal along furtively or stealthily, as in fear. [OE *slincan* to creep] — **slinkˈing·ly** *adv.*

slink·y (slingkˈē) *adj.* **slink·i·er, slink·i·est** **1.** Sneaking; stealthy. **2.** *Slang* Sinuous or feline in movement or form.

slip[1] (slip) *v.* **slipped** or **slipt, slip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move smoothly and easily; cause to glide or slide. **2.** To put on or off easily, as a loose garment. **3.** To convey slyly or secretly. **4.** To free oneself or itself from, as a fetter or bridle. **5.** To let loose; unleash, as hounds. **6.** To escape or pass unobserved: It *slipped* my mind. **7.** To overlook; omit negligently. — *v.i.* **8.** To slide so as to cause harm or inconvenience; lose one's footing; become misplaced by failing to hold. **9.** To fall into an error or fault; err. **10.** To escape, as a ship. **11.** To move smoothly and easily. **12.** To get free of restraint. **13.** To go or come stealthily or unnoticed: often with *off, away,* or *from.* — **to let slip** To say without intending to. — **to slip one over on** *Informal* To cheat; hoodwink. — *n.* **1.** An act of slipping; a sudden slide. **2.** A lapse or error in speech, writing, or conduct; a slight mistake. **3.** *U.S.* A narrow space between two wharves. **4.** An artificial pier sloping down to the water, serving as a landing place. **5.** An inclined plane leading down to the water, on which vessels are repaired or constructed. **6.** A woman's undergarment, usu. the length of a dress. **7.** A pillow case: also **pillow slip.** **8.** A leash that permits quick release of the dog. **9.** *Geol.* A joint or fissure where two rock strata have moved upon each other. — **to give (someone) the slip** To elude (someone). [< MLG *slippen*]

slip[2] (slip) *n.* **1.** A cutting from a plant for planting or grafting; a cion. **2.** A small, slender person, esp. a youthful one. **3.** A small piece of something, as of paper or cloth, rather long relative to its width; a strip. **4.** A small piece of paper for jotting down memoranda, a record, etc. — *v.t.* **slipped, slip·ping** To cut off for planting; make a slip or slips of. [< MDu. *slippen* to cut]

slip·cov·er (slipˈkuvˈər) *n.* A fitted cloth cover for a chair, sofa, etc., that can be readily removed.

slip·knot (slipˈnotˈ) *n.* **1.** A knot having part of the material drawn through in a loop so that it is easily untied. For illus. see KNOT. **2.** A running knot.

slip-on (slipˈonˈ, -ônˈ) *adj.* Easily donned or taken off. — *n.* A slip-on garment, as a blouse.

slip·o·ver (slipˈōˈvər) *adj.* Easily donned by drawing over the head: a *slipover* shirt. — *n.* A slipover garment.

slip·per (slipˈər) *n.* A low, light shoe that is easily slipped on or off the foot. — **slipˈpered** *adj.*

slip·per·y (slipˈərˈē) *adj.* **·per·i·er, ·per·i·est** **1.** Having a surface so smooth that objects slip or slide easily on it. **2.** That evades one's grasp; tricky; elusive. **3.** Unreliable; undependable. — **slipˈper·i·ly** *adv.* — **slipˈper·i·ness** *n.*

slippery elm **1.** A tree of eastern North America. **2.** Its mucilaginous inner bark, used in medicine.

slip·shod (slipˈshodˈ) *adj.* **1.** Carelessly done or wrought; negligent; slovenly. **2.** Down at the heel; ragged; seedy.

slip·stream (slipˈstrēmˈ) *n. Aeron.* The stream of air driven backwards by the propeller of an aircraft.

slip-up (slipˈupˈ) *n. Informal* A mistake; error.

slit (slit) *n.* A cut that is relatively straight and long; also, a long, narrow opening. — *v.t.* **slit, slit·ting** **1.** To make a long incision in; slash. **2.** To cut lengthwise into strips. [ME *slitten* to cut] — **slitˈter** *n.*

slith·er (slithˈər) *v.i.* **1.** To slide; slip, as on a surface where footing is insecure. **2.** To glide, as a snake. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to slither. [OE *slīdan* to slide] — **slithˈer·y** *adj.*

sliv·er (slivˈər) *n.* **1.** A slender piece cut or torn off lengthwise; a splinter. **2.** Corded textile fibers drawn into a fleecy strand. — *v.t. & v.i.* To cut or split into long thin pieces. [< dial. E *slive* to cleave < OE *tōflīfan*] — **slivˈer·er** *n.*

slob (slob) *n.* **1.** *Informal* A stupid, careless, or unclean person. **2.** *Irish* Mud; mire. [< Irish *slab*]

slob·ber (slobˈər) *v.t.* **1.** To wet and foul with, or as if with, liquids oozing from the mouth. — *v.i.* **2.** To drivel; slaver. **3.** To talk or act gushingly. — *n.* **1.** Liquid spilled as from the mouth; slaver. **2.** Gushing, sentimental talk. [Var. of SLABBER] — **slobˈber·er** *n.* — **slobˈber·y** *adj.*

sloe (slō) *n.* **1.** The blackthorn (defs. 1 & 2). **2.** Any of various related plants. [OE *slāh*]

sloe-eyed (slōˈīdˈ) *adj.* Having dark, velvety eyes.

sloe gin A cordial with a gin base, flavored with sloes.

slog (slog) *v.t. & v.i.* **slogged, slog·ging** To strike hard; slug. **2.** To plod (one's way), as through deep mud. — *n.* A heavy blow. [Var. of SLUG] — **slogˈger** *n.*

slo·gan (slōˈgən) *n.* **1.** A battle or rallying cry, originally of the Highland clans. **2.** A catchword or motto adopted by a group, as a political party. [< Scottish Gaelic *sluagh* army + *gairm* yell]

SLOOP

sloop (slōōp) *n. Naut.* A single-masted, fore-and-aft rigged sailing vessel carrying at least one jib, now used principally as a racing vessel. [< Du. *sloep*]

slop (slop) *v.* **slopped, slop·ping** *v.i.* **1.** To splash or spill. **2.** To walk or move through slush. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause (a liquid) to spill or splash. **4.** To spill a liquid upon. — **to slop over** **1.** To overflow and splash. **2.** To do or say more than is necessary, because of excess zeal, sentimentality, etc. — *n.* **1.** Slush; watery mud. **2.** A puddle of liquid that has been slopped. **3.** An unappetizing liquid or watery food. **4.** Refuse liquid. **5.** *pl.* Waste food or swill, used to feed pigs, etc. [ME < OE *-sloppe*]

slope (slōp) *v.* **sloped, slop·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To be inclined from the level or the vertical; slant. — *v.t.* **2.** To cause to slope. — **Syn.** See TIP. — *n.* **1.** Any slanting surface or line. **2.** The degree of inclination of a line or surface from the plane of the horizon. [OE *āslūpan* to slip away] — **slopˈer** *n.* — **slopˈing·ly** *adv.* — **slopˈing·ness** *n.*

slop·py (slopˈē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** **1.** Slushy; splashy; wet. **2.** Watery or pulpy. **3.** Splashed with liquid or slops. **4.** *Informal* Messy; slovenly; untidy. **5.** *Informal* Slipshod; careless. — **slopˈpi·ly** *adv.* — **slopˈpi·ness** *n.*

slops (slops) *n.pl.* **1.** Articles of clothing, bedding, etc., supplied to sailors on shipboard. **2.** Cheap, ready-made clothes. [ME < OE *-slop*]

slosh (slosh) *v.t.* **1.** To throw about, as a liquid. — *v.i.* **2.** To splash; flounder: to *slosh* through a pool. — *n.* Slush. [Var. of SLUSH] — **sloshˈy** *adj.*

slot (slot) *n.* **1.** A long narrow groove or opening; notch or slit: the coin *slot* of a vending machine; the *slot* of a mailbox. **2.** A job opening or a place in a sequence. — *v.t.* **slot·ted, slot·ting** To cut a slot in; groove. [< OF *esclot* the hollow between the breasts]

sloth (slōth, slôth, sloth) *n.* **1.** Disinclination to exertion; habitual indolence; laziness. **2.** A slow-moving, tree-dwelling mammal of tropical America. [ME < OE *slæwth*]

sloth·ful (slōthˈfəl, slôthˈ-, slothˈ-) *adj.* Sluggish; lazy; indolent. — **slothˈful·ly** *adv.* — **slothˈful·ness** *n.*

slot machine A vending machine or gambling machine having a slot in which a coin is dropped to cause operation.

slouch (slouch) *v.i.* **1.** To have a downcast or drooping gait, look, or posture. **2.** To hang or droop in a careless manner, as a hat. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to droop or hang down. — *n.* **1.** A drooping of the head and shoulders caused by depression, fatigue, etc. **2.** A drooping of the brim of a hat. **3.** An awkward, heavy, or incompetent person: usu. in the negative: He's no *slouch* at baseball. [Origin uncertain] — **slouchˈy** *adj.* — **slouchˈi·ness** *n.*

slough[1] (slou *for defs. 1 & 3;* slōō *for def. 2*) *n.* **1.** A place of deep mud or mire; bog. **2.** A stagnant swamp, backwater, bayou, inlet, or pond in which water backs up: also spelled *slew, slue.* **3.** A state or moral depravity or despair. [OE *slōh*] — **sloughˈy** *adj.*

slough[2] (sluf) *n.* **1.** Dead tissue separated and thrown off from the living parts, as in gangrene. **2.** The skin of a serpent that has been or is about to be shed. — *v.t.* **1.** To cast off, as dead from living tissue: with *off.* **2.** To discard; shed, as a habit: with *off.* — *v.i.* **3.** To be cast off. **4.** To cast off a slough or tissue. [ME *slouh*] — **sloughˈy** *adj.*

slough of despond (slōō) Deep despair or dejection; despondency. [after the *Slough of Despond* in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*]

Slo·vak (slōˈvak, slōˈvak′) *n.* **1.** One of a Slavic people of eastern Czechoslovakia. **2.** The West Slavic language of the Slovaks. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Slovaks or to their language. Also **Slo·vak·i·an** (slōˈvakˈēˈən, -väˈkēˈən). [< Czech *slovák* Slav]

slov·en (sluvˈən) *n.* One who is careless of dress or of cleanliness; one habitually untidy.

Slo·vene (slō′vēn, slō·vēn′) *n.* One of a group of southern Slavs now living in NW Yugoslavia. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Slovenes or to their language. [< G *Slovene*]
Slo·ve·ni·an (slō·vē′nē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Slovenia, its people, or their language. — *n.* The South Slavic language of the Slovenes.
slov·en·ly (sluv′ən·lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** **1.** Having the habits of a sloven. **2.** Careless or slipshod in manner of work, etc. — *adv.* In a slovenly manner. — **slov′en·li·ness** *n.*
slow (slō) *adj.* **1.** Having relatively small velocity; not quick in motion, performance, or occurrence. **2.** Behind the standard time: said of a timepiece. **3.** Not precipitate or hasty: *slow* to anger. **4.** Dull or tardy in comprehending; mentally sluggish. **5.** Lacking promptness, spirit, or liveliness. **6.** *Informal* Dull or tedious in character: a *slow* party. **7.** Being in a condition that is not conducive to speed: a *slow* track. **8.** Inactive: Business is *slow* today. — *v.t.* **1.** To make slow or slower: often with *up* or *down*. — *v.i.* **2.** To go or become slow or slower: often with *up* or *down*. — *adv.* In a slow or cautious manner or speed. [OE *slāw*] — **slow′ly** *adv.* — **slow′ness** *n.*
slow-mo·tion (slō′mō′shən) *adj.* Pertaining to or designating a motion picture filmed at greater than standard speed so that the action appears slow in normal projection.
slow·poke (slō′pōk′) *n.* *Informal* A person who works or moves at an exceedingly slow pace; a laggard.
sludge (sluj) *n.* **1.** Soft, water-soaked mud; mire. **2.** A slush of snow or broken ice. **3.** Muddy or pasty refuse, as that produced by sewage purification. **4.** The sediment in a water tank or boiler. [Earlier *slutch*] — **sludg′y** *adj.*
slue[1] (slōō) *v.* **slued, slu·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move sideways, as if some portion were pivoted. — *v.i.* **2.** To move sideways. — *n.* The act of sluing around sideways; also, the position of a body that has slued. Also spelled *slew*. [Origin unknown]
slue[2] (slōō) See SLEW[3].
slue[3] (slōō) See SLOUGH[1] (def. 2).
slug[1] (slug) *n.* **1.** A bullet or shot of irregular or oblong shape. **2.** *Printing* **a** A strip of type metal for spacing matter, etc. **b** A metal strip used as a compositor's mark. **3.** Any often counterfeit small chunk of metal; esp., one used as a coin in automatic machines. [Origin uncertain]
slug[2] (slug) *n.* **1.** Any of various mollusks related to the snail, having an elongated body and a rudimentary shell. **2.** The larva of a sawfly or other insect, resembling a slug. **3.** A sluggard. [ME *slugge* sluggard]
slug[3] (slug) *Informal* *n.* **1.** A heavy blow, as with the fist or a baseball bat. **2.** A drink of undiluted liquor. — *v.t.* **slugged, slug·ging** To strike heavily or brutally, as with the fist or a baseball bat. [Origin uncertain] — **slug′ger** *n.*
slug·gard (slug′ərd) *n.* A person habitually lazy or idle; a drone. — *adj.* Lazy; slugglish.
slug·gish (slug′ish) *adj.* **1.** Slow; inactive; torpid. **2.** Habitually idle and lazy. **3.** Not active; slow; stagnant: a *sluggish* season. — **slug′gish·ly** *adv.* — **slug′gish·ness** *n.*
sluice (slōōs) *n.* **1.** An artificial channel for conducting water, equipped with a valve or gate (**sluice gate**) to regulate the flow. **2.** The body of water so channeled. **3.** Any artificial channel, esp. one for excess water. **4.** A trough through which water is run to separate gold ore, to float logs, etc. **5.** That through which anything issues or flows. — *v.* **sluiced, sluic·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To wet, water, or irrigate by or as by means of a sluice. **2.** To wash in or by a sluice. **3.** To draw out or conduct by or through a sluice. **4.** To send (logs) down a sluice. — *v.i.* **5.** To flow out or issue from a sluice. [< OF < L *excludere* to shut out]
slum (slum) *n.* *Often pl.* A squalid, dirty, overcrowded section of a city, marked by poverty and poor living conditions. — *v.t.* **slummed, slum·ming** To visit slums for amusement or curiosity. [< cant, room] — **slum′mer** *n.*
slum·ber (slum′bər) *v.i.* **1.** To sleep, esp. lightly or quietly. **2.** To be inactive; stagnate. — *v.t.* **3.** To spend or pass in sleeping. — *n.* **1.** Sleep. **2.** A state of inactivity or quiescence. [OE *slūma* slumber] — **slum′ber·er** *n.* — **slum′ber·ing·ly** *adv.* — **slum′ber·less** *adj.*
slum·ber·ous (slum′bər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Inducing sleep. **2.** Sleepy; drowsy. **3.** Suggesting or resembling sleep. Also **slum′ber·y, slum·brous** (slum′brəs). — **slum′ber·ous·ly** *adv.* — **slum′ber·ous·ness** *n.*
slum·lord (slum′lôrd′) *n.* *U.S.* A landlord of slum property. [< SLUM + (LAND)LORD]
slump (slump) *v.i.* **1.** To break through a crust and sink. **2.** To slide with perceptible motion down a declivity: said of rock, etc. **3.** To fall or fail suddenly, as in value or quality. **4.** To stand or walk with a stooping posture. — *n.* The act of slumping; a collapsing fall; a failure; a decline.
slung (slung) Past tense and past participle of SLING.
slunk (slungk) Past tense and past participle of SLINK.
slur (slûr) *v.t.* **slurred, slur·ring** **1.** To slight; disparage; depreciate. **2.** To pass over lightly or hurriedly. **3.** To weaken and elide (speech sounds) by hurried articulation. **4.** *Music* **a** To sing or play as indicated by the slur. **b** To mark with a slur. — *n.* **1.** A disparaging remark or insinuation. **2.** *Music* **a** A curved line (⌣ or ⌢) indicating that tones so tied are to be sung to the same syllable or performed without a break between them. **b** The legato effect indicated or produced by this mark. **3.** A blur. **4.** A slurred articulation. [< dial. E, orig., fluid mud]
slush (slush) *n.* **1.** Soft, sloppy material, as melting snow or soft mud. **2.** Grease. **3.** Overly sentimental talk or writing; drivel. [? Scand. origin] — **slush′y** *adj.*
slush fund *U.S.* Money collected or spent for corrupt purposes, as bribery, etc.
slut (slut) *n.* **1.** A slatternly woman. **2.** A woman of loose character; hussy. **3.** A female dog. [ME *slutte*] — **slut′·tish** *adj.* — **slut′tish·ly** *adv.* — **slut′tish·ness** *n.*
sly (slī) *adj.* **sli·er** or **sly·er, sli·est** or **sly·est** **1.** Artfully dexterous in doing things secretly; cunning in evading detection. **2.** Playfully clever; mischievous. **3.** Meanly or stealthily clever. **4.** Done with or marked by artful secrecy: a *sly* trick. **5.** Skillful; wise. — **on the sly** In a stealthy way; with concealment. [< ON *slǣgr*] — **sly′ness** *n.*
sly·ly (slī′lē) *adv.* In a sly manner: also spelled *slily*.
smack[1] (smak) *n.* **1.** A quick, sharp sound, as of the lips when separated rapidly. **2.** A sounding blow or slap. **3.** The sound of a blow, esp. with something flat. — *v.t. & v.i.* To give or make a smack, as in tasting, kissing, etc.
smack[2] (smak) *v.i.* **1.** To have a taste or flavor, esp. as tested by smacking: usu. with *of*. **2.** To have or disclose a slight suggestion: with *of*. — *n.* **1.** A suggestive taste, or flavor. **2.** A mere taste; smattering. [OE *smæc* the taste]
smack[3] (smak) *n.* A small, decked or half-decked vessel of various rig used chiefly for fishing, esp. one having a well for fish in its hold. [< Du. *smak*]
smack·ing (smak′ing) *adj.* Brisk; lively: a *smacking* breeze.
small (smôl) *adj.* **1.** Comparatively less in size, quantity, extent, etc.; diminutive. **2.** Being of slight moment, weight, or importance. **3.** Narrow; ignoble; mean; paltry. **4.** Lacking in the qualities of greatness. **5.** Acting or transacting business in a limited way. **6.** Weak in characteristic properties: said of liquors: *small* beer. **7.** Slender; fine; soft, as a voice. **8.** Of low degree; obscure. **9.** Lacking in power or strength. — *adv.* **1.** In a low or faint tone. **2.** Into small pieces. **3.** In a small way; trivially; also, timidly. — *n.* **1.** A small or slender part: the *small* of the back. **2.** A small thing or quantity. [OE *smæl*] — **small′ness** *n.*
small arms Firearms of small caliber, as pistols, rifles, and machine guns.
small capital A capital letter cut slightly larger than the lower-case letters of a specified type size.
small change Coins of small denomination.
small craft Small boats or vessels collectively.
small fry **1.** Small, young fish. **2.** Young children. **3.** Small or insignificant people or things.
small hours The early hours of the morning.
small letter A lower-case letter, as *a* in *Ra*.
small-mind·ed (smôl′mīn′did) *adj.* **1.** Having a trivial, petty mind. **2.** Narrow; intolerant; ungenerous. — **small′-mind′ed·ly** *adv.* — **small′-mind′ed·ness** *n.*
small potatoes *U.S. Informal* Insignificant persons or things.
small·pox (smôl′poks′) *n.* *Pathol.* An acute, highly contagious virus disease, characterized by inflammatory fever and the eruption of deep-seated pustules that usu. leave permanent scars: also called *variola*.
small talk Unimportant or trivial conversation.
small-time (smôl′tīm′) *adj.* *U.S. Slang* Petty; unimportant: a *smalltime* hoodlum.
smart (smärt) *v.i.* **1.** To experience a stinging sensation, generally superficial, either bodily or mental. **2.** To cause a stinging sensation. **3.** To experience remorse. **4.** To have one's feelings hurt. — *v.t.* **5.** To cause to smart. — *adj.* **1.** Quick in thought or action; bright; clever. **2.** Impertinently witty: often used contemptuously. **3.** Vigorous; emphatic; severe; brisk. **4.** Causing a smarting sensation; stinging; pungent. **5.** Sharp, as at trade; shrewd. **6.** *Dial.* Large; considerable: a *smart* crop of wheat. **7.** Sprucely dressed; showy. **8.** Belonging to the stylish classes; fashionable. — *n.* **1.** An acute stinging sensation, as from a scratch or an irritant. **2.** Any distress; poignant mental suffering. [OE *smeortan*] — **smart′ly** *adv.* — **smart′ness** *n.*
smart al·eck (al′ik) *Informal* A cocky, offensively conceited person. — **smart-al·eck·y** (smärt′al′ik·ē) *adj.*
smart·en (smär′tən) *v.t.* **1.** To improve in appearance; make smart: with *up*. **2.** To make more alert or clever.
smart set Fashionable society.
smart·weed (smärt′wēd′) *n.* Any of several species of widely distributed marsh plants whose leaves cause itching.
smash (smash) *v.t.* **1.** To break in many pieces suddenly, as by a blow, pressure, or collision. **2.** To flatten; crush. **3.** To dash or fling violently so as to crush or break. **4.** To strike with a sudden, forceful blow. **5.** To make bankrupt.

6. To destroy, as a theory. **7.** In tennis, etc., to strike (the ball) with a hard, swift, overhand stroke. —*v.i.* **8.** To go bankrupt; fail, as a business, etc. **9.** To come into violent contact so as to crush or be crushed; collide. —**to go to smash** *Informal* To be ruined; fail. —*n.* **1.** An act or instance of smashing, or the state of being smashed. **2.** Any disaster or sudden breakup: a *smash* in business. **3.** In tennis, etc., a strong overhand shot. **4.** *Informal* Something acclaimed by the public: a **smash hit.** [Prob. imit. Cf. Norw. *smaska.*] —**smash'er** *n.*

smash·ing (smash'ing) *adj. Informal* Extremely impressive; overwhelmingly good: a *smashing* success.

smash-up (smash'up') *n.* A smash; a disastrous collision.

smat·ter (smat'ər) *v.t.* To talk of, dabble in, study, or use superficially. —*n.* A smattering. [ME *smateren,* ? < Scand.] —**smat'ter·er** *n.*

smat·ter·ing (smat'ər·ing) *n.* A superficial knowledge of something. —**smat'ter·ing·ly** *adv.*

smear (smir) *v.t.* **1.** To spread, rub, or cover with grease, paint, dirt, etc.; bedaub. **2.** To spread or apply in a thick layer or coating: to *smear* grease on an axle. **3.** To defame; slander. **4.** *U.S. Slang* To defeat utterly. —*v.i.* **5.** To be or become smeared. —*n.* **1.** A soiled spot; stain. **2.** A small quantity of material, as blood, sputum, etc., placed on a microscope slide for analysis. **3.** A substance to be smeared on something, as a glaze for pottery. **4.** A slanderous attack; defamation. [OE < *smeoru* grease]

smear·y (smir'ē) *adj.* **smear·i·er, smear·i·est** Greasy, viscous, or staining; also, smeared. —**smear'i·ness** *n.*

smell (smel) *v.* **smelled** or **smelt, smell·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To perceive by means of the nose and its olfactory nerves. **2.** To perceive the odor of; scent. **3.** To test by odor or smell. **4.** To discover or detect as if by smelling: often with *out.* —*v.i.* **5.** To emit an odor or perfume: frequently with *of*; also, to give indications of, as if by odor: to *smell* of treason. **6.** To be malodorous. **7.** To use the sense of smell. **8.** To pry; investigate: with *about.* —*n.* **1.** The special sense by means of which odors are perceived. **2.** The sensation excited through the olfactory nerves. **3.** That which is directly perceived by this sense; an odor. **4.** A hint; trace. **5.** An act of smelling. [ME *smellen*] —**smell'er** *n.*

—**Syn.** (noun) **3.** *Smell* often suggests a strong and slightly unpleasant sensation, and *odor,* a more delicate and pleasing one. *Scent* is always delicate. *Aroma, fragrance,* and *perfume* are pleasant. *Stench* and *stink* are sickening and unpleasant.

smelling salts Pungent or aromatic salts, or mixtures of such, often scented, used as stimulants by smelling.

smel·ly (smel'ē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** *Informal* Having an unpleasant smell; malodorous.

smelt[1] (smelt) *v.t. Metall.* **1.** To reduce (ores) by fusion in a furnace. **2.** To obtain (a metal) from the ore by a process including fusion. —*v.i.* **3.** To melt or fuse, as a metal. [< MDu. *smelten* to melt]

smelt[2] (smelt) *n. pl.* **smelts** or **smelt** Any of various small silvery food fishes of north Atlantic and Pacific waters. [OE]

smelt[3] (smelt) Alternative past tense and past participle of SMELL.

smelt·er (smel'tər) *n.* **1.** One engaged in smelting ore. **2.** An establishment for smelting: also **smelt'er·y.**

smidg·en (smij'ən) *n. U.S. Informal* A tiny bit or part.

smi·lax (smī'laks) *n.* **1.** Any of various shrubby or herbaceous plants of the lily family, having thorny stems, flowers in umbels, and globular fruit, esp. one yielding sarsaparilla. **2.** A delicate twining greenhouse plant of the lily family, with greenish flowers. [< L < Gk. *smilax* yew]

smile (smīl) *n.* **1.** A pleased or amused expression of the face, characterized by a raising up of the corners of the mouth. **2.** A pleasant aspect: the *smile* of spring. **3.** Propitious disposition; favor; blessing: the *smile* of fortune. —*v.* **smiled, smil·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To give a smile; wear a cheerful aspect. **2.** To show approval or favor: often with *upon.* —*v.t.* **3.** To express by means of a smile. [ME *smilen,* prob. < LG] —**smil'er** *n.* —**smil'ing·ly** *adv.* —**smil'ing·ness** *n.*

—**Syn.** (noun) **1.** In a *smile,* the mouth is closed or slightly opened; in a *grin* it is opened wide, displaying the teeth. A *smile* suggests pleasure, satisfaction, approval, or amity. A *grin* may denote amusement, triumph, or irony.

smirch (smûrch) *v.t.* **1.** To soil, as with grime; smear. **2.** To defame; degrade: to *smirch* a reputation. —*n.* The act of smirching, or the state of being smirched; a smear; a moral stain or defect. [ME < OF *esmorcher* to hurt]

smirk (smûrk) *v.i.* To smile in a silly, self-complacent, or affected manner. —*n.* An affected or artificial smile. [OE *smearcian*] —**smirk'er** *n.* —**smirk'ing·ly** *adv.*

smite (smīt) *v.* **smote, smit·ten** or **smit** or **smote, smit·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To strike (something). **2.** To strike a blow with (something); cause to strike. **3.** To cut, sever, or break by a blow: usually with *off* or *out.* **4.** To strike with disaster; afflict. **5.** To affect powerfully with sudden feeling. **6.** To cause to feel regret or remorse. **7.** To affect as if by a blow: The thought *smote* him. **8.** To kill by a sudden blow. —*v.i.* **9.** To come with sudden force; also, to knock against something. [OE *smītan*] —**smit'er** *n.*

smith (smith) *n.* **1.** One who shapes metals by hammering: *goldsmith, tinsmith.* **2.** A blacksmith. [OE]

smith·er·eens (smith'ə·rēnz') *n.pl. Informal* Fragments produced as by an explosion. Also **smith'ers** (-ərz). [Cf. dial. E (Irish) *smidirin* fragment]

smith·y (smith'ē, smith'ē) *n. pl.* **smith·ies** A blacksmith's shop; a forge. [< ON *smithja*]

smit·ten (smit'n) Alternative past participle of SMITE. —*adj.* **1.** Struck with sudden force; gravely afflicted. **2.** Having the affections suddenly attracted.

smock (smok) *n.* A loose outer garment of light material worn to protect one's clothes. —*v.t.* **1.** To clothe in a smock. **2.** To decorate with smocking. [OE *smoc*]

smock·ing (smok'ing) *n.* Needlework in which the material is stitched into very small pleats or gathers, forming a kind of honeycomb ornamentation.

smog (smog) *n.* A combination of smoke and fog, esp. as seen in thickly populated industrial and manufacturing areas. [Blend of SM(OKE) and (F)OG]

smoke (smōk) *n.* **1.** The volatilized products of the combustion of organic substances, as coal, wood, etc., forming a suspension of carbon particles in a gas. **2.** Anything transient and unsubstantial; a useless or ephemeral result. **3.** The act of smoking a pipe, cigar, etc. **4.** A period of time during which one smokes tobacco. **5.** *Informal* A cigarette, cigar, or pipeful of tobacco. —*v.* **smoked, smok·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To emit or give out smoke. **2.** To inhale and exhale the smoke from a pipe, cigarette, etc. —*v.t.* **3.** To inhale and exhale the smoke of (tobacco, opium, etc.); also, to use (a pipe, etc.) for this purpose. **4.** To cure (meat, fish, etc.) by treating with smoke. **5.** To apply smoke to (animals) in order to drive away: with *out.* **6.** To force out of hiding (a criminal, etc.) or secrecy (information): with *out.* [OE *smoca*]

smoke·house (smōk'hous') *n.* A building or closed room in which meat, fish, hides, etc., are cured by smoke.

smoke·less (smōk'lis) *adj.* Having or emitting little or no smoke: *smokeless* powder.

smok·er (smō'kər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which smokes. **2.** A smoking car. **3.** A social gathering of men.

smoke screen A dense cloud of smoke used to prevent enemy observation of a place, force, or operation. Also **smoke blanket, smoke curtain.**

smoke·stack (smōk'stak') *n.* **1.** An upright pipe, usu. of sheet or plate iron, through which combustion gases from a furnace are discharged into the air. **2.** The funnel of a steamboat or locomotive, or the chimney of a factory, etc.

smoking jacket A short coat worn instead of a regular suit coat as a lounging jacket.

smok·y (smō'kē) *adj.* **smok·i·er, smok·i·est** **1.** Giving forth smoke. **2.** Mixed with smoke: *smoky* air. **3.** Emitting smoke improperly and unpleasantly, as from bad draft. **4.** Discolored with smoke. **5.** Smoke-colored; dark gray. **6.** Covered with mist. —**smok'i·ly** *adv.* —**smok'i·ness** *n.*

smol·der (smōl'dər) *v.i.* **1.** To burn and smoke with little smoke and no flame. **2.** To exist in a latent state; to manifest suppressed feeling. —*n.* Smoke. [ME *smoldren*]

smolt (smōlt) *n.* A young salmon on its first descent from the river to the sea. [? Akin to SMELT[2]]

smooth (smōōth) *adj.* **1.** Having a surface without irregularities; not rough; continuously even. **2.** Having no impediments or obstructions; easy; free from shocks or jolts. **3.** Calm and unruffled; bland; mild. **4.** Flowing melodiously: a *smooth* style. **5.** Suave, as in speech; flattering: often implying deceit. **6.** Free from hair; beardless. **7.** Without lumps; having the elements perfectly blended. **8.** Offering no resistance to a body sliding along its surface; without friction. —*adv.* Calmly; evenly. —*v.t.* **1.** To make smooth or even on the surface. **2.** To make easy or less difficult: to *smooth* one's path. **3.** To free from or remove obstructions. **4.** To render less harsh or softer and more flowing. **5.** To soften the worst features of; palliate: usu. with *over.* **6.** To make calm; mollify. —*v.i.* **7.** To become smooth. —**to smooth (someone's) ruffled feathers** To mollify. —*n.* **1.** The smooth portion or surface of anything. **2.** The act of smoothing. [OE *smōth*] —**smooth'er** *n.* —**smooth'ly** *adv.* —**smooth'ness** *n.*

smooth-bore (smōōth'bôr', -bōr') *n.* A firearm with an unrifled bore. Also **smooth bore.** —**smooth'bored'** *adj.*

smooth breathing In classical Greek: **a** The absence of an aspirated sound. **b** The symbol (') indicating this.

smooth-en (smōō'thən) *v.t. & v.i.* To smooth.

smör·gås·bord (smôr'gəs·bôrd, *Sw.* smœr'gōs·bōrd) *n.* **1.** Scandinavian hors d'oeuvres. **2.** A buffet supper consisting

of such hors d'oeuvres. **3.** A restaurant serving smörgåsbord. Also **smor'gas·bord.** [< Sw.]

smote (smōt) Past tense of SMITE.

smoth·er (smuth'ər) *v.t.* **1.** To prevent the respiration of; suffocate; stifle. **2.** To cover, or cause to smolder, as a fire. **3.** To hide or suppress: to *smother* one's feelings. **4.** To cook in a covered dish or under some other substance. — *v.i.* **5.** To suffocate, as from lack of air, etc. **6.** To be covered without air, as a fire. **7.** To be hidden or suppressed, as wrath. — *n.* **1.** That which smothers, as stifling vapor or dust. **2.** The state of being smothered; suppression. [Earlier *smorther*] — **smoth'er·y** *adj.*

smoul·der (smōl'dər) See SMOLDER.

smudge (smuj) *v.* **smudged, smudg·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To smear; soil. **2.** To protect (from frost, insects, etc.) by a heavy, smoky pall. — *v.i.* **3.** To cause a smudge. **4.** To be smudged. — *n.* **1.** A soiling, as of dry dirt or soot; smear; stain. **2.** A smoky fire or its smoke for driving away insects, preventing frost, etc. [Var. of SMUTCH]

smudg·y (smuj'ē) *adj.* **smudg·i·er, smudg·i·est** Full of or causing smudges. — **smudg'i·ly** *adv.* — **smudg'i·ness** *n.*

smug (smug) *adj.* **smug·ger, smug·gest** 1. Characterized by a self-satisfied or complacent air. **2.** Trim; spruce. [Cf. LG *smuk* neat] — **smug'ly** *adv.* — **smug'ness** *n.*

smug·gle (smug'əl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To take (goods) into or out of a country without payment of lawful duties. **2.** To bring in illicitly. — *v.i.* **3.** To practice smuggling. [< LG *smuggeln*] — **smug'gler** *n.* — **smug'gling** *n.*

smut (smut) *n.* **1.** The blackening made by soot, smoke, etc. **2.** Obscenity; obscene language. **3.** Any of various fungus diseases of plants, in which the affected parts change into a dusty black powder. **4.** Any of the fungi causing such a disease. — *v.* **smut·ted, smut·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To blacken or stain, as with soot or smoke. **2.** To affect with smut, as growing grain. **3.** To pollute; defame. — *v.i.* **4.** To give off smut. **5.** To be or become stained. [< LG *schmutt* dirt]

smutch (smuch) *v.t.* To smudge; soil. — *n.* A smear; smudge. [Cf. MHG *smutzen* to smear] — **smutch'y** *adj.*

smut·ty (smut'ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** 1. Soiled with smut; black; stained. **2.** Affected with smut: *smutty* corn. **3.** Obscene; coarse; indecent. — **smut'ti·ly** *adv.* — **smut'ti·ness** *n.*

snack (snak) *n.* **1.** A slight, hurried meal. **2.** A share of something. [< MDu. *snacken* to bite]

snaf·fle (snaf'əl) *n.* A horse's bit without a curb, jointed in the middle. Also **snaf'fle·bit'** (-bit'). — *v.t.* **·fled, ·fling** To control with a snaffle. [Cf. Du. *snavel* muzzle]

sna·fu (sna·fōō', sna'fōō) *Slang adj.* In a state of utter confusion. — *v.t.* **·fued, ·fu·ing** To put into confusion. [Acronym for "Situation normal, all fouled up"]

snag (snag) *n.* **1.** A jagged or stumpy knot or protuberance, esp. the stumpy base of a branch. **2.** A broken or projecting tooth. **3.** The trunk of a tree fixed in the bottom of a river, etc., by which boats are sometimes pierced. **4.** Any obstacle or difficulty. — *v.* **snagged, snag·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To injure, destroy, or impede by or as by a snag. **2.** To clear of snags. — *v.i.* **3.** To run upon a snag: said esp. of river craft. [Prob. < Scand.] — **snag'gy** *adj.*

snag·gle-tooth (snag'əl·tōōth') *n.* *pl.* **·teeth** A tooth that is broken, projecting, or out of alignment with the others. — **snag'gle-toothed'** (-tōōtht', -tōōthd') *adj.*

snail (snāl) *n.* **1.** Any of a large class of slow-moving mollusks of aquatic and terrestrial habits and having a spiral shell. **2.** A slow or lazy person. [OE *snægl*]

SNAIL

snail pace A very slow gait or forward movement. Also **snail's pace.** — **snail-paced** (snāl'pāst') *adj.*

snake (snāk) *n.* **1.** Any of a large order of scaly, legless reptiles with long, slim bodies and tapering tails; some kinds inject venom into the victim through tubular fangs. **2.** A treacherous person. **3.** A flexible, resilient wire used to clean clogged drains, etc. — *v.* **snaked, snak·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To drag by pulling forcibly from one end, as a log. **2.** To pull with jerks. — *v.i.* **3.** To move like a snake. [OE *snaca*]

snake·bite (snāk'bīt') *n.* **1.** The bite of a snake. **2.** Poisoning caused by the venom of a snake.

snake charmer An entertainer who charms venomous snakes by rhythmic motions of his body and by music.

snake dance **1.** A ceremonial dance of the Hopi Indians of Arizona. **2.** A procession of persons moving in a winding or zigzag line to celebrate an athletic victory, etc.

snake·root (snāk'rōōt', -rōōt') *n.* **1.** Any of various plants having roots reputed to be effective against snakebite. **2.** The root of any of these plants.

snak·y (snā'kē) *adj.* **snak·i·er, snak·i·est** **1.** Of or like a snake; serpentine; winding. **2.** Insinuating; cunning; treacherous. **3.** Full of snakes. — **snak'i·ly** *adv.* — **snak'i·ness** *n.*

snap (snap) *v.* **snapped, snap·ping** *v.i.* **1.** To make a sharp, quick sound. **2.** To break suddenly with a cracking noise. **3.** To fly off or give way quickly, as when tension is suddenly relaxed. **4.** To make the jaws come suddenly together in an effort to bite: often with *up* or *at.* **5.** To seize or snatch suddenly: often with *up* or *at.* **6.** To speak sharply, harshly, or irritably: often with *at.* **7.** To emit, or seem to emit, a spark or flash of light: said of the eyes. **8.** To close, fasten, etc., with a click. **9.** To move or act with sudden, neat gestures: He *snapped* to attention. — *v.t.* **10.** To seize suddenly or eagerly, with or as with the teeth: often with *up.* **11.** To sever with a snapping sound. **12.** To utter, address, or interrupt harshly, abruptly, or irritably. **13.** To cause to make a sharp, quick sound: to *snap* one's fingers. **14.** To close, fasten, etc., with a snapping sound. **15.** To cause to move suddenly, neatly, etc. **16.** To photograph with a camera. **17.** In football, to put in play. — **to snap one's fingers at** To be unimpressed or unintimidated by. — **to snap out of it** *Informal* **1.** To recover quickly, as from a state of depression. **2.** To change one's attitude. — *n.* **1.** The act of snapping, or a sharp, quick sound produced by it. **2.** A sudden breaking of anything, or the sound so produced. **3.** Any catch, fastener, or other similar device. **4.** A sudden seizing or effort to seize with or as with the teeth. **5.** A quick blow of the thumb sprung from the finger or of the finger from the thumb. **6.** The sudden release of the tension of a spring or elastic cord. **7.** A small, thin, crisp cake or cooky. **8.** Brisk energy; vigor; vim; zip. **9.** A brief spell; a sudden turn: said chiefly of cold weather. **10.** *Informal* Any task or duty easy to perform. **11.** A bit: It is not worth a *snap.* **12.** A snapshot. — *adj.* **1.** Made or done suddenly and without consideration; offhand. **2.** Fastening with a snap. **3.** *Informal* Easy; requiring little work. — *adv.* With a snap; quickly. [< MDu. *snappen* to bite at]

snap·drag·on (snap'drag'ən) *n.* A plant of the figwort family having solitary flowers likened to dragons' heads.

snap·per (snap'ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which snaps. **2.** A large food fish of the Gulf Coast, as the **red snapper.** **3.** A snapping turtle.

snapping turtle A large, voracious, fresh-water turtle of North America, much used as food.

snap·pish (snap'ish) *adj.* **1.** Apt to speak crossly or tartly. **2.** Disposed to snap, as a dog. — **snap'pish·ly** *adv.* — **snap'pish·ness** *n.*

snap·py (snap'ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** **1.** *Informal* Brisk; energetic; vivacious. **2.** *Informal* Smart or stylish in appearance. **3.** Snappish. — **make it snappy** *Informal* Hurry up! — **snap'pi·ly** *adv.* — **snap'pi·ness** *n.*

snap·shot (snap'shot') *n.* **1.** A photograph taken with a small camera without timing. **2.** A shot made without aim.

snare[1] (snār) *n.* **1.** A device, as a noose, for catching birds or other animals; a trap. **2.** Anything by which one is entangled or entrapped. **3.** *Surg.* A loop of wire used to remove tumors and other growths from the body. — *v.t.* **snared, snar·ing** **1.** To catch with a snare. **2.** To capture by trickery; entice. [OE < ON *snara*] — **snar'er** *n.*

snare[2] (snār) *n.* **1.** One of the cords or wires stretched across one of the heads of a snare drum to increase the resonance. **2.** A snare drum. [< MDu., a string]

snare drum A small drum having snares on one head.

snarl[1] (snärl) *n.* A sharp, harsh, angry growl; harsh or quarrelsome utterance. — *v.i.* **1.** To growl harshly, as a dog. **2.** To speak angrily and resentfully. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter or express with a snarl. [Freq. of obs. *snar* to growl] — **snarl'er** *n.* — **snarl'ing·ly** *adv.* — **snarl'y** *adj.*

snarl[2] (snärl) *n.* **1.** A tangle, as of hair or yarn. **2.** Any complication or entanglement. **3.** *Informal* A quarrel. — *v.i.* **1.** To get into a snarl or tangle. — *v.t.* **2.** To put into a snarl or tangle. **3.** To confuse; entangle mentally. [< SNARE[1]] — **snarl'er** *n.* — **snarl'y** *adj.*

snatch (snach) *v.t.* **1.** To seize or lay hold of suddenly, hastily, or eagerly. **2.** To take or remove suddenly. **3.** To take or obtain as the opportunity arises. **4.** *Slang* To kidnap. — *v.i.* **5.** To attempt to seize swiftly and suddenly: with *at.* **6.** To be eager to accept: with *at.* — **Syn.** See STEAL. — *n.* **1.** An act of snatching. **2.** A brief period. **3.** A small amount. **4.** *Slang* A kidnaping. **5.** In weight-lifting, a bringing of the weight from the floor to above the head in one motion. [ME *snacchen*] — **snatch'er** *n.*

snatch block *Naut.* A single block having an opening in one cheek to receive a rope. For illus. see BLOCK[1].

snatch·y (snach'ē) *adj.* **snatch·i·er, snatch·i·est** Interrupted; spasmodic.

sneak (snēk) *v.i.* **1.** To move or go in a stealthy manner. **2.** To act with cowardice or servility. — *v.t.* **3.** To put, give, transfer, move, etc., secretly or stealthily. **4.** *Informal* To pilfer. — *n.* **1.** One who sneaks. **2.** An act of sneaking. — *adj.* Stealthy; covert. [OE *snīcan* to creep]

sneak·er (snē'kər) *n.* **1.** A sneak. **2.** *pl. U.S. Informal* Rubber-soled canvas shoes esp. for sports.

sneak·ing (snē'king) *adj.* **1.** Acting in an underhand way. **2.** Secret: a *sneaking* suspicion. — **sneak'ing·ly** *adv.*

sneak preview *U.S.* The showing of a new motion picture before its date of release.

sneak·y (snēk′kē) *adj.* **sneak·i·er, sneak·i·est** Like a sneak; sneaking. — **sneak′i·ly** *adv.* — **sneak′i·ness** *n.*

sneer (snir) *n.* **1.** A grimace of contempt or derision made by slightly raising the upper lip. **2.** A mean insinuation. — *v.i.* **1.** To make or show a sneer. **2.** To express derision or contempt in speech, writing, etc. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter with a sneer or in a sneering manner. [ME *sneren*] — **sneer′er** *n.* — **sneer′ing·ly** *adv.*

sneeze (snēz) **sneezed, sneez·ing** *v.i.* To drive air forcibly and audibly out of the mouth and nose by a spasmodic involuntary action caused by irritation of the mucus membranes. — **not to be sneezed at** *Informal* Worthy of consideration. — *n.* An act of sneezing. [Alter. of ME *fnese*, OE *fnēosan* to sneeze] — **sneez′er** *n.* — **sneez′y** *adj.*

snell (snel) *n.* A short line of gut, horsehair, etc., bearing a fish hook, to be attached to a longer line. [Origin unknown]

snick (snik) *n.* A small cut; nick; snip. — *v.t.* To cut a nick in. [See SNICKERSNEE.]

snick·er (snik′ər) *n.* A half-suppressed or smothered laugh, often in derision. — *v.i.* **1.** To utter a snicker. — *v.t.* **2.** To utter or express with a snicker. [Imit.]

snick·er·snee (snik′ər·snē′) *n.* A swordlike knife. [Alter. of earlier *snick or snee* to thrust or cut]

snide (snīd) *adj.* Malicious or derogatory; nasty: *snide* comments. [Origin unknown]

sniff (snif) *v.i.* **1.** To breathe through the nose in short, quick, audible inhalations. **2.** To express contempt, etc., by or as by sniffing: often with *at*. — *v.t.* **3.** To breathe in through the nose; inhale. **4.** To smell with sniffs. **5.** To perceive as if by sniffs: to *sniff* peril. **6.** To express (contempt) by sniffs. — *n.* **1.** An act or the sound of sniffing. **2.** Perception by or as by sniffing. **3.** That which is inhaled by sniffing. [Appar. back formation < SNIVEL]

snif·fle (snif′əl) *v.i.* **·fled, ·fling** **1.** To breathe through the nose noisily. **2.** To snivel or whimper. — *n.* A snuffle. — **the sniffles** *Informal* A head cold or the sniffling that results. [Freq. of SNIFF]

snif·ter (snif′tər) *n.* **1.** A pear-shaped liquor glass. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A small drink of liquor. [< *snift*, var. of SNIFF]

snig·ger (snig′ər) *n.* A snicker. — *v.t. & v.i.* To snicker. [Var. of SNICKER] — **snig′ger·er** *n.*

snip (snip) *v.* **snipped, snip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To clip, remove, or cut with a light stroke of shears: often with *off*. — *v.i.* **2.** To cut with small, quick strokes. — *n.* **1.** An act of snipping. **2.** A small piece snipped off. **3.** *U.S. Informal* A small or insignificant person or thing. [< Du. *snippen*]

snipe (snīp) *n.* *pl.* **snipe** or **snipes** Any of various long-billed shore or marsh birds, allied to the woodcock. — *v.i.* **sniped, snip·ing** **1.** To hunt or shoot snipe. **2.** To shoot at or pick off individual enemies from hiding. [< ON *snipa*]

snip·er (snī′pər) *n.* One who shoots an enemy from hiding.

snip·pet (snip′it) *n.* **1.** A small piece snipped off. **2.** A small portion or share.

snip·py (snip′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** *Informal* **1.** Pert; impertinent. **2.** Fragmentary; scrappy. Also **snip′pet·y** (-it·ē).

snitch (snich) *Slang v.t.* **1.** To grab quickly; steal; swipe. — *v.i.* **2.** To turn informer: with *on*. [Origin unknown]

sniv·el (sniv′əl) *v.* **·eled** or **·elled, ·el·ing** or **·el·ling** *v.i.* **1.** To cry in a snuffling manner. **2.** To whine. **3.** To run at the nose. — *v.t.* **4.** To utter with sniveling. — *n.* **1.** The act of sniveling. **2.** Nasal mucus. [OE *snyflung* mucus from the nose] — **sniv′el·er** or **sniv′el·ler** *n.*

snob (snob) *n.* **1.** One who makes birth, wealth, education, or intelligence the sole criterion of worth. **2.** Any pretender to gentility. [Origin uncertain] — **snob′ber·y** *n.*

snob·bish (snob′ish) *adj.* Characteristic of or befitting a snob or snobs. — **snob′bish·ly** *adv.* — **snob′bish·ness** *n.*

Sno·cat (snō′kat′) *n.* A trucklike vehicle used for traveling in arctic conditions: a trade name. Also **sno′cat.**

snood (snōōd) *n.* A small, meshlike cap or bag, worn by women to keep the hair in place. — *v.t.* To bind (hair) with a snood. [OE *snōd*]

snoop (snōōp) *Informal v.i.* To look or pry into things with which one has no business. — *n.* One who snoops: also **snoop′er.** [< Du. *snoepen* to eat goodies on the sly]

snoop·y (snōō′pē) *adj.* **snoop·i·er, snoop·i·est** *Informal* Given to snooping.

snoot (snōōt) *n.* *Informal* **1.** The nose or face. **2.** A wry face; a grimace. [Var. of SNOUT]

snoot·y (snōō′tē) *adj.* **snoot·i·er, snoot·i·est** *U.S. Informal* Conceited or supercilious.

snooze (snōōz) *Informal v.i.* **snoozed, snooz·ing** To sleep lightly; doze. — *n.* A short nap. [Origin uncertain]

snore (snôr, snōr) *v.i.* **snored, snor·ing** To breathe in sleep with a hoarse, rough noise, usu. with an open mouth. — *n.* An act or the noise of snoring. [ME *snoren*] — **snor′er** *n.*

snor·kel (snôr′kəl) *n.* **1.** A mouth tube permitting a skin diver to breathe while swimming on the surface with his face under water. **2.** A tubelike apparatus for the ventilation of a submerged submarine. [< G *schnörkel*, lit., spiral]

snort (snôrt) *v.i.* **1.** To force air violently and noisily through the nostrils, as a horse. **2.** To express indignation, ridicule, etc., by a snort. **3.** *Informal* To laugh with a boisterous outburst. — *v.t.* **4.** To utter or express by snorting. — *n.* **1.** The act or sound of snorting. **2.** *Slang* A small drink. [ME *snorten*] — **snort′er** *n.*

snot (snot) *n.* **1.** Mucus from or in the nose: a vulgar term. **2.** *Slang* A low or mean fellow. [OE *gesnot*]

snot·ty (snot′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** **1.** Dirtied with snot: a vulgar term. **2.** *Slang* Contemptible; mean; paltry. **3.** *Slang* Impudent; proudly conceited; saucy.

snout (snout) *n.* **1.** The forward projecting part of a beast's head. **2.** Something resembling a hog's snout. **3.** A person's nose: a contemptuous or humorous term. — *v.t.* To provide with a snout. [ME *snūte*] — **snout′ed** *adj.*

snow (snō) *n.* **1.** Water vapor in the air precipitated in the form of minute flakes when the temperature is below 32° F. ◆ Collateral adjective: *nival*. **2.** Anything resembling snow. **3.** A fall of snow; snowstorm. **4.** *Slang* Heroin or cocaine. **5.** The pattern of snowlike flecks appearing on a television screen. — *v.i.* **1.** To fall as snow. — *v.t.* **2.** To scatter or cause to fall as or like snow. **3.** To cover, enclose, or obstruct with or as with snow. **4.** *U.S. Slang* To subject to a snow job. [OE *snāw*]

snow·ball (snō′bôl′) *n.* A small round mass of snow compressed to be thrown, as in sport. — *v.i.* **1.** To throw snowballs. **2.** To gain in size, importance, etc., as a snowball that rolls over snow. — *v.t.* **3.** To throw snowballs at.

snow·bank (snō′bangk′) *n.* A large mound of snow.

snow·ber·ry (snō′ber′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** A bushy American shrub having white berries: also called *waxberry*.

snow·bird (snō′bûrd′) *n.* **1.** The junco. **2.** *Slang* A cocaine or heroin addict.

snow blindness A temporary dimming of the sight caused by light reflected by snow. — **snow-blind** (snō′blīnd′) *adj.*

snow·bound (snō′bound′) *adj.* Hemmed in or forced to remain in a place because of heavy snow; snowed in.

snow bunting Any of various finches, the male of which in the breeding season is snow-white with black markings.

snow·cap (snō′kap′) *n.* A crest of snow, as on a mountain peak. — **snow′-capped′** *adj.*

snow-clad (snō′klad′) *adj.* Covered with snow.

snow·drift (snō′drift′) *n.* A snowbank made by the wind.

snow·drop (snō′drop′) *n.* A low, European, early-blooming bulbous plant, bearing a single, white, drooping flower.

snow·fall (snō′fôl′) *n.* **1.** A fall of snow. **2.** The amount of snow that falls in a given period.

snow fence *U.S. & Canadian* Portable fencing of thin, closely placed slats, used to prevent the drifting of snow over roads, fields, etc., by causing it to drift elsewhere.

snow·flake (snō′flāk′) *n.* **1.** One of the small, feathery masses in which snow falls. **3.** Any of certain plants allied to and resembling the snowdrop.

snow job *U.S. Slang* An elaborate, insincere speech contrived to impress or persuade.

snow line The limit of perpetual snow on the sides of mountains. Also **snow limit.**

snow·mo·bile (snō′mō·bēl) *n.* An enclosed vehicle used for traveling over snow, ice, etc., often equipped with caterpillar treads. [< SNOW + (AUTO)MOBILE]

snow·plow (snō′plou′) *n.* Any plowlike device for turning fallen snow aside from a road or railroad, or for the removal of snow from surfaces. Also **snow′plough′.**

snow·shoe (snō′shōō′) *n.* A device, usu. a network of thongs in a wooden frame, fastened on the foot and worn in walking over snow. — *v.i.* **·shoed, ·shoe·ing** To walk on snowshoes. — **snow′sho′er** (-shōō′ər) *n.*

snow·storm (snō′stôrm′) *n.* A storm with a fall of snow.

snow·y (snō′ē) *adj.* **snow·i·er, snow·i·est** **1.** Abounding in or full of snow. **2.** Pure; unblemished; spotless: *snowy* linen. — **snow′i·ly** *adv.* — **snow′i·ness** *n.*

snub (snub) *v.t.* **snubbed, snub·bing** **1.** To treat with contempt or disdain, esp. by ignoring; slight. **2.** To rebuke with a cutting remark. **3.** To stop or check, as a rope in running out, by taking a turn about a post, etc.; also, to make fast (a boat, etc.) thus. — *adj.* Short; pug: said of the nose. — *n.* **1.** An act of snubbing; deliberate slight. **2.** A sudden checking, as of a running rope or cable. [< ON *snubba* to snub] — **snub′ber** *n.*

snub-nosed (snub′nōzd′) *adj.* Having a pug or snub nose.

snuff[1] (snuf) *v.t.* **1.** To draw in (air etc.) through the nose. **2.** To smell; sniff. — *v.i.* **3.** To snort; sniff. — *n.* An act of snuffing. [< MDu. *snuffen*]

snuff[2] (snuf) *n.* The charred portion of a wick. — *v.t.* **1.** To extinguish: with *out*. **2.** To crop the snuff from (a wick). [Cf. G *schnuppe* snuff of a candle] — **snuf′fer** *n.*

snuff[3] (snuf) *n.* Pulverized tobacco to be inhaled into the nostrils. — **up to snuff** *Informal* Meeting the usual standard, as in quality, health, etc. — *v.i.* To take snuff. [< Du. *snuf*] — **snuf'fer** *n.* — **snuff'y** *adj.* — **snuf'fi·ness** *n.*

snuff-box (snuf'boks') *n.* A small box for carrying snuff.

snuf·fle (snuf'əl) *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.i.* **1.** To sniffle. **2.** To breathe noisily, as a dog following a scent. **3.** To talk through the nose; snivel. — *v.t.* **4.** To utter in a nasal tone. — *n.* **1.** An act of snuffing, or the sound made by it. **2.** An affected nasal or emotional voice or twang. [Freq. of SNUFF] — **snuf'fler** *n.* — **snuf'fly** *adj.*

snug (snug) *adj.* **snug·ger, snug·gest** **1.** Closely and comfortably sheltered, covered, or situated. **2.** Close or compact; comfortable; cozy. **3.** Having everything closely secured; trim: said of a ship. **4.** Fitting closely but comfortably. — *v.* **snugged, snug·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To make snug. — *v.i.* **2.** To snuggle; move close. — **to snug down** To make a vessel ready for a storm by reducing sail, etc. [Prob. < LG. Cf. Du. *snugger* clean, smooth.] — **snug'ly** *adv.* — **snug'ness** *n.*

snug·gle (snug'əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·gled, ·gling** To lie or draw close; cuddle: often with *up* or *together*.

so[1] (sō) *adv.* **1.** To this or that or such a degree; to this or that extent. **2.** In this, that, or such a manner; in the same way: often following a clause beginning with *as*, or preceding one beginning with *that*: As the twig is bent, *so* is the tree inclined. **3.** Just as said, directed, suggested or implied: Do it *so*; I will do *so*. **4.** According to fact: That is not *so*. **5.** *Informal* To an extreme degree; very. **6.** About as many or as much stated: I shall stay a day or *so*. **7.** According to the truth of what is sworn or averred: *So* help me God. **8.** To such an extent: used elliptically for *so much*: I love him *so*! **9.** Too: used in emphatic contradiction of a negative statement: You can *so*! **10.** Consequently; thus; therefore. **11.** *Informal* It seems that; can it be that; apparently: *So* you don't like it here! **12.** Let it be that way; very well. — *conj.* **1.** With the purpose that; usu. with *that*: They left early *so* that they would avoid meeting him. **2.** As a consequence of which: He consented, *so* they left. — *interj.* **1.** Is that so! **2.** Hold still! [OE *swā*]

◆ Careful writers use *so that* rather than the informal *so* (conj. def. 1) to introduce clauses of result or purpose, as in "I want to leave now *so that* I won't be late."

so[2] (sō) *n. Music* Sol.

soak (sōk) *v.t.* **1.** To place in liquid until thoroughly saturated; steep. **2.** To wet thoroughly; drench. **3.** To suck up; absorb: with *in* or *up*. **4.** To take in eagerly or readily: with *up*: to *soak* up knowledge. **5.** *Informal* To drink, esp. to excess: with *up*. **6.** *U.S. Slang* To overcharge. **7.** *U.S. Slang* To strike hard. — *v.i.* **8.** To remain or be placed in liquid till saturated. **9.** To penetrate; pass: with *in* or *into*. **10.** *U.S. Slang* To drink to excess. — *n.* **1.** The act of soaking, or state of being soaked. **2.** Liquid in which something is soaked. **3.** *Slang* A hard drinker. [OE *socian*] — **soak'er** *n.*

so-and-so (sō'ən·sō') *n.* **1.** An unnamed person or thing. **2.** *Informal* A euphemism for many offensive epithets.

soap (sōp) *n.* **1.** A cleansing agent made by decomposing the glyceryl esters of fats and oils with alkalis. **2.** A metallic salt of one of the fatty acids. **3.** *U.S. Slang* Money used for bribery. — **no soap** *U.S. Slang* **1.** No; not a chance. **2.** Futile. — *v.t.* To rub or treat with soap. [OE *sāpe*]

soap·ber·ry (sōp'ber'ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The fruit of any of mostly tropical trees and shrubs, sometimes used as a substitute for soap. **2.** A tree or shrub bearing this fruit.

soap·box (sōp'boks') *n.* **1.** A box or crate for soap. **2.** Any box or crate used as a platform by street orators. Also **soap box.** — **soapbox oratory** Impromptu or crude oratory.

soapbox derby *U.S.* A race among unpowered racing cars, steered down a slope by the boys who have built them.

soap opera A daytime television or radio serial drama usu. dealing with highly emotional domestic themes.

soap·stone (sōp'stōn') *n.* Steatite.

soap·suds (sōp'sudz') *n. pl.* Suds of water and soap.

soap·y (sō'pē) *adj.* **soap·i·er, soap·i·est** **1.** Resembling or consisting of soap. **2.** Smeared with soap. **3.** *Slang* Flattering; unctuous. — **soap'i·ly** *adv.* — **soap'i·ness** *n.*

soar (sôr, sōr) *v.i.* **1.** To rise high into the air. **2.** To sail through the air without perceptibly moving the wings, as a hawk or vulture. **3.** *Aeron.* To fly without power while gaining or holding altitude. **4.** To rise sharply above the usual level: Prices *soared*. **5.** To attain a lofty or exalted state. — *n.* The act of soaring; also, the height or range reached in soaring. [< F < L *ex* out + *aura* breeze, air] — **soar'er** *n.*

sob (sob) *v.* **sobbed, sob·bing** *v.i.* **1.** To weep with audible, convulsive catches of the breath. **2.** To make a sound like a sob. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter with sobs. **4.** To bring to a specified condition by sobbing: to *sob* oneself to sleep. — *n.* The act of sobbing. [ME *sobben*] — **sob'bing·ly** *adv.*

so·be·it (sō·bē'it) *conj. Archaic* If so; if only; provided.

so·ber (sō'bər) *adj.* **1.** Possessing or characterized by properly controlled faculties; well-balanced. **2.** Grave, sedate. **3.** Not drunk. **4.** Moderate or abstinent. **5.** Subdued or modest in color, manner of dress, etc. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become sober. [< OF < L *sobrius*] — **so'ber·ly** *adv.* — **so'ber·ness** *n.*

so·bri·e·ty (sō·brī'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being sober. **2.** Moderateness in temper or conduct.

so·bri·quet (sō'bri·kā) *n.* A fanciful or humorous appellation; a nickname: also *soubriquet*. [< F]

sob story *Slang* A sad personal narrative told to elicit pity.

so-called (sō'kôld') *adj.* Called as stated; generally styled thus: often implying a doubtful or incorrect designation.

soc·cer (sok'ər) *n.* A form of football in which the ball is propelled toward the opponents' goal by kicking or by striking with the body or head: officially called *association football*. [Alter. of ASSOCIATION]

so·cia·ble (sō'shə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to seek company; social. **2.** Agreeable in company; genial. **3.** Characterized by or affording occasion for agreeable conversation and friendliness. — *n. U.S.* An informal social gathering: also called *social*. [< F < L *socius* friend] — **so'cia·bil'i·ty, so'cia·ble·ness** *n.* — **so'cia·bly** *adv.*

so·cial (sō'shəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to society or its organization. **2.** Disposed to hold friendly intercourse with others; sociable; also, promoting friendly intercourse: a *social* club. **3.** Constituted to live in society: *social* beings. **4.** Of or pertaining to public welfare: *social* insurance. **5.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of persons considered aristocratic, fashionable, etc.: *social* register. **6.** Of animals or insects, living in communities. **7.** Venereal: *social* disease. — *n.* A sociable. [< L *socius* ally]

social disease A venereal disease.

so·cial·ism (sō'shəl·iz'əm) *n.* **1.** Public collective ownership or control of the basic means of production, distribution, and exchange, with the avowed aim of operating for use rather than for profit, and of assuring to each member of society an equitable share of goods, services, etc. **2.** The doctrines of those advocating this system.

so·cial·ist (sō'shəl·ist) *n.* An advocate of socialism. — *adj.* Socialistic.

so·cial·is·tic (sō'shəl·is'tik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or practicing socialism. **2.** Like or tending toward socialism.

Socialist Party The U.S. political party of socialism, formed in 1901 under the leadership of Eugene V. Debs.

so·cial·ite (sō'shəl·īt) *n. Informal* One who is prominent in fashionable society.

so·ci·al·i·ty (sō'shē·al'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state or character of being social; sociability.

so·cial·ize (sō'shəl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To place under group or government control. **2.** To make friendly, cooperative, or sociable. **3.** To convert or adapt to the needs of a social group. — *v.i.* **4.** *Informal* To take part in social activities. Also *Brit.* **so'cial·ise.** — **so'cial·i·za'tion** *n.*

socialized medicine A system proposing to supply the public with medical care at nominal cost, by regulating services and fees, by government subsidies to physicians, etc.

social register A directory of persons prominent in fashionable society.

social science **1.** Sociology. **2.** Any field of knowledge dealing with human society, as economics, history, sociology, education, politics, ethics, etc.

social security *U.S.* A Federal program of old-age and unemployment insurance, public assistance to the blind, disabled, and dependent, and maternal and child welfare services.

social service Organized activity intended to advance human welfare. — **so·cial·ser·vice** (sō'shəl·sûr'vis) *adj.*

social studies *U.S.* In elementary and secondary schools, a course or unit of study based upon the social sciences.

social work Any clinical, social, or recreational service for improving community welfare, as through health clinics, recreational facilities, aid to the poor and the aged, etc.

so·ci·e·ty (sə·sī'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The system of community life in which individuals form a continuous and regulatory association for their mutual benefit and protection. **2.** The body of persons composing such a community; also, all people collectively. **3.** A number of persons regarded as having certain common interests, similar status, etc. **4.** The fashionable or aristocratic portion of a community. **5.** Association based on friendship or intimacy; companionship; also, one's friends or associates. [< OF *sociele* < L *societas, -tatis* < *socius* friend] — **so·ci·e·tal** (sō·sī'ə·təl) *adj.*

Society of Friends A Christian religious group founded in England by George Fox about 1650, and characterized by the doctrine of "waiting upon the Spirit" for direct guidance and the repudiation of ritual, formal sacraments, oaths, and violence: commonly known as *Quakers*.

Society of Jesus The religious organization of the Jesuits.

socio- *combining form* **1.** Society; social. **2.** Sociology; sociological. [< F < L *socius* companion]

so·ci·o·ec·o·nom·ic (sō′sē·ō·ek′ə·nom′ik, sō′shē, -ē′kə-) *adj.* Social and economic: considered as a single factor: an upper *socioeconomic* group. — **so′ci·o·ec′o·nom′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

so·ci·ol·o·gy (sō′sē·ol′ə·jē, sō′shē-) *n.* The science that treats of the origin and evolution of human society and social phenomena. — **so·ci·o·log·ic** (sō′sē·ə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **so′ci·o·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **so′ci·ol′o·gist** *n.*

so·ci·om·e·try (sō′sē·om′ə·trē, sō′shē-) *n.* The study of the interrelationships of individuals within a social group.

sock[1] (sok) *n. pl.* **socks**; *for def. 1 also* **sox** **1.** A short stocking reaching above the ankle or just below the knee. **2.** The light shoe worn by comic actors in the Greek and Roman drama. [OE < L *soccus* slipper]

sock[2] (sok) *Slang v.t.* To strike or hit, esp. with the fist; to punch. — *n.* A hard blow. [Origin unknown]

sock·et (sok′it) *n.* **1.** *Mech.* A cavity or an opening adapted to receive and hold some corresponding piece or fixture. **2.** *Anat.* A cavity or hollowed depression for the reception of an organ or part. — *v.t.* To furnish with, hold by, or put into a socket. [< AF *soket*, dim. of OF *soc* plowshare]

sock-eye (sok′ī′) *n.* A salmon of the Pacific coast, highly valued as a food fish. [Alter. of Salishan *sukkegh*]

So·crat·ic (sō·krat′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of Socrates: also **So·crat′i·cal.** — **So·crat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Socratic method The dialectic method of instruction by questions and answers, as adopted by Socrates.

sod (sod) *n.* **1.** A piece of grassy surface soil held together by the matted roots of grass and weeds; a turf or divot. **2.** The surface of the earth. — *v.t.* **sod·ded, sod·ding** To cover with sod. [< MDu. *sode* piece of turf]

so·da (sō′də) *n.* **1.** Any of several white, alkaline compounds widely used in medicine, industry, and the arts. **2.** A soft drink containing soda water and flavoring: also **soda pop.** **3.** A drink made from soda water, ice cream, and, sometimes, flavoring. [< Med.L, ? < Ital. *soda* (*cenere*) solid (ash) < L *solidus*]

soda ash Crude sodium carbonate, widely used in the manufacture of glass, soaps, paper, etc.

soda cracker A thin, crisp cracker made with yeast-leavened dough containing soda.

soda fountain **1.** An apparatus from which soda water is drawn, usu. containing receptacles for syrups, ice cream, etc. **2.** A counter at which soft drinks, etc., are dispensed.

soda jerk *U.S. Slang* A clerk at a soda fountain.

so·dal·i·ty (sō·dal′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Companionship. **2.** A society; association. **3.** In the Roman Catholic Church, a society organized for devotional and charitable purposes. [< L < *sodalis* companion]

soda water An effervescent drink consisting of water charged under pressure with purified carbon dioxide gas.

sod·den (sod′n) *adj.* **1.** Soaked with moisture. **2.** Doughy; soggy, as bread, biscuits, etc. **3.** Flabby and pale, esp. from dissipation. **4.** Dull; dreary. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become sodden. [ME *soden*, orig. pp. of SEETHE] — **sod′den·ly** *adv.* — **sod′den·ness** *n.*

so·di·um (sō′dē·əm) *n.* A silver-white, highly reactive, alkaline, metallic element (symbol Na) that is soft and malleable, and forms many compounds: also called *natrium*. See ELEMENT. [< NL < SODA]

sodium bicarbonate *Chem.* A white crystalline compound of alkaline taste, used in medicine and cookery: also called *baking soda, bicarbonate of soda.*

sodium carbonate *Chem.* A strongly alkaline compound that in crystalline hydrated form is known as washing soda, and in the anhydrous form as soda ash.

sodium chloride Common salt.

sodium hydroxide *Chem.* A strongly basic compound, NaOH, used for bleaching, etc.: also called *caustic soda.*

sodium nitrate *Chem.* A white compound used as a fertilizer and in explosives.

sodium Pen·to·thal (pen′tə·thôl, -thal) Proprietary name for a brand of thiopental sodium: also called *Pentothal sodium.* Also **sodium pent′o·thal.**

sodium thiosulfate *Chem.* A crystalline salt used industrially and medicinally and in photography as a fixing agent: also called *hypo.* Also **sodium hyposulfite.**

Sod·om (sod′əm) In the Bible, a city on the Dead Sea, destroyed with the city of Gomorrah because of the wickedness of the people. *Gen.* xiii 10. — **Sod′om·ite** *n.*

sod·om·y (sod′əm·ē) *n.* Unnatural sexual relations, esp. between male persons or between a human being and an animal. [< OF < LL *Sodoma* Sodom, to whose people this practice was imputed] — **sod′om·ite** *n.*

so·ev·er (sō·ev′ər) *adv.* To or in some conceivable degree: often added to *who, which, what, when, how,* etc.

so·fa (sō′fə) *n.* A wide seat, upholstered and having a back and raised ends. [< F < Arabic *soffah* a part of a floor raised to form a seat]

soft (sôft, soft) *adj.* **1.** Being or composed of a substance whose shape is changed easily by pressure, but without fracture; pliable, or malleable; easily worked: *soft* wood. **2.** Smooth and delicate to the touch. **3.** Gentle in its effect upon the ear; not loud or harsh. **4.** Mild in any mode of physical action; bland: a *soft* breeze. **5.** Of subdued coloring or delicate shading. **6.** Expressing mildness, sympathy, etc.; gentle: *soft* words. **7.** Giving or enjoying rest; placid: *soft* sleep. **8.** Easily or too easily touched in feeling; tender: a *soft* heart. **9.** Incapable of bearing hardship, strain, etc.; delicate: *soft* muscles. **10.** Of yielding character; weak; effeminate. **11.** *Informal* Involving little effort; easy: a *soft* job. **12.** Free from mineral salts that prevent the detergent action of soap: said of water. **13.** Bituminous, as opposed to anthracite: said of coal. **14.** *Phonet.* **a** Describing *c* and *g* when articulated fricatively as in *cent* and *gibe*: opposed to *hard*. **b** Voiced and weakly articulated. **15.** *Physics* Having relatively weak penetrating power: *soft* X-rays. — *n.* **1.** That which is soft; a soft part or material. **2.** *Informal* One who is soft or foolish; a softy. — *adv.* **1.** Softly. **2.** Quietly; gently. [OE *sōfte*] — **soft′ly** *adv. & interj.* — **soft′ness** *n.*

soft-ball (sôft′bôl′, soft′-) *n.* **1.** A variation of baseball, requiring a smaller diamond and a larger ball. **2.** The ball used in this game.

soft-boiled (sôft′boild′) *adj.* Boiled, as an egg, to an extent of incomplete coagulation of the albumen.

soft coal Bituminous coal.

soft drink A nonalcoholic drink, as ginger ale, etc.

soft·en (sôf′ən, sof′-) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become soft or softer. — **sof′ten·er** *n.*

soft-heart·ed (sôft′här′tid, soft′-) *adj.* Tender-hearted; merciful. — **soft′heart′ed·ly** *adv.* — **soft′heart′ed·ness** *n.*

soft-ped·al (sôft′ped′l, soft′-) *v.t.* **·aled** or **·alled, ·al·ing** or **·al·ling** **1.** To mute the tone of by depressing the soft pedal. **2.** *Informal* To render less emphatic; moderate.

soft pedal A pedal that mutes the tone, as in a piano.

soft-shell (sôft′shel′, soft′-) *adj.* Having a soft shell, as certain clams, or a crab or lobster after shedding its shell: also **soft′-shelled′** (-sheld′). — *n.* A soft-shelled crab.

soft-shelled crab A crab of North America after it has molted.

soft-shelled turtle Any member of a family of turtles having a long snout and a soft, leathery shell.

soft-soap (sôft′sōp′, soft′-) *v.t. Informal* To flatter; cajole. — **soft′-soap′er** *n.*

soft soap **1.** Fluid or semifluid soap. **2.** *Informal* Flattery.

soft-spo·ken (sôft′spō′kən) *adj.* **1.** Speaking with a soft, low voice. **2.** Ingratiating; suave: said of speech.

soft·ware (sôft′wâr′, soft′-) *n.* Any of the programs used in operating a digital computer, as input and output programs: distinguished from *hardware* (def. 3).

soft-wood (sôft′wŏŏd′, soft′-) *n.* **1.** A coniferous tree or its wood. **2.** Any soft wood, or any tree with soft wood.

soft·y (sôf′tē, sof′-) *n. pl.* **soft·ies** *Informal* **1.** An extremely sentimental person. **2.** A sissy.

sog·gy (sog′ē) *adj.* **·gi·er, ·gi·est** **1.** Saturated with water or moisture; wet and heavy; soaked. **2.** Heavy: said of pastry. **3.** Soft; boggy: said of land. Also **sog·ged** (sog′id). [< dial. E *sog* a swamp, bog < Scand.] — **sog′gi·ly** *adv.* — **sog′gi·ness** *n.*

soil[1] (soil) *n.* **1.** Finely divided rock mixed with vegetable or animal matter, constituting that portion of the surface of the earth in which plants grow. **2.** Land; country: native *soil.* **3.** A particular kind of earth. **4.** A medium for development or growth: Slums are fertile *soil* for disease. [< OF < L < *solum* the ground]

soil[2] (soil) *v.t.* **1.** To make dirty; smudge. **2.** To disgrace; defile. — *v.i.* **3.** To become dirty. — *n.* **1.** The act of soiling or the state of being soiled. **2.** A spot or stain. **3.** Filth; sewage. **4.** Manure used as fertilizer. [< OF, ult. < L *suculus*, dim. of *sus* pig]

soil·age (soi′lij) *n.* Green crops for feeding animals.

soi·ree (swä·rā′, *Fr.* swà·rā′) *n.* A party or reception given in the evening. Also **soi·rée′.** [< F < *soir* evening]

so·ja (sō′jə, sō′yə) *n.* The soybean. [< NL < Du. *soya*]

so·journ (*v.* sō′jûrn, sō·jûrn′; *n.* sō′jûrn) *v.i.* To stay or dwell temporarily; abide for a time. — *n.* A temporary residence or stay, as of one in a foreign land. [< OF, ult. < L *sub-* under + *diurnus* daily] — **so′journ·er** *n.*

sol[1] (sōl) *n. Music* The fifth of the syllables used in solmization; the fifth tone of a major scale; also, the tone G: also *so.* [See GAMUT.]

sol[2] (sol, sōl) *n.* A colloidal suspension of a solid in a liquid.

Sol (sol) **1.** The sun. **2.** In Roman mythology, the god of the sun. [< L]

sol·ace (sol′is) *n.* Comfort in grief, trouble, or calamity; also, that which supplies such comfort: also **sol′ace·ment.**

—*v.t.* **·aced, ·ac·ing** 1. To comfort or cheer in trouble, grief, or calamity. 2. To alleviate, as grief; soothe. — **Syn.** See CONSOLE[1]. [< OF < L *solacium* comfort] — **sol′ac·er** *n.*

so·lar (sō′lər) *adj.* 1. Pertaining to, proceeding from, or connected with the sun. 2. Affected, determined, or measured by the sun. 3. Operated by the action of the sun's rays: a *solar* engine. [< L *sol* sun]

solar battery An assembly of photovoltaic cells for the direct conversion of solar energy into electricity.

so·lar·i·um (sō·lâr′ē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·i·a** (-ē·ə) or **·i·ums** A room or enclosed porch exposed to the sun's rays. [< L]

solar plexus 1. *Anat.* The large network of nerves found behind the stomach, and serving the abdominal viscera. 2. *Informal* The pit of the stomach.

solar system The sun together with the heavenly bodies that revolve about it.

sold (sōld) Past tense and past participle of SELL.

sol·der (sod′ər) *n.* 1. A fusible metal or alloy used for joining metallic surfaces or margins, applied in a melted state. 2. Anything that unites or cements. —*v.t.* 1. To unite or repair with solder. 2. To join together. —*v.i.* 3. To work with solder. 4. To be united by or as by solder. [< OF < L *solidus* firm, hard] — **sol′der·er** *n.*

sol·dier (sōl′jər) *n.* 1. A person serving in an army. 2. An enlisted man, as distinguished from a commissioned officer. 3. A brave, skillful, or experienced warrior. 4. One who serves loyally in any cause. 5. *Entomol.* An asexual form of a termite or of certain ants, in which the head and jaws are largely developed to defend the colony. —*v.i.* To be a soldier. [< OF *soude* wages < LL *solidus* a gold coin] — **sol′dier·ly** *adj.*

soldier of fortune An adventurous, restless person who is willing to serve wherever his services are well paid.

Soldier's Medal A U.S. military decoration awarded to any member of the army, or of a military organization connected with it, for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy. See DECORATION.

sol·dier·y (sōl′jər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·dier·ies** 1. Soldiers collectively. 2. Military service.

sole[1] (sōl) *n.* 1. The bottom surface of the foot. ◆ Collateral adjective: *plantar*. 2. The bottom surface of a shoe, boot, etc. 3. The lower part of a thing, or the part on which it rests when standing; esp., the bottom part of a plowshare. 4. The bottom part of the head of a golf club. —*v.t.* **soled, sol·ing** To furnish with a sole; resole, as a shoe. [< OF < Med.L *sola*, var. of L *solea* sandal]

sole[2] (sōl) *n.* 1. Any of a family of flatfishes allied to the flounders, many of which are highly esteemed as food. 2. One of various flounders of the Pacific coast of the U.S. [< OF < L *solea*]

sole[3] (sōl) *adj.* Being alone or the only one; only; individual. [< OF < L *solus* alone]

so·le·cism (sol′ə·siz′əm) *n.* 1. A violation of grammatical rules or of the approved idiomatic usage of language. 2. Any impropriety or incongruity. [< L < Gk. < *soloikos* speaking incorrectly < *Soloi*, a Cilician town whose people spoke a substandard Attic dialect] — **sol′e·cist** *n.* — **sol′e·cis′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.*

sole·ly (sōl′lē) *adv.* 1. By oneself or itself alone; singly. 2. Completely; entirely. 3. Without exception; exclusively.

sol·emn (sol′əm) *adj.* 1. Characterized by majesty, mystery, or power; impressive; awe-inspiring. 2. Marked by gravity; serious. 3. Characterized by ceremonial observances; sacred. 4. *Law* Done in due form of law: a *solemn* protest. [< OF < L *solemnis*] — **sol′em·ness, sol′·emn·ness** *n.* — **sol′emn·ly** *adv.*

so·lem·ni·ty (sə·lem′nə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** 1. The state or quality of being solemn; gravity; reverence. 2. A rite expressive of religious reverence; also, any ceremonious observance. 3. A thing of a solemn or serious nature.

sol·em·nize (sol′əm·nīz) *v.t.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** 1. To perform as a ceremony or solemn rite, or according to legal or ritual forms: to *solemnize* a marriage. 2. To dignify, as with a ceremony; celebrate. 3. To make solemn, grave, or serious. Also *Brit.* **sol′em·nise.** — **Syn.** See CELEBRATE. — **sol′em·ni·za′tion** *n.* — **sol′em·niz′er** *n.*

so·le·noid (sō′lə·noid) *n.* *Electr.* A conducting wire in the form of a helix, capable of setting up a magnetic field by the passage through it of an electric current. [< F < Gk. *sōlēn* a channel + -OID] — **so·le·noi′dal** *adj.*

so·lic·it (sə·lis′it) *v.t.* 1. To ask for earnestly; seek to obtain by persuasion or entreaty. 2. To beg or entreat (a person) persistently. 3. To tempt; esp., to entice (one) to an unlawful or immoral act. —*v.i.* 4. To make petition or solicitation. — **Syn.** See ASK. [< OF < L *sollicitare* to agitate] — **so·lic′i·ta′tion** *n.*

so·lic·i·tor (sə·lis′ə·tər) *n.* 1. A person who solicits; esp., one who solicits gifts of money or subscriptions to magazines. 2. The legal advisor to certain branches of the public service. 3. In England, a lawyer who may advise clients or prepare cases for presentation in court, but who may appear as an advocate in the lower courts only: distinguished from *barrister*. Also **so·lic′i·tor·ship′** *n.*

Solicitor General *pl.* **Solicitors General** 1. In the U.S., an officer who ranks after the Attorney General. 2. The principal law officer in some States, corresponding to the Attorney General in others.

so·lic·i·tous (sə·lis′ə·təs) *adj.* 1. Full of anxiety or concern, as for the attainment of something: *solicitous* of our good will. 2. Full of eager desire; willing. — **so·lic′i·tous·ly** *adv.* — **so·lic′i·tous·ness** *n.*

so·lic·i·tude (sə·lis′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* 1. The state of being solicitous; anxiety or concern. 2. *Usu. pl.* That which makes one solicitous.

sol·id (sol′id) *adj.* 1. Having definite shape and volume; not fluid. 2. Substantial; firm and stable. 3. Filling the whole of; not hollow. 4. Having no aperture or crevice; compact. 5. Manifesting strength and firmness; sound. 6. Characterized by reality; substantial or satisfactory. 7. Exhibiting united and unbroken characteristics, opinions, etc.; unanimous: a *solid* vote. 8. Financially sound or safe. 9. *U.S. Informal* Certain and safe in approval and support: They were *solid* with the boss. 10. Having or relating to the three dimensions of length, breadth, and thickness. 11. Written without a hyphen: said of a compound word. 12. Cubic in shape: a *solid* yard. 13. Unadulterated; unalloyed: *solid* gold. 14. Carrying weight or conviction: a *solid* argument. 15. Serious; reliable: a *solid* citizen. 16. *Printing* Having no leads or slugs between the lines; not open. —*n.* 1. A state of matter characterized by definite shape and volume. 2. A magnitude that has length, breadth, and thickness, as a cone, cube, sphere, etc. [< F < L *solidus*] — **sol′id·ly** *adv.* — **sol′id·ness** *n.*

so·li·dar·i·ty (sol′ə·dar′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** Coherence and oneness in nature, relations, or interests, as of a class.

solid fuel *Aerospace* A rocket fuel in solid, rather than liquid or gaseous, form. Also, **solid propellant.**

solid geometry The geometry that includes all three dimensions of space in its reasoning.

so·lid·i·fy (sə·lid′ə·fī) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** 1. To make or become solid, hard, firm, or compact. 2. To bring or come together in unity. — **so·lid′i·fi·ca′tion** *n.*

so·lid·i·ty (sə·lid′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** 1. The quality or state of being solid; extension in the three dimensions of space. 2. Mental, moral, or financial soundness; stability.

solid state physics The branch of physics that deals with the properties of solids, esp. at the atomic and molecular levels.

sol·i·dus (sol′ə·dəs) *n.* *pl.* **·di** (-dī) The sign (/) used to divide shillings from pence: 10/6 (10*s.* 6*d.*): sometimes also used to express fractions: 3/4. [< LL]

so·lil·o·quize (sə·lil′ə·kwīz) *v.i.* **·quized, ·quiz·ing** To talk to oneself; utter a soliloquy. Also *Brit.* **so·lil′o·quise.**

so·lil·o·quy (sə·lil′ə·kwē) *n.* *pl.* **·quies** A talking or discourse to oneself, as in a drama; a monologue. [< LL < L *solus* alone + *loqui* to talk]

sol·ip·sism (sol′ip·siz′əm) *n.* *Philos.* The theory that the self is the only thing really existent. [< L *solus* alone + *ipse* self] — **sol′ip·sist** *n.*

sol·i·taire (sol′ə·târ′) *n.* 1. A diamond or other gem set alone. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* One of many games, esp. of cards, played by one person: also, *Brit., patience*. 3. *Brit.* Pegboard. [< F < L *solitarius* solitary]

sol·i·tar·y (sol′ə·ter′ē) *adj.* 1. Living, being, or going alone. 2. Made, done, or passed alone: a *solitary* life. 3. Unfrequented by human beings; secluded. 4. Lonesome; lonely. 5. Single; sole: Not a *solitary* soul was there. —*n.* *pl.* **·tar·ies** 1. One who lives alone; a recluse. 2. *Informal* Solitary confinement. [< L < *solus* alone] — **sol′i·tar′i·ly** *adv.* — **sol′i·tar′i·ness** *n.*

solitary confinement The confining of a prisoner apart from other prisoners, usu. as punishment.

sol·i·tude (sol′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* 1. The state of being solitary; seclusion. 2. A deserted or lonely place.

sol·mi·za·tion (sol′mə·zā′shən) *n.* *Music* The use of syllables, most commonly *do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti* (*si*), as names for the tones of a major scale, with vowel changes to indicate chromatic tones. [< SOL[1] + MI]

so·lo (sō′lō) *n.* *pl.* **·los** or **·li** (-lē) 1. A musical composition or passage for a single voice or instrument, with or without accompaniment. 2. Any of several card games, esp. one in which one player may play alone against the other three. 3. Any performance accomplished alone or without assistance. —*adj.* 1. Composed or written for, or executed by, a single voice or instrument. 2. Done by a single person alone: a *solo* flight. —*v.i.* **·loed, ·lo·ing** To fly an airplane alone, esp. for the first time. [< Ital. < L *solus* alone] — **so′lo·ist** *n.*

Sol·o·mon (sol′ə·mən) Tenth-century B.C. king of Israel; son of David and Bathsheba; noted for his wisdom.

Sol·o·mon's-seal (sol′ə·mənz·sēl′) *n.* Any of several rather large perennial herbs having tubular flowers and rootstocks marked at intervals by circular scars.

sol·stice (sol′stis) *n.* **1.** *Astron.* The time of year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the celestial equator; either the **summer solstice**, about June 22 in the northern hemisphere, or the **winter solstice**, about Dec. 22. **2.** Either of the two points on the ecliptic marking these distances. **3.** A culminating or high point. [< F < L < *sol* sun + *sistere* to cause to stand] — **sol·sti·tial** (sol·stish′əl) *adj.*

sol·u·bil·i·ty (sol′yə·bil′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state of being soluble; capability of being dissolved. Also **sol′u·ble·ness.**

sol·u·ble (sol′yə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being dissolved in a liquid. **2.** Susceptible of being solved or explained. [< OF < L < *solvere* to solve, dissolve] — **sol′u·bly** *adv.*

sol·ute (sol′yōōt, sō′lōōt) *n.* The substance dissolved in a solution. — *adj.* Dissolved; in solution.

so·lu·tion (sə·lōō′shən) *n.* **1.** A homogeneous mixture formed by dissolving one or more substances, whether solid, liquid, or gaseous, in another substance. **2.** The act or process by which such a mixture is made. **3.** The act or process of explaining, settling, or disposing, as of a difficulty, problem, or doubt. **4.** The answer to a problem; also, the method of finding the answer. **5.** Separation; disruption. [< OF < L *solutus*, pp. of *solvere* to dissolve]

So·lu·tre·an (sə·lōō′trē·ən) *adj. Anthropol.* Pertaining to or characteristic of a Paleolithic culture preceding the Magdalenian and typified by a skilled technique in the making of flint implements. Also **So·lu′tri·an.** [after *Solutré*, a village in central France, where remains were found]

solv·a·ble (sol′və·bəl) *adj.* **1.** That may be solved. **2.** That may be dissolved. — **solv′a·bil′i·ty, solv′a·ble·ness** *n.*

solve (solv) *v.t.* **solved, solv·ing** To arrive at or work out the correct explanation or solution of; find the answer to; resolve. [< L *solvere* to solve, loosen] — **solv′er** *n.*

sol·vent (sol′vənt) *adj.* **1.** Having means sufficient to pay all debts. **2.** Having the power of dissolving. — *n.* **1.** That which solves. **2.** A substance, generally a liquid, capable of dissolving other substances. [< L *solvens, -entis*, ppr. of *solvere* to solve, loosen] — **sol′ven·cy** *n.*

-soma See **-some²**.

So·ma·li (sō·mä′lē) *n.* **1.** A member of one of certain Hamitic tribes of Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and French Somaliland. **2.** Their Hamitic language. Also **So·mal** (sō·mal′).

so·mat·ic (sō·mat′ik) *adj. Biol.* **1.** Of or relating to the body; physical; corporeal. **2.** Of or pertaining to the framework or walls of a body. [< Gk. *sōma* body]

somato- *combining form* Body; of, pertaining to, or denoting the body. Also, before vowels, **somat-.** [< Gk. *sōma, sōmatos* the body]

som·ber (som′bər) *adj.* **1.** Partially deprived of light or brightness; dusky; murky; gloomy. **2.** Somewhat melancholy; depressing. Also *Brit.* **som′bre,** *Archaic* **som′brous.** [< F *sombre*]

som·bre·ro (som·brâr′ō) *n. pl.* **·ros** A broad-brimmed hat, usu. of felt, much worn in Spain, Latin America, and the southwestern U.S. [< Sp. < *sombra* shade]

some (sum) *adj.* **1.** Of indeterminate or limited quantity, number, or amount. **2.** Conceived or thought of, but not definitely known: *some* person. **3.** Part (at least one) but not all of a class. **4.** *U.S. Informal* Worthy of notice: That was *some* cake. — *pron.* **1.** A certain undetermined quantity or part. **2.** Certain particular ones not definitely known or not specifically designated. — *adv.* **1.** In an approximate degree; about: *Some* eighty people were present. **2.** *Informal* or *Dial.* Somewhat. [OE *sum*]

-some¹ *suffix of adjectives* Characterized by, or tending to be (what is indicated by the main element): *blithesome, frolicsome.* [OE *-sum* like, resembling]

-some² *suffix of nouns* A body: *chromosome.* Also spelled *-soma.* [< Gk. *sōma* a body]

-some³ *suffix of nouns* A group consisting of (a specified number): *twosome, foursome.* [< SOME]

some·bod·y (sum′bod′ē, -bəd·ē) *pron.* A person unknown or unnamed. — *n. pl.* **·bod·ies** A person of consequence.

some·day (sum′dā′) *adv. U.S.* At some future time.

some·how (sum′hou′) *adv.* In some manner not explained.

some·one (sum′wun′, -wən) *pron.* Some person; somebody. — *n.* A somebody.

some·place (sum′plās′) *adv. Informal* Somewhere.

som·er·sault (sum′ər·sôlt) *n.* **1.** An acrobatic stunt in which a person either leaps or rolls from a sitting posture, turning heels over head. **2.** A complete reversal of opinion, attitude, etc. — *v.i.* To perform a somersault. Also spelled *summersault.* Also **som′er·set** (-set). [< OF, ult. < L *supra* above + *saltus* leap]

some·thing (sum′thing) *n.* **1.** A particular thing indefinitely conceived or stated. **2.** Some portion or quantity. **3.** A person or thing of importance. — *adv.* Somewhat: now only in the phrase **something like.**

some·time (sum′tīm′) *adv.* **1.** At some future time not precisely stated; eventually. **2.** At some indeterminate time or occasion. — *adj.* Former; quondam: a *sometime* student.

some·times (sum′tīmz′) *adv.* At times; occasionally.

some·way (sum′wā′) *adv.* In some way or other; somehow. Also **some way, some′ways′** (-wāz′).

some·what (sum′hwot′, -hwət) *n.* **1.** An uncertain quantity or degree; something. **2.** An individual or thing of consequence. — *adv.* In some degree.

some·where (sum′hwâr′) *adv.* **1.** In, at, or to some place unspecified or unknown. **2.** In one place or another. **3.** In or to some existent place. **4.** Approximately: with *about.* — *n.* An unspecified or unknown place.

some·wheres (sum′hwârz′) *adv. Chiefly Dial.* Somewhere.

som·nam·bu·late (som·nam′byə·lāt) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To walk or wander about while asleep. [< L *somnus* sleep + AMBULATE]

som·nam·bu·lism (som·nam′byə·liz′əm) *n.* The act or state of walking during sleep; sleepwalking. Also **som·nam′·bu·la′tion.** — **som·nam′bu·lant** (-lənt) *adj.* — **som·nam′·bu·list** *n.* — **som·nam′bu·lis′tic** *adj.*

somni- *combining form* Sleep; of or pertaining to sleep: *somniferous.* [< L *somnus* sleep]

som·nif·er·ous (som·nif′ər·əs) *adj.* Tending to produce sleep; soporiferous; narcotic. Also **som·nif′ic.**

som·no·lence (som′nə·ləns) *n.* Oppressive drowsiness or inclination to sleep. Also **som′no·len·cy.**

som·no·lent (som′nə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to sleep; drowsy. **2.** Tending to induce drowsiness. [< F < L < *somnus* sleep] — **som′no·lent·ly** *adv.*

son (sun) *n.* **1.** A male child considered with reference to either parent or to both parents. **2.** Any male descendant. **3.** One who occupies the place of a son, as by adoption, marriage, or regard. **4.** A person regarded as a native of a particular country or place. **5.** A male person representing some quality or character. [OE *sunu*] — **son′ship** *n.*

-son A descendant of: English and Scandinavian patronymic suffix: *Anderson.*

Son (sun) Jesus Christ; the second person of the Trinity.

so·nant (sō′nənt) *adj.* **1.** Sounding; resonant. **2.** *Phonet.* Voiced. — *n. Phonet.* **1.** A voiced speech sound. **2.** A syllabic sound. [< L *sonans, -antis*, ppr. of *sonare* to resound] — **so′nance** *n.*

so·nar (sō′när) *n.* A device using underwater sound waves for navigation, range finding, detection of submerged objects, communication, etc. — *adj.* Of, or pertaining to this device. [< SO(UND) NA(VIGATION AND) R(ANGING)]

so·na·ta (sə·nä′tä) *n. Music* A composition for one, two, or in older music, three or more instruments. [< Ital. < *sonare* to sound]

sonata form *Music* The outline upon which a movement, esp. the first, of a sonata, quartet, symphony, etc., is based.

so·na·ti·na (son′ə·tē′nə) *n. pl.* **·ti·nas** or **·ti·ne** (-tē′nā) *Music* A short or easy sonata. [< Ital., dim. of SONATA]

song (sông, song) *n.* **1.** A musical composition for one or more voices. **2.** The rendering of vocal music; more widely, any melodious utterance, as of a bird. **3.** A lyric or ballad. **4.** Poetry; verse. — **for a song** At a very low price. [OE]

song·bird (sông′bûrd′, song′-) *n.* A bird that utters a musical call.

song·ful (sông′fəl, song′-) *adj.* Full of song or melody.

Song of Solomon A book of the Old Testament consisting of a Hebrew dramatic love poem attributed to Solomon: also, in the Douai Bible, *Canticle of Canticles.* Also **Song of Songs.**

song sparrow A common sparrow of the eastern U.S. noted for its song.

song·ster (sông′stər, song′-) *n.* **1.** A person or bird given to singing. **2.** A poet. — **song′stress** *n.fem.*

song thrush A bird of the thrush family, native in Europe and having brown wings and a spotted breast.

song·wri·ter (sông′rī′tər) *n.* One who writes music or lyrics, or both, for songs, esp. popular songs. Also **song writer.**

son·ic (son′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, determined or affected by sound. **2.** Having a speed approaching that of sound. [< L *sonus* sound]

sonic barrier *Aeron.* The transonic barrier.

son-in-law (sun′in·lô′) *n. pl.* **sons-in-law** The husband of one's daughter.

son·net (son′it) *n.* A poem usu. of fourteen decasyllabic lines, properly expressing two successive phases of a single thought or idea. — *v.t.* **1.** To celebrate in sonnets. — *v.i.* **2.** To compose sonnets. [< F < Ital. < Provençal *sonet*, dim. of *son* sound < L *sonus*]

son·net·eer (son′ə·tir′) *n.* A composer of sonnets. — *v.i.* To compose sonnets.

son·ny (sun′ē) *n. Informal* Youngster: a familiar form of address to boys.

so·nor·ant (sə·nôr′ənt, -nō′rənt) *n. Phonet.* A voiced consonant of relatively high sonority, as (l), (r), (m), (n).

so·nor·i·ty (sə·nôr′ə·tē, -nor′-) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** Sonorous quality or state; resonance; also **so·no′rous·ness.** **2.** A sound.

so·no·rous (sə·nôr′əs, -nō′rəs, son′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Productive or capable of sound vibrations. **2.** Loud and full-sounding; resonant. [< L *sonare* to resound] — **so·no′rous·ly** *adv.*

soon (sōōn) *adv.* **1.** At a future or subsequent time not long distant; shortly. **2.** Without delay; in a speedy manner. **3.** With ease; readily. **4.** With willingness or readiness: usu. preceded by *would as, had as,* etc. **5.** In good season; early. [OE *sōna* immediately]

Soon·er State (sōō′nər) Nickname for Oklahoma.

soot (sōōt, sŏŏt) *n.* A black substance, essentially carbon from the incomplete combustion of wood, coal, natural gas, etc., as deposited on the inside of chimneys and other surfaces. — *v.t.* To soil or cover with soot. [OE *sōt*]

sooth (sōōth) *Archaic adj.* True. — *n.* Truth. — **in sooth** In truth. [OE *sōth*] — **sooth′ly** *adv.*

soothe (sōōth) *v.* **soothed, sooth·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To restore to a quiet or normal state; calm. **2.** To mitigate, soften, or relieve, as pain or grief. — *v.i.* **3.** To have a calming or relieving effect. [OE *sōthian* to verify] — **sooth′er** *n.* — **sooth′·ing** *adj.* — **sooth′ing·ly** *adv.*

sooth·say·er (sōōth′sā′ər) *n.* One who claims to be able to foretell events. — **sooth′say′ing** *n.*

soot·y (sōōt′ē, sŏŏt′tē) *adj.* **soot·i·er, soot·i·est** **1.** Blackened or stained by soot. **2.** Producing or consisting of soot. **3.** Black like soot. — **soot′i·ly** *adv.* — **soot′i·ness** *n.*

sop (sop) *v.* **sopped, sop·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To dip or soak in a liquid. **2.** To drench. **3.** To take up by absorption: often with *up.* — *v.i.* **4.** To be absorbed; soak in. **5.** To be or become drenched. — *n.* **1.** Anything softened in liquid, as bread. **2.** Anything given to pacify, as a bribe. [OE *sopp*]

soph·ism (sof′iz·əm) *n.* **1.** A false argument intentionally used to deceive. **2.** The doctrine or method of the sophists. [< F or L < Gk., ult. < *sophos* wise]

soph·ist (sof′ist) *n.* **1.** A philosopher; a learned man. **2.** One who argues cleverly but fallaciously or unnecessarily minutely. — *adj.* Pertaining to the art or method of sophists, or to sophistry. [< L < Gk., ult. < *sophos* wise]

Soph·ist (sof′ist) *n.* **1.** A member of a school of early Greek philosophy, preceding the Socratic school. **2.** One of the later Greek teachers of philosophy and rhetoric, who showed great skill in subtle disputation under logical forms.

so·phis·tic (sə·fis′tik) *adj.* Pertaining to a Sophist, sophists, or sophistry. — *n.* The art or method of the Sophists. Also **so·phis′ti·cal.** — **so·phis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.* — **so·phis′ti·cal·ness** *n.*

so·phis·ti·cate (*v.* sə·fis′tə·kāt; *n.* sə·fis′tə·kit, -kāt) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make less simple or ingenuous in mind or manner; render worldly-wise. **2.** *Rare* To mislead or corrupt (a person). **3.** To increase the complexity and capability of. — *v.i.* **4.** To indulge in sophistry; be sophistic. — *n.* A sophisticated person. [< Med.L < L *sophisticus* sophistic] — **so·phis′ti·ca′tor** *n.*

so·phis·ti·cat·ed (sə·fis′tə·kā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Having fine or subtle perceptions; cultured. **2.** Appealing to the intellect; not suited to popular tastes. **3.** Worldly-wise; deprived of natural simplicity. **4.** Very complicated in design, capabilities, etc.: said of mechanical and electronic devices.

so·phis·ti·ca·tion (sə·fis′tə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** Sophisticated ideas, attitudes, etc., derived from education and culture. **2.** The act of sophisticating. **3.** Adulteration; falsification.

soph·is·try (sof′is·trē) *n.* *pl.* **·tries** **1.** Subtly fallacious reasoning or disputation. **2.** The art or methods of the Greek Sophists.

soph·o·more (sof′ə·môr, -mōr) *n.* In American high schools, colleges, and universities having a four-year course, a second-year student. [Earlier *sophumer* one who uses sophisms; later infl. in meaning by Gk. *sophos* wise + *mōros* fool]

soph·o·mor·ic (sof′ə·môr′ik, -mŏr′-) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like a sophomore. **2.** Marked by a shallow assumption of learning or by empty grandiloquence; immature; callow. Also **soph′o·mor′i·cal.** — **soph′o·mor′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Soph·o·ni·as (sof′ə·ni′əs) The Douai Bible name for ZEPHANIAH.

-sophy *combining form* Knowledge pertaining to a (specified) field: *theosophy.* [< Gk. *sophia* wisdom]

so·po·rif·ic (sō′pə·rif′ik, sop′ə-) *adj.* **1.** Causing or tending to cause sleep. **2.** Drowsy; sleepy. — *n.* A medicine that produces sleep. [< L *sopor* deep sleep]

sop·ping (sop′ing) *adj.* Wet through; drenched; soaking.

sop·py (sop′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** **1.** Very wet. **2.** Rainy. **3.** *Brit. Slang* Mawkish; sentimental.

so·pra·no (sə·pran′ō, -prä′nō) *n.* *pl.* **so·pra·nos** or **so·pra·ni** (sə·prä′nē) **1.** A voice of the highest range. **2.** The music intended for such a voice. **3.** A person having a treble or high-range voice, or singing such a part. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to a soprano voice, part, etc. [< Ital. *sopra* above]

so·ra (sôr′ə, sō′rə) *n.* A small North American rail, esteemed as food. Also **sora rail.** [? < N.Am.Ind.]

Sorb (sôrb) *n.* A Wend.

Sor·bi·an (sôr′bē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Sorbs or Wends or to their language. — *n.* **1.** A Sorb or Wend. **2.** The West Slavic language of the Sorbs; Wendish.

Sor·bonne (sôr·bôn′) The faculties of literature and science of the University of Paris.

sor·cer·er (sôr′sər·ər) *n.* A wizard; conjurer; magician. — **sor′cer·ess** *n.fem.*

sor·cer·y (sôr′sər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·cer·ies** Alleged employment of supernatural agencies; witchcraft. [< OF < L *sors* fate] — **sor′cer·ous** *adj.* — **sor′cer·ous·ly** *adv.*

sor·did (sôr′did) *adj.* **1.** Filthy; dirty. **2.** Mercenary. **3.** Of degraded character; vile; base. [< L *sordes* filth] — **sor′did·ly** *adv.* — **sor′did·ness** *n.*

sore (sôr, sōr) *adj.* **sor·er, sor·est** **1.** Painful or tender to the touch as an inflamed or injured part of the body. **2.** Grieved; distressed: a *sore* heart. **3.** Arousing painful feelings; irritating: a *sore* point. **4.** Extreme or severe: *sore* need. **5.** *Informal* Offended; aggrieved. — *n.* **1.** A place on the body where the skin or flesh is bruised, broken, or inflamed. **2.** A painful memory; grief. — *adv.* *Archaic* Sorely. [OE *sār*] — **sore′ness** *n.*

sore·head (sôr′hed′, sōr′-) *U.S. Slang* *n.* A disgruntled or offended person. — **sore′head·ed** *adj.*

sore·ly (sôr′lē, sōr′-) *adv.* **1.** Grievously; distressingly. **2.** Greatly; in high degree: His aid was *sorely* needed.

sor·ghum (sôr′gəm) *n.* **1.** Any of various stout, canelike tropical grasses cultivated for their saccharine juices and as fodder. **2.** Syrup prepared from their sweet juices of the plant. [< NL < Ital. *sorgo*]

so·ror·i·ty (sə·rôr′ə·tē, -ror′-) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** A sisterhood; esp., a women's national or local association having chapters in a secondary school, college, or university. [< Med.L < L *soror* sister]

sorp·tion (sôrp′shən) *n.* Any process by which one substance takes up and holds the molecules of another substance, as by absorption or adsorption. [< NL < L *sorbere*]

sor·rel[1] (sôr′əl, sor′-) *n.* Any of several herbs with acid leaves used in salads. [< F < OHG *sur* sour]

sor·rel[2] (sôr′əl, sor′-) *n.* **1.** A reddish or yellowish brown color. **2.** An animal of this color. [< OF *sor* hawk with red plumage]

sor·row (sor′ō, sôr′ō) *n.* **1.** Pain or distress of mind because of loss, injury, or misfortune. **2.** An event that causes pain or distress of mind. **3.** The expression of grief. — *v.i.* To feel sorrow; grieve. [OE *sorg*] — **sor′row·er** *n.*

sor·row·ful (sor′ə·fəl, sôr′-) *adj.* Sad; unhappy; mournful. — **sor′row·ful·ly** *adv.* — **sor′row·ful·ness** *n.*

sor·ry (sor′ē, sôr′ē) *adj.* **·ri·er, ·ri·est** **1.** Grieved or pained; affected by sorrow from any cause. **2.** Causing sorrow; dismal. **3.** Pitiable or worthless; paltry. **4.** Painful; grievous. [OE *sār* sore] — **sor′ri·ly** *adv.* — **sor′ri·ness** *n.*

sort (sôrt) *n.* **1.** Any number or collection of persons or things characterized by the same or similar qualities; a kind; species; class; set. **2.** Form of being or acting; character; nature; quality; also, manner; style. **3.** *Usu. pl. Printing* A character or type considered as a portion of a font. — **of sorts** Originally, of various or different kinds; now, of a poor or unsatisfactory kind: an actor *of sorts.* — **out of sorts** *Informal* In an ill humor; irritable. — **sort of** *Informal* Somewhat. — *v.t.* To arrange or separate into grades, kinds, or sizes. [< OF < L *sors* lot, condition] — **sort′a·ble** *adj.* — **sort′a·bly** *adv.* — **sort′er** *n.*

sor·tie (sôr′tē) *n.* *Mil.* **1.** A sally of troops from a besieged place to attack the besiegers. **2.** A single trip of an aircraft on a military or naval mission. [< F *sortir* to go forth]

S O S (es′ō′es′) **1.** The code signal of distress adopted by the Radiotelegraphic Convention in 1912, and used by airplanes, ships, etc. **2.** Any call for assistance.

so-so (sō′sō′) *adj.* Passable; mediocre. — *adv.* Tolerably.

sot (sot) *n.* A habitual drunkard. [OE < OF < LL *sottus* drunkard] — **sot′tish** *adj.* — **sot′tish·ly** *adv.* — **sot′tish·ness** *n.*

sot·to vo·ce (sot′ō vō′chē, *Ital.* sôt′tō vō′chā) Softly; in an undertone; privately. [< Ital., under the (normal) voice]

sou (sōō) *n.* A former French coin of varying value. [< F < LL *solidus* a gold coin]

sou·brette (sōō·bret′) *n.* **1.** In light opera or comedy, the role of a pert, intriguing lady's maid. **2.** An actress playing such a role. **3.** Any frivolous or coquettish young woman character. [< F < Provençal *soubret* shy, coy] — **sou·bret′ish** *adj.*

sou·bri·quet (sōō′bri·kā) *n.* A sobriquet.

souf·flé (sōō·flā′) *adj.* Made light and frothy, and fixed in that condition by heat: also **souf·fléed′** (-flād′). — *n.* A light, baked dish made fluffy with beaten egg whites. [< F < L < *sub-* under + *flare* to blow]

sough (suf, sou) *v.i.* To make a sighing sound, as the wind. — *n.* A deep, murmuring sound. [OE *swōgan* to sound]

sought (sôt) Past tense and past participle of SEEK.

soul (sōl) *n.* **1.** The rational, emotional, and volitional fac-

ulties in man, conceived of as forming an entity distinct from the body. **2.** *Theol.* **a** The divine principle of life in man. **b** The moral or spiritual part of man as related to God. **3.** The emotional faculty of man as distinguished from the intellect: He puts his *soul* into his acting. **4.** Fervor; emotional force; heartiness; vitality. **5.** An essential or vital element: Justice is the *soul* of law. **6.** The leading figure or inspirer of a cause, movement, etc. **7.** A person considered as the embodiment of a quality or attribute: He is the *soul* of generosity. **8.** A living person: Every *soul* trembled at the sight. **9.** The disembodied spirit of one who has died; a ghost. [OE *sāwol*] **—souled** *adj.*

soul food Any of various Southern foods or dishes popular with American Negroes, as fried chicken, ham hocks, etc.

soul·ful (sōl′fəl) *adj.* Full or expressive of deep feeling: a *soulful* gaze. **—soul′ful·ly** *adv.* **—soul′ful·ness** *n.*

soul·less (sōl′lis) *adj.* **1.** Heartless; unemotional. **2.** Having no soul. **—soul′less·ly** *adv.* **—soul′less·ness** *n.*

sound[1] (sound) *n.* **1.** Any of a class of waves consisting of mechanical disturbances in an elastic system, esp. in air. **2.** The auditory stimulation produced by waves of this type having frequencies between about 20 and 20,000 cycles per second. **3.** An instance of this stimulation. **4.** A speech sound. **5.** Significance; implication: The story has a sinister *sound*. **6.** Sounding or hearing distance; earshot. **7.** Noise. —*v.i.* **1.** To give forth a sound or sounds. **2.** To give a specified impression; seem: The story *sounds* true. —*v.t.* **3.** To cause to give forth sound. **4.** To signal, order, announce or celebrate: to *sound* retreat, someone's praises, etc. **5.** To utter audibly; pronounce. **6.** To articulate a letter: to *sound* the *r* in *park*. **7.** To test or examine by sound; auscultate. [< OF < L *sonus*]

—Syn. (noun) **3.** *Sound* is the general term embracing aural sensations of all qualities. A *tone* is a *sound* of definite pitch, caused by vibrations, predominantly of one frequency. *Noise* is a *sound* lacking pitch, caused by vibrations of dissonant frequencies.

sound[2] (sound) *adj.* **1.** Having all the organs or faculties complete and in normal action and relation; healthy. **2.** Free from injury, flaw, mutilation, or decay: *sound* timber. **3.** Founded in truth; valid; legal. **4.** Correct in views or processes of thought. **5.** Solvent. **6.** Profound, as rest; deep; unbroken. **7.** Complete and effectual; thorough. **8.** Solid; stable; safe; also, trustworthy. **9.** Based on good judgment. [OE *gesund*] **—sound′ly** *adv.* **—sound′ness** *n.*

sound[3] (sound) *n.* **1.** A long and narrow body of water, more extensive than a strait, connecting larger bodies. **2.** The air bladder of a fish. [Fusion of OE and ON *sund*]

sound[4] (sound) *v.t.* **1.** To test or measure the depth of (water, etc.), esp., by means of a lead weight at the end of a line. **2.** To explore or examine (the bottom of the sea, etc.) by means of a sounding lead adapted for bringing up adhering particles. **3.** To discover or try to discover the views, beliefs, etc., of (a person) by means of conversation and roundabout questions: usu. with *out*. —*v.i.* **4.** To sound depth. **5.** To dive down suddenly and deeply. **6.** To investigate; inquire. —*n. Surg.* An instrument for exploring a cavity. [< OF < L *sub-* under + *unda* a wave] **—sound′a·ble** *adj.* **—sound′er** *n.*

sound barrier *Aeron.* The transonic barrier.

sound effects In motion pictures, radio, etc., the incidental and often mechanically produced sounds, as of rain, hoofbeats, explosions, etc., used to give the illusion of reality.

sound·ing[1] (soun′ding) *adj.* **1.** Giving forth a full sound; sonorous. **2.** Having much sound with little significance; noisy and empty. **—sound′ing·ly** *adv.*

sound·ing[2] (soun′ding) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which sounds. **2.** Measurement of the depth of water. **3.** *pl.* The depth of water as sounded; also, water of such depth that the bottom may be reached by sounding.

sounding board A structure or dome over a pulpit or speaker's platform to amplify and clarify the speaker's voice.

sound·less (sound′lis) *adj.* Having or making no sound; silent. **—sound′less·ly** *adv.* **—sound′less·ness** *n.*

sound·proof (sound′prōōf′) *adj.* Resistant to the penetration or spread of sound. —*v.t.* To make soundproof.

sound track The portion along the edge of a motion-picture film that carries the sound record.

soup (sōōp) *n.* **1.** Liquid food made by boiling meat, vegetables, etc., in water. **2.** *Slang* A thick overcast or fog. **—in the soup** *U.S. Slang* In difficulties. **—to soup up** *U.S. Slang* To supercharge or otherwise modify (an automobile) for high speed. [< F *soupe* < Gmc.]

soup·çon (sōōp·sôn′) *n. French* A minute quantity; a taste; literally, a suspicion.

sour (sour) *adj.* **1.** Sharp to the taste; acid; tart, like vinegar. **2.** Having an acid or rancid taste as the result of fermentation. **3.** Having a rancid, acid smell or vapor; dank. **4.** Misanthropic and crabbed; cross; morose: a *sour* person. **5.** Cold and wet; unpleasant. **6.** Acid: said of soil. —*v.t. & v.i.* To become or make sour. —*n.* **1.** Something sour or distasteful. **2.** An acid solution used in bleaching, etc. **3.** A sour or acid beverage: a whisky *sour*. [OE *sūr*] **—sour′ly** *adv.* **—sour′ness** *n.*

—Syn. (adj.) *Sour* and *acid* refer to the taste of vinegar, but *acid* stresses the natural composition and *sour* the result of fermentation or decay. *Bitter* suggests the taste of quinine or gall.

source (sôrs, sōrs) *n.* **1.** That from which any act, movement, or effect proceeds; a creator; origin. **2.** A place where something is found or whence it is taken or derived. **3.** The spring from which a stream of water proceeds; a fountain. **4.** A person, writing, or agency from which information is obtained. [< OF < L *surgere*]

sour·dough (sour′dō′) *n.* **1.** *Dial.* Fermented dough for use as leaven in making bread. **2.** *U.S. & Canadian Slang* A pioneer or prospector.

sour grapes The attitude of affecting to despise something one cannot do or have: an allusion to a fable of Aesop.

sour·puss (sour′pōōs′) *n. Slang* A person with a sullen, peevish expression or character.

souse (sous) *v.t. & v.i.* **soused, sous·ing** **1.** To dip or steep in a liquid. **2.** To pickle. **3.** *Slang* To make or get drunk. —*n.* **1.** The act of sousing. **2.** Something steeped in pickle, esp., the feet and ears of a pig. **3.** A liquid used in pickling; brine. **4.** *Slang* A drunkard. [< OF < OHG *sulza* brine]

sou·tane (sōō·tän′) *n.* A Roman Catholic priest's cassock. [< F < Ital. < *sotto* under < L *subtus*]

south (south) *n.* **1.** The direction along a meridian that falls to the right of an observer on earth facing the sun at sunrise. **2.** One of the four cardinal points of the compass, directly opposite *north* and 90° clockwise from *east*. See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any direction near this point. **4.** *Sometimes cap.* Any region south of a specified point. **—the South** In the U.S.: **a** The population or territory of the southern or southeastern States. **b** The Confederacy. —*adj.* **1.** To, toward, facing, or in the south; southern. **2.** Coming from the south: the *south* wind. —*adv.* In or toward the south: southward. [OE *sūth*]

south·east (south′ēst′, *Naut.* sou′ēst′) *n.* **1.** The direction midway between south and east. **2.** A point on the mariner's compass, 12 points or 135° clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any region lying in or toward this point. —*adj.* **1.** To, toward, facing, or in the southeast. **2.** Coming from the southeast. —*adv.* In or toward the southeast. **—south′east′ern** *adj.*

south·east·er (south′ēs′tər, *Naut.* sou′ēs′tər) *n.* A gale or storm from the southeast.

south·east·er·ly (south′ēs′tər·lē, *Naut.* sou′ēs′tər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, of, or toward the southeast. **2.** From the southeast, as a wind. —*adv.* Toward or from the southeast.

south·east·ward (south′ēst′wərd, *Naut.* sou′ēst′wərd) *adv.* Toward the southeast. Also **south′east′wards.** —*adj.* To, toward, facing, or in the southeast. —*n.* Southeast.

south·east·ward·ly (south′ēst′wərd·lē, *Naut.* sou′ēst′wərd·lē) *adj. & adv.* Toward or from the southeast.

south·er (sou′thər) *n.* A gale or storm from the south.

south·er·ly (suth′ər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, of, toward, or pertaining to the south. **2.** From the south, as a wind. —*adv.* Toward or from the south.

south·ern (suth′ərn) *adj.* **1.** To, toward, or in the south. **2.** Native to or inhabiting the south. **3.** *Sometimes cap.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the south or South. **4.** From the south, as a wind. [OE *sūtherne*] **—south′ern·most** *adj.*

Southern Cross A southern constellation having four bright stars in the form of a cross.

south·ern·er (suth′ərn·ər) *n.* **1.** One who is native to or lives in the south. **2.** *Usu. cap.* One who lives in or comes from the southern United States.

Southern Hemisphere See under HEMISPHERE.

southern lights The aurora australis.

south·land (south′land′) *n. Sometimes cap.* A land or region in the south or South. **—south′land′er** *n.*

south·paw (south′pô′) *Informal* *n.* **1.** In baseball, a left-handed pitcher. **2.** Any left-handed person or player. —*adj.* Left-handed.

South Pole The southern extremity of the earth's axis.

south-south-east (south′south′ēst′, *Naut.* sou′sou′ēst′) *n.* **1.** The direction midway between south and southeast. **2.** A point on the mariner's compass, 14 points or 157° 30′ clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. —*adj. & adv.* In, toward, or from the south-southeast.

south-south-west (south′south′west′, *Naut.* sou′sou′west′) *n.* **1.** The direction midway between south and southwest. **2.** A point on the mariner's compass, 18 points or 202° 30′ clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. —*adj. & adv.* In, toward, or from the south-southwest.

south·ward (south′wərd, *Naut.* suth′ərd) *adv.* Toward the south. Also **south′wards.** — *adj.* To, toward, facing, or in the south. — *n.* A southward direction or point. — **south′ward·ly** *adj. & adv.*

south·west (south′west′, *Naut.* sou′west′) *n.* **1.** The direction midway between south and west. **2.** A point on the mariner's compass, 20 points or 225° clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any region lying in or toward this point. — *adj.* **1.** To, toward, facing, or in the southwest. **2.** Coming from the southwest: a *southwest* wind. — *adv.* In or toward the southwest. — **south′west′ern** *adj.*

south·west·er (south′wes′tər, *Naut.* sou′wes′tər) *n.* **1.** A gale or storm from the southwest. **2.** A waterproof hat with a broad brim over the neck. Also **sou′′west′er.**

south·west·er·ly (south′wes′tər·lē, *Naut.* sou′wes′tər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, of, or toward the southwest. **2.** From the southwest, as a wind. — *adv.* Toward or from the southwest.

south·west·ward (south′west′wərd, *Naut.* sou′west′wərd) *adv.* Toward the southwest. Also **south′west′wards.** — *adj.* To, toward, facing, or in the southwest. — *n.* Southwest. — **south′west′ward·ly** *adj. & adv.*

sou·ve·nir (sōō′və·nir′, sōō′və·nir) *n.* A token of remembrance; memento. [< F < L *subvenire* to come to mind]

sov·er·eign (sov′ər·in, suv′-) *n.* **1.** A person, governing body, etc., in whom the supreme power or authority is vested; monarch; ruler. **2.** An English gold coin equivalent to one pound sterling or twenty shillings. — *adj.* **1.** Exercising or possessing supreme authority or jurisdiction. **2.** Independent, and free from external authority or influence: a *sovereign* state. **3.** Possessing supreme excellence or efficacy. [< OF, ult. < L *super* above] — **sov′er·eign·ly** *adv.*

sov·er·eign·ty (sov′rən·tē, suv′-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being sovereign; supreme authority. **2.** The supreme power in a state. **3.** A sovereign state, kingdom, etc. **4.** The status or dominion of a sovereign.

so·vi·et (sō′vē·ət, -ət, sō′vē·et′) *n.* **1.** In the Soviet Union, any of the legislative bodies existing at various governmental levels. See SUPREME SOVIET. **2.** Any of various similar legislative bodies. [< Russian *sovyet* council]

So·vi·et (sō′vē·ət, -ət, sō′vē·et′) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

so·vi·et·ism (sō′vē·ə·tiz′əm) *n.* The policies of or government by soviets, esp., as practiced in the Soviet Union. — **so′vi·et·ist** *n.* — **so′vi·et·is′tic** *adj.*

so·vi·et·ize (sō′vē·ə·tīz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To bring under a soviet form of government. — **so′vi·et·i·za′tion** *n.*

sow[1] (sō) *v.* **sowed, sown** or **sowed, sow·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To scatter (seed) over land for growth. **2.** To scatter seed over (land). **3.** To spread abroad; disseminate; implant: to *sow* the seeds of distrust. **4.** To cover or sprinkle. — *v.i.* **5.** To scatter seed. [OE *sāwan*] — **sow′er** *n.*

sow[2] (sou) *n.* A female hog. [OE *sū, sugu*]

sow·bel·ly (sou′bel′ē) *n. U.S. Dial.* Salt pork.

soy (soi) **1.** The soybean. **2.** An Asian sauce prepared from soybeans fermented and steeped in brine: also **soy sauce.** [< Japanese, short for *shōyū*]

soy·bean (soi′bēn′) *n.* **1.** An erect, leguminous herb native to China and India, and cultivated for forage. **2.** Its bean, a source of oil, flour, and other products. Also called *soy*: also **soy·a** (soi′ə). [< SOY + BEAN]

spa (spä) *n.* **1.** Any locality frequented for its mineral springs. **2.** A mineral spring. [from the Belgian town, *Spa*]

space (spās) *n.* **1.** That which is characterized by dimensions extending indefinitely in all directions from any given point, and within which all material bodies are located. **2.** An interval or area between or within points or objects. **3.** Area, room, or extent, as for some purpose: parking *space.* **4.** Outer space. **5.** An interval of time; period; while. **6.** An occasion or opportunity. **7.** *Printing* A piece of type metal used for spacing between words. **8.** A part of a musical staff included between two lines. **9.** Reserved accommodations, as on a train. **10.** Pages, linage, broadcasting time, etc., available for advertisements. — *v.t.* **spaced, spac·ing** **1.** To separate by spaces. **2.** To divide into spaces. [< OF < L *spatium*] — **space′less** *adj.* — **spac′er** *n.*

space·craft (spās′kraft′, -kräft′) *n. Aerospace* Any vehicle, manned or unmanned, designed for research, exploration, or travel in outer space. Also **space·ship** (spās′ship′).

space·flight (spās′flīt′) *n.* Flight in outer space by a man-made object or vehicle.

space·man (spās′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) *Aerospace* One who travels in outer space; an astronaut.

space medicine Aerospace medicine.

space·port (spās′pôrt′, -pōrt′) *n. Aerospace* A base for rockets and other spacecraft, with supporting equipment.

space probe *Aerospace* An artificial satellite or other spacecraft equipped to obtain data in outer space.

space-time (spās′tīm′) *n.* A four-dimensional continuum consisting of three spatial coordinates and one coordinate of time. Also **space-time continuum.**

spa·cial (spā′shəl) See SPATIAL.

spac·ing (spā′sing) *n.* **1.** The act, process, or result of arrangement by spaces. **2.** A space or spaces, as in print.

spa·cious (spā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Of indefinite or vast extent. **2.** Affording ample room; capacious. — **spa′cious·ly** *adv.* — **spa′cious·ness** *n.*

spade[1] (spād) *n.* **1.** An implement used for digging, cutting turf, etc., heavier than a shovel and having a flatter blade. **2.** Any of various tools or implements resembling a spade. — **to call a spade a spade** To speak the plain, uncompromising truth. — *v.t.* **spad·ed, spad·ing** To dig or cut with a spade. [OE *spadu*] — **spad′er** *n.*

spade[2] (spād) *n.* **1.** A figure on playing cards, resembling a heart with a stalk or handle at the juncture of the lobes. **2.** A card so marked. **3.** *Usu. pl.* The suit of cards so marked. [< Sp. < L < Gk. *spathē* sword]

spade·work (spād′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** Work done with a spade. **2.** Preliminary work necessary to get a project under way.

spa·dix (spā′diks) *n. pl.* **spa·di·ces** (spā·dī′sēz) *Bot.* A spike or head of flowers with a fleshy axis, usu. enclosed within a spathe. [< Gk. < *spaein* to break]

spa·ghet·ti (spə·get′ē) *n.* A food consisting of cordlike strands of flour paste. [< Ital., pl. dim. of *spago* cord]

spake (spāk) Archaic past tense of SPEAK.

span[1] (span) *v.t.* **spanned, span·ning** **1.** To measure, esp. with the hand with thumb and little finger extended. **2.** To encircle or grasp with the hand, as in measuring. **3.** To stretch across: This road *spans* the continent. **4.** To provide with something that stretches across or extends over. — *n.* **1.** The extreme space over which the hand can be expanded, usu. considered as nine inches. **2.** Distance or extent between any two extremities. **3.** Any small interval or distance, in space or in time. **4.** That which spans, as a bridge. [OE *spann*] — **span′less** *adj.*

span[2] (span) Archaic past tense of SPIN.

span·drel (span′drəl) *n. Archit.* **a** The triangular space between the outer curve of an arch and the rectangular figure formed by the moldings or framework surrounding it. **b** The space between the shoulders of two adjoining arches. Also **span′dril.** [Dim. of AF *spaundre*, prob. < OF *espandre* to expand]

spang (spang) *adv. U.S. Informal* Directly; exactly; straight: He ran *spang* into the wall. [Origin uncertain]

span·gle (spang′gəl) *n.* **1.** A small bit of sparkling metal, plastic, etc., used for decoration in dress, as in theatrical costume. **2.** Any small sparkling object. — *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To adorn with or as with spangles; cause to glitter. — *v.i.* **2.** To sparkle as spangles; glitter. [Dim. of MDu. *spang* clasp, brooch] — **span′gly** *adj.*

Span·iard (span′yərd) *n.* A native or citizen of Spain.

span·iel (span′yəl) *n.* **1.** Any of various breeds of small or medium-sized dogs having large pendulous ears and usu. long silky hair. **2.** One who follows like a dog; an obsequious follower. [< OF *espaignol* Spanish (dog)]

Span·ish (span′ish) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Spain, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** The Romance language of Spain, Spanish America, and the Philippine Islands. **2.** The inhabitants of Spain collectively: with *the.*

Span·ish-A·mer·i·can (span′ish·ə·mer′ə·kən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Spanish America. **2.** Designating or pertaining to the war between the U.S. and Spain, 1898. — *n.* One of Spanish origin living in America, esp. Central or South America; a citizen of a Spanish-American country.

Spanish-American War See table for WAR.

Spanish Main Loosely, the part of Caribbean through which Spanish merchant vessels formerly sailed.

Spanish moss A long, pendent plant that grows on trees of the southern U.S. near the seacoast.

spank (spangk) *v.t.* **1.** To slap or strike, esp. on the buttocks with the open hand as a punishment. — *v.i.* **2.** To move briskly. — *n.* A smack on the buttocks. [Imit.]

spank·er (spangk′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which spanks. **2.** *Naut.* A fore-and-aft sail extended by a boom and a gaff from the mizzenmast of a ship or boat. **3.** Any person or thing uncommonly large or fine.

spank·ing (spangk′ing) *adj.* **1.** Moving or blowing rapidly; swift; dashing; lively; strong. **2.** *Brit. Informal* Uncommonly large or fine. — *n.* A series of slaps on the buttocks given as punishment. — *adv. Informal* Very: *spanking* clean.

span·ner (span′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which spans. **2.** *Brit.* A hand tool used to turn nuts, bolts, etc. [< G]

spar[1] (spär) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* A round timber or pole for extending a sail, as a mast, yard, or boom. **2.** A similar pole forming part of a derrick, crane, etc. **3.** *Aeron.* Any principal lateral member of an airplane wing. — *v.t.* **sparred, spar·ring** To furnish with spars. [Cf. ON *sparri*, MDu. *sparre* beam]

spar[2] (spär) *v.i.* **sparred, spar·ring** **1.** To box, esp. with care and adroitness. **2.** To bandy words; wrangle. — *n.* The act or practice of boxing. [? < OF < Ital. *sparare* to kick < L *parare* to prepare]

spar[3] (spär) *n.* A vitreous, crystalline, easily cleavable, lustrous mineral of varied composition. [< MDu.]

Spar (spär) *n.* A member of the women's reserve of the U.S. Coast Guard. Also **SPAR.** [< L *s(emper) par(atus)* always ready, the motto of the U.S. Coast Guard]

spar deck *Naut.* The light upper deck of a vessel, extending from bow to stern.

spare (spâr) *v.* **spared, spar·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To refrain from injuring, molesting, or killing. **2.** To free or relieve (someone) from (pain, expense, etc.). **3.** To refrain from using or exercising; use frugally. **4.** To part with; do without: Can you *spare* a dime? — *v.i.* **5.** To be frugal. **6.** To be lenient or forgiving; show mercy. — *adj.* **spar·er, spar·est 1.** That can be spared or used at will; disposable; available. **2.** Held in reserve; extra. **3.** Having little flesh; lean. **4.** Not lavish or abundant; scanty. **5.** Economical; parsimonious. — *n.* **1.** That which has been saved or stored away. **2.** A duplicate item kept as a substitute in case the original breaks down, as an automobile tire. **3.** In bowling, the knocking down by a player of all the pins with the two bowls in any frame; also, the score so made. [OE *sparian*] — **spare′ly** *adv.* — **spare′ness** *n.* — **spar′er** *n.*

spare-rib (spâr′rib′) *n.* A cut of meat, esp. pork, consisting of closely trimmed ribs. [? Alter. of MLG *ribbespēr*]

spar·ing (spâr′ing) *adj.* **1.** Scanty; slight. **2.** Frugal. **3.** That spares. — **spar′ing·ly** *adv.* — **spar′ing·ness** *n.*

spark (spärk) *n.* **1.** An incandescent particle thrown off from a red-hot or burning substance or struck from a flint. **2.** Any glistening or brilliant point or transient luminous particle. **3.** Anything that kindles or animates. **4.** *Electr.* **a** The luminous effect of a disruptive electric discharge, or the discharge itself. **b** A small transient arc or an incandescent particle thrown off from such an arc. **5.** A small diamond or bit of diamond, as for cutting glass. **6.** A small trace or indication. — *v.i.* **1.** To give off sparks; scintillate. — *v.t.* **2.** To activate or cause: to *spark* a revolution. [OE *spearca*] — **spark′er** *n.*

spar·kle (spär′kəl) *v.i.* **·kled, ·kling 1.** To give off flashes of light; scintillate; glitter. **2.** To emit sparks. **3.** To bubble; effervesce. **4.** To be brilliant or vivacious. — *n.* A spark; gleam. [Freq. of SPARK[1]]

spar·kler (spär′klər) *n.* **1.** Something that sparkles. **2.** A sparkling gem. **3.** A thin, rodlike firework that emits sparks.

spar·kling (spär′kling) *adj.* **1.** Giving out sparks or flashes; glittering. **2.** Brilliant; vivacious. — **spar′kling·ly** *adv.*

spark plug An electrical device for igniting the explosive gases in an internal-combustion engine by means of a spark passing between two terminals. Also *Brit.* **spark′ing plug.**

spar·ling (spär′ling) *n.* **1.** A smelt, parr, or other young fish. **2.** A young herring. [< OF *esperlinge* < Gmc.]

spar·row (spar′ō) *n.* **1.** A small hardy bird related to the finches, grosbeaks, and buntings, introduced into the U.S., where it is known as the **English sparrow. 2.** Any of several related North American birds. [OE *spearwa*]

sparrow hawk 1. A small American falcon that preys on other birds, mice, insects, etc. **2.** A small European hawk that preys on birds.

sparse (spärs) *adj.* Scattered at considerable distances apart; not dense. [< L *sparsus*, pp. of *spargere* to scatter] — **sparse′ly** *adv.* — **sparse′ness, spar·si·ty** *n.*

Spar·ta (spär′tə) An ancient city in the Peloponnesus, southern Greece; capital of ancient Laconia.

Spar·tan (spar′tən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Sparta or the Spartans. **2.** Resembling the Spartans in character; courageous, hardy, austere, stoical, and rigorous. — *n.* **1.** A native or citizen of Sparta. **2.** A person of Spartan character. — **Spar′tan·ism** *n.*

spasm (spaz′əm) *n.* **1.** Any sudden, transient burst of energy or activity. **2.** *Pathol.* Any involuntary convulsive muscular contraction. When manifested by alternate contractions and relaxations it is a **clonic spasm**; when persistent and steady, it is a **tonic spasm.** [< L < Gk. < *span* to draw, pull]

spas·mod·ic (spaz·mod′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of a spasm; convulsive. **2.** Violent, or impulsive and transitory. Also **spas·mod′i·cal.** — **spas·mod′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

spas·tic (spas′tik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characterized by spasms; spasmodic. — *n.* A person afflicted with cerebral palsy. — **spas′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

spat[1] (spat) Past tense and past participle of SPIT[1].

spat[2] (spat) *n.* **1.** Spawn of shellfish; esp., spawn of the oyster. **2.** A young oyster, or young oysters collectively. — *v.i.* **spat·ted, spat·ting** To spawn, as oysters. [? Akin to SPIT[1]]

spat[3] (spat) *n.* **1.** A slight blow; slap. **2.** A splash, as of rain; spatter. **3.** A petty dispute. — *v.* **spat·ted, spat·ting** *v.i.* **1.** To strike with a slight sound; slap. **2.** To engage in a petty quarrel. — *v.t.* **3.** To slap. [Prob. imit.]

spat[4] (spat) *n. Usu. pl.* A short gaiter worn over a shoe and fastened beneath with a strap. [Short for SPATTERDASH]

spate (spāt) *n. Chiefly Brit.* A sudden or vigorous outpouring, as of words, feeling, etc. Also **spait.** [Origin uncertain]

spathe (spāth) *n. Bot.* A large bract or pair of bracts sheathing a flower cluster, spadix, etc. [< L < Gk. *spathē* broadsword] — **spa·those** (spā′thōs, spath′ōs) *adj.*

spa·tial (spā′shəl) *adj.* Pertaining to, involving, or having the nature of space. Also spelled *spacial.* [< L *spatium* space] — **spa·ti·al·i·ty** (spā′shē·al′ə·tē) *n.* — **spa′tial·ly** *adv.*

spa·ti·o·tem·po·ral (spā′shē·ō·tem′pər·əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to both space and time.

spat·ter (spat′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To scatter in drops or splashes, as mud or paint. **2.** To splash with such drops. **3.** To defame; slander. — *v.i.* **4.** To throw off drops or splashes. **5.** To fall in a shower, as raindrops. — *n.* **1.** The act of spattering, or the matter spattered. **2.** A pattering noise, as of falling rain. [Cf. Frisian *spatterje*, Du. *spatten* to spatter]

spat·ter·dash (spat′ər·dash′) *n.* A legging or puttee.

spat·u·la (spach′ōō·lə) *n.* **1.** A knifelike instrument with a flat, flexible blade, used to spread plaster, cake icing, etc. **2.** *Med.* An instrument used to press the tongue down or aside, as in examinations. [< L, dim. of *spatha* spathe] — **spat′u·lar** *adj.*

spawn (spôn) *n.* **1.** *Zool.* The eggs of fishes, amphibians, mollusks, etc., esp. in masses. **2.** The offspring of any animal. **3.** Outcome or results; yield. **4.** The spat of the oyster. **5.** Very small fish; fry. **6.** *Bot.* The mycelium of mushrooms or other fungi. — *v.i.* **1.** To produce spawn; deposit eggs or roe. **2.** To come forth as or like spawn. — *v.t.* **3.** To produce (spawn). **4.** To give rise to. **5.** To bring forth abundantly or in great quantity. **6.** To plant with spawn or mycelium. [< AF, OF < L *expandere*]

spay (spā) *v.t.* To remove the ovaries from (a female animal). [< AF, OF < L *spatha* sword]

speak (spēk) *v.* **spoke** (*Archaic* **spake**), **spo·ken** (*Archaic* **spoke**), **speak·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To employ the vocal organs in ordinary speech; utter words. **2.** To express or convey ideas, opinions, etc., in or as in speech. **3.** To make a speech. **4.** To talk together; converse. **5.** To make a sound; also, to bark, as a dog. — *v.t.* **6.** To express or make known in or as in speech. **7.** To utter in speech. **8.** To use or be capable of using (a language) in conversation. **9.** To speak to. — **to speak for 1.** To speak in behalf of; represent officially. **2.** To lay claim to; engage. [OE *specan, sprecan*] — **speak′a·ble** *adj.*

speak-eas·y (spēk′ē′zē) *n. pl.* **·eas·ies** *Slang* A place where liquor is sold illegally.

speak·er (spē′kər) *n.* **1.** One who speaks. **2.** The presiding officer in any one of various legislative bodies. **3.** A loudspeaker. — **speak′er·ship** *n.*

speak·ing (spē′king) *adj.* **1.** Having the power of effective speech. **2.** Expressive; telling. — *n.* **1.** The act of utterance; vocal expression. **2.** Oratory; public declamation. — **speak′ing·ly** *adv.*

spear (spir) *n.* **1.** A weapon consisting of a pointed head on a long shaft. **2.** A similar instrument, barbed and usu. forked, as for use in spearing fish. **3.** A leaf or slender stalk, as of grass. — *v.t.* **1.** To pierce or capture with a spear. — *v.i.* **2.** To pierce as a spear does. **3.** To send forth spears or spires, as a plant. [OE *spere* spear] — **spear′er** *n.*

spear·head (spir′hed′) *n.* **1.** The point of a spear. **2.** One who or that which leads, influences, or directs an action, etc.; esp., a military force leading an attack on enemy positions. — *v.t.* To be in the lead of (an attack, etc.).

spear·man (spir′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man armed with a spear. Also **spears′man** (spirz′-).

spear·mint (spir′mint′) *n.* An aromatic herb similar to peppermint.

spe·cial (spesh′əl) *adj.* **1.** Having some peculiar or distinguishing characteristic or characteristics; particular. **2.** Designed for or assigned to a specific purpose; limited or specific in range, aim, or purpose. **3.** Of, pertaining to, constituting, or designating a species; differential. **4.** Unique; exceptional. **5.** Extra or additional, as a dividend. **6.** Intimate; beloved. — *n.* A person or thing made, detailed for, or appropriated to a specific service or occasion, as a train, a newspaper edition, etc. [< OF < L *species* kind, species] — **spe′cial·ly** *adv.* — **spe′cial·ness** *n.*

special delivery *U.S.* Mail delivery by special courier, a service obtained for an additional fee.

spe·cial·ist (spesh′əl·ist) *n.* **1.** A person devoted to some one line of study, occupation, or professional work; esp., a physician who restricts his practice to one branch of medicine. **2.** In the U.S. Army, an enlisted person in a technical or administrative position, with pay equal to that of a noncommissioned officer in the same grade, but ranking below a corporal and above a private first class. See table at GRADE. — **spe′cial·ism** *n.* — **spe′cial·is′tic** *adj.*

spe·ci·al·i·ty (spesh′ē·al′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties 1.** A specific or

individual characteristic. **2.** Specialty (defs. 3, 4, 5). ◆ In British usage, this form is preferred to *specialty*.

spe·cial·i·za·tion (spesh′əl·ə·zā′shən, -i·zā′-) *n.* **1.** The act or process of specializing; also, the state of being or becoming specialized. **2.** *Biol.* The development of a plant or animal organ or part in adaptation to environmental influences or for a special function.

spe·cial·ize (spesh′əl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To concentrate on one particular activity or subject; engage in a specialty. **2.** *Biol.* To take on a special form or forms by specialization. — *v.t.* **3.** To adapt for some special use or purpose. **4.** *Biol.* To modify or adapt by specialization. **5.** To endorse, as a check, to a particular payee. **6.** To mention specifically. Also *Brit.* **spe′cial·ise.**

spe·cial·ty (spesh′əl·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** A special occupation, craft, or study. **2.** The state of being special or of having peculiar characteristics. **3.** An individual characteristic or peculiarity; distinguishing mark. **4.** An article dealt in exclusively or chiefly, or having a special character.

spe·cie (spē′shē) *n.* Coined money; coin. — **in specie** **1.** In coin. **2.** *Law* In kind. [< L (*in*) *specie* (in) kind]

spe·cies (spē′shēz, -shiz, -sēz) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** **1.** *Biol.* A category of animals or plants subordinate to a genus but above a breed, race, strain, or variety. **2.** A group of individuals or objects agreeing in some common attribute or attributes and designated by a common name. **3.** *Eccl.* The visible form of bread or of wine retained by the eucharistic elements after consecration. **4.** A kind, sort, or variety. **5.** An image, form, or appearance. [< L, form, kind]

spec·i·fi·a·ble (spes′ə·fī′ə·bəl) *adj.* Such as can be specified.

spe·cif·ic (spi·sif′ik) *adj.* **1.** Distinctly and plainly set forth; definite or determinate. **2.** *Biol.* Of, pertaining to, or distinguishing a species. **3.** Peculiar or special, as characteristics, qualities, etc. **4.** Characteristic of or proper to a given substance or phenomenon, esp. in relation to some arbitrary but constant standard of comparison: *specific* gravity. **5.** *Med.* **a** Curing or alleviating a special disease or pathological condition: said of a remedy or medicine. **b** Caused by a particular condition, germ, etc.: said of a disease. — *n.* **1.** Anything specific or adapted to effect a specific result. **2.** A special medicine for a particular disease. **3.** *Usu. pl. U.S. Informal* A particular; item; instance. [< L < *species* kind, class + *facere* to make] — **spec·i·fic·i·ty** (spes′ə·fis′ə·tē) *n.*

spe·cif·i·cal·ly (spi·sif′ik·lē) *adv.* **1.** In a specific manner; explicitly; particularly; definitely. **2.** As to or in respect to species. **3.** In a particular sense or case.

spec·i·fi·ca·tion (spes′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of specifying. **2.** Something specified, as in a contract, plans, etc.; also, one detail in such a statement. **3.** *Usu. pl.* A specific description of certain dimensions, types of material, etc., to be used in a manufacturing or engineering project.

specific gravity *Physics* The ratio of the mass of a body to that of an equal volume of some standard substance, water in the case of solids and liquids, and air or hydrogen in the case of gases; a measure of density.

spec·i·fy (spes′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To mention specifically; state in full and explicit terms. **2.** To embody in a specification. [< OF < L < *species* species + *facere* to make]

spec·i·men (spes′ə·mən) *n.* **1.** One of a class of persons or things regarded as representative of the class; an example; sample. **2.** *Med.* A sample of body tissue or exudates taken for analysis and diagnosis. **3.** *Informal* A person of pronounced or curious type. [< L < *specere* to look at]

spe·ci·os·i·ty (spē′shē·os′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** One who or that which is plausible at first view but actually is not.

spe·cious (spē′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Apparently good or right, but actually not so; plausible: *specious* reasoning. **2.** Pleasing or attractive in appearance, but deceptive. **3.** Beguiling, but lacking in sincerity. [< L *speciosus* fair] — **spe′cious·ly** *adv.* — **spe′cious·ness** *n.*

speck (spek) *n.* **1.** A small spot, stain, or discoloration. **2.** Any very small thing; a particle. — *v.t.* To mark with spots or specks; speckle. [OE *specca*]

speck·le (spek′əl) *v.t.* **·led, ·ling** To mark with specks or speckles. — *n.* A small spot; speck. — **speck′led** *adj.*

specs (speks) *n.pl.* *Informal* **1.** Eyeglasses; spectacles. Also **specks.** **2.** Specifications (def. 3).

spec·ta·cle (spek′tə·kəl) *n.* **1.** That which is exhibited to public view, esp. something grand or showy. **2.** An unwelcome or deplorable exhibition. **3.** *pl.* A pair of eyeglasses. [< F < L < *spectare*, freq. of *specere* to see]

spec·ta·cled (spek′tə·kəld) *adj.* **1.** Wearing spectacles. **2.** Having markings resembling a pair of spectacles.

spec·tac·u·lar (spek·tak′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or displaying unusual, exciting, or unexpected qualities, conditions, etc.: a *spectacular* rescue. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or like a spectacle. — *n.* **1.** In television, a lavish dramatic or musical production. **2.** An elaborate, illuminated sign. — **spec·tac′u·lar·ly** *adv.* — **spec·tac′u·lar′i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.*

spec·ta·tor (spek′tā·tər, spek·tā′/-) *n.* **1.** One who beholds; eyewitness; onlooker. **2.** One who is present at and views a show, game, spectacle, etc. [< L < *spectare* to look at]

spec·ter (spek′tər) *n.* **1.** A ghost or apparition. **2.** Anything of a fearful or horrible nature. Also *Brit.* **spec′tre.** [< F < L *spectrum* vision]

spec·tra (spek′trə) Plural of SPECTRUM.

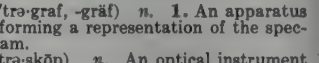
spec·tral (spek′trəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or like a specter; ghostly. **2.** Pertaining to a spectrum or spectra. — **spec·tral·i·ty** (spek·tral′ə·tē) *n.* — **spec′tral·ly** *adv.*

spectro- *combining form* **1.** Radiant energy, as exhibited in the spectrum. **2.** Spectroscope; spectroscopic. [< SPECTRUM]

spec·tro·gram (spek′trə·gram) *n.* A photograph made by a spectrograph.

spec·tro·graph (spek′trə·graf, -gräf) *n.* **1.** An apparatus for photographing or forming a representation of the spectrum. **2.** A spectrogram.

spec·tro·scope (spek′trə·skōp) *n.* An optical instrument for forming and analyzing the spectrum emitted by bodies or substances. — **spec′·tro·scop′ic** (-skop′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **spec′·tro·scop′i·cal·ly** *adv.*



SIMPLE SPECTROSCOPE
a Prism. *b* Telescope for viewing prism through eyepiece (*e*). *c* Collimator with slit (*d*).

spec·tros·co·py (spek·tros′kə·pē) *n.* The study and analysis of the phenomena observed with the spectroscope. — **spec·tros′co·pist** *n.*

spec·trum (spek′trəm) *n.* *pl.* **·tra** (-trə) **1.** *Physics* a The band of color observed when a beam of white light is passed through a prism that separates each component of the light according to wavelengths, ranging from long for red to short for violet. **b** An image formed by radiant energy directed through a spectroscope and brought to a focus, and in which each wavelength corresponds to a specific band or line in a progressive series characteristic of the emitting source. **2.** Any range of characteristics, values, activities, etc. **3.** An afterimage. [< L, vision]

spec·u·la (spek′yə·lə) Plural of SPECULUM.

spec·u·late (spek′yə·lāt) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To form conjectures regarding anything without experiment; theorize; conjecture. **2.** To make an investment involving a risk, but with hope of gain. [< L *speculatus*, pp. of *speculari* to look at] — **spec′u·la′tor** *n.*

spec·u·la·tion (spek′yə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of theorizing or conjecturing; speculating. **2.** A theory or conjecture. **3.** A conclusion reached by or based upon conjecture. **4.** An investment involving risk with hope of large profit. **5.** The act of engaging in risky business transactions that offer a possibility of large profit.

spec·u·la·tive (spek′yə·lā′tiv, -lə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, engaged in, or given to speculation, meditation, etc. **2.** Strictly theoretical or purely scientific. **3.** Engaging in or involving financial speculation. **4.** Involving risk. — **spec′u·la′tive·ly** *adv.* — **spec′u·la′tive·ness** *n.*

spec·u·lum (spek′yə·ləm) *n.* *pl.* **·la** (-lə) or **·lums** **1.** A mirror of polished metal or of glass coated with a metal film, used for telescope reflectors, etc. **2.** *Med.* An instrument that dilates a passage of the body for examination. [< L, mirror < *specere* to see] — **spec′u·lar** *adj.*

sped (sped) Alternative past tense and past participle of SPEED.

speech (spēch) *n.* **1.** The faculty of expressing thought and emotion by spoken words. **2.** The act of speaking. **3.** That which is spoken; a saying or remark. **4.** A public address or talk. **5.** A characteristic manner of speaking. **6.** A particular language, idiom, or dialect: American *speech*. **7.** Any audible or visible method of communication, including cries, gestures, and sign language. **8.** The study of oral communication. [OE < *specan*, *sprecan* to speak]

speech clinic A place where speech disorders are treated.

speech disorder Disorganization or impairment of speech caused either by physical defect or by mental disorder.

speech·i·fy (spē′chə·fī) *v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To make speeches: a derisive or dialectal term. — **speech′i·fi′er** *n.*

speech·less (spēch′lis) *adj.* **1.** Unable to speak or temporarily deprived of speech because of physical weakness, strong emotion, etc. **2.** Mute; dumb. **3.** Silent; reticent. **4.** Unable to be expressed in words: *speechless* joy. — **speech′less·ly** *adv.* — **speech′less·ness** *n.*

speed (spēd) *n.* **1.** The act or state of moving or progressing swiftly; rapidity of motion; swiftness. **2.** Rate of motion, esp., in physics, as considered without reference to direction. **3.** Rate of performance, as shown by the ratio of work done to time spent. **4.** *Mech.* A transmission gear in a motor vehicle. **5.** *Photog.* In a camera lens, the minimum time required for an effective exposure. — *v.* **sped** or **speed·ed, speed·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move or go with speed. **2.** To exceed a speed limit. — *v.t.* **3.** To promote the forward prog-

ress of; cause to move or go with speed. **4.** To promote the success of. **5.** To wish Godspeed to: *Speed* the parting guest. — **to speed up** To accelerate in speed or action. — *adj.* Having, pertaining to, characterized by, regulating, or indicating speed. [OE *spēd* prosperity, power]

speed·boat (spēd′bōt′) *n.* A motorboat capable of high speed.

speed·er (spē′dər) *n.* One who or that which speeds; esp., a motorist who exceeds a safe or legally specified limit.

speed·om·e·ter (spi·dom′ə·tər) *n.* A device for indicating the speed of a vehicle, often combined with an odometer.

speed·ster (spēd′stər) *n.* One who speeds.

speed·up (spēd′up′) *n.* An acceleration in work, output, movement, etc.

speed·way (spēd′wā′) *n.* A specially reserved or prepared road for vehicles traveling at high speed.

speed·well (spēd′wel) *n.* One of various low herbs of the figwort family, bearing blue or white flowers.

speed·y (spē′dē) *adj.* **speed·i·er, speed·i·est** **1.** Characterized by speed; rapid. **2.** Without delay; prompt. — **Syn.** See SWIFT. — **speed′i·ly** *adv.* — **speed′i·ness** *n.*

spe·le·an (spi·lē′ən) *adj.* **1.** Of, or like a cave. **2.** Dwelling in a cave or caves. [< L < Gk. *spēlaion* cave]

speleo- *combining form* Cave. [< L *spelaeum* cave < Gk. *spēlaion*]

spe·le·ol·o·gy (spē′lē·ol′ə·jē) *n.* **1.** The scientific study of caves in their physical, geological, and biological aspects. **2.** The exploration of caves as a sport or profession. — **spe′le·o·log′i·cal** (-ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **spe′le·ol′o·gist** *n.*

spell[1] (spel) *v.* **spelled** or **spelt, spell·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To name or write the letters of (a word); esp., to do so correctly. **2.** To form or be the letters of: C-a-t *spells* cat. **3.** To compose; make up. **4.** To signify; mean. — *v.i.* **5.** To form words out of letters, esp. correctly. — **to spell out** **1.** To read with difficulty. **2.** To puzzle out and learn. **3.** To make clear and explicit. [< OF *espeler* < Gmc.]

spell[2] (spel) *n.* **1.** A word formula used as a charm. **2.** An irresistible fascination or attraction. — *v.t.* **spelled, spell·ing** To cast a spell upon. [OE, statement.]

spell[3] (spel) *n.* **1.** A period of time, usu. of short length. **2.** *Informal* A continuous period characterized by a certain type of weather. **3.** *Informal* A short distance. **4.** *Informal* A fit of illness, debility, etc. **5.** A turn of duty in relief of another. **6.** A period of work or employment. — *v.t.* **1.** To relieve temporarily from some work or duty. — *v.i.* **2.** To take a rest. [OE *gespelia* substitute]

spell·bind (spel′bīnd′) *v.t.* **·bound, ·bind·ing** To bind or enthrall, as if by a spell. — **spell′bind′er** *n.*

spell·bound (spel′bound′) *adj.* Fascinated; enchanted.

spell·er (spel′ər) *n.* **1.** One who spells. **2.** A spelling book.

spell·ing (spel′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who spells. **2.** The art of correct spelling; orthography. **3.** The way in which a word is spelled.

spelling bee A gathering at which contestants engage in spelling words, those who spell wrongly usu. being retired until only one remains.

spelt[1] (spelt) Alternative past tense and past participle of SPELL.

spelt[2] (spelt) *n.* A species of wheat or any of its winter or spring varieties. [OE]

spe·lunk·er (spē·lung′kər) *n.* An enthusiast in the exploration and study of caves; a speleologist. [< L *spelunca* cave] — **spe·lunk′ing** *n.*

spend (spend) *v.* **spent, spend·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pay out or disburse (money). **2.** To expend by degrees; use up. **3.** To apply or devote, as thought or effort, to some activity, purpose, etc. **4.** To pass: to *spend* one's life in jail. — *v.i.* **5.** To pay out or disburse money, etc. [OE < L *expendere* to expend] — **spend′er** *n.*

spend·thrift (spend′thrift′) *n.* One who spends money lavishly or wastefully. — *adj.* Excessively lavish; prodigal.

spent (spent) Past tense and part participle of SPEND. — *adj.* **1.** Worn out or exhausted. **2.** Deprived of force.

sperm[1] (spûrm) *n.* **1.** The male fertilizing fluid; semen. **2.** A male reproductive cell; spermatozoon. [< OF < L < Gk. *sperma* seed]

sperm[2] (spûrm) *n.* **1.** A sperm whale. **2.** Spermaceti. **3.** Sperm oil. [Short for SPERMACETI]

-sperm *combining form* *Bot.* A seed (of a specified kind): *gymnosperm.* [< Gk. *sperma, spermatos* seed]

sper·ma·ce·ti (spûr′mə·sē′tē, -set′ē) *n.* A white, waxy substance separated from the oil contained in the head of the sperm whale, used for making candles, ointments, etc. [< L *sperma ceti* seed of a whale]

sper·mat·ic (spûr·mat′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or like sperm; generative.

spermato- *combining form* **1.** Seed; pertaining to seeds. **2.** Spermatozoa; of or related to spermatozoa. Also *spermo-*. Also, before vowels, **spermat-**. [< Gk. *sperma, spermatos* seed]

sper·ma·to·phyte (spûr′mə·tə·fīt′, spər′mət′ə·fīt) *n.* *Bot.* Any of a phylum or division of flowering and seed-bearing plants. — **sper′ma·to·phyt′ic** (-fit′ik) *adj.*

sper·ma·to·zo·on (spûr′mə·tə·zō′on) *n.* *pl.* **·zo·a** (-zō′ə) *Biol.* The male fertilizing element of an animal, usu. in the form of a highly motile cell with a long flagellate process or tail: also called *zoosperm.* [< SPERMATO- + Gk. *zōion* animal] — **sper′ma·to·zo′al, sper′ma·to·zo′ic** *adj.*

sper·mic (spûr′mik) *adj.* Spermatic.

spermo- See SPERMATO-.

-spermous *combining form* Having (a specified number or kind of) seeds; seeded. Also **-spermal, -spermic.** [< -SPERM + -OUS]

sperm whale A large, toothed whale of warm seas, having a huge truncate head containing a reservoir of sperm oil.

spew (spyōō) *v.t. & v.i.* To vomit; throw up. — *n.* That which is spewed; vomit. Also spelled *spue.* [OE *spīwan*]

sphag·num (sfag′nəm) *n.* Any of a genus of whitish gray mosses found in damp places; the bog or peat mosses, used as packing and in surgical dressings. [< L < Gk. *sphāgnos,* kind of moss] — **sphag′nous** *adj.*

sphal·er·ite (sfal′ər·īt) *n.* A resinous to adamantine native zinc sulfide, ZnS, with traces of iron and cadmium; a principal ore of zinc: also called *zinc blende.* [< Gk. *sphaleros* deceptive + -ITE[1]]

sphe·noid (sfē′noid) *n.* **1.** *Mineral.* A crystal form enclosed by four faces, each of which cuts all three axes. **2.** *Anat.* The sphenoid bone. — *adj.* Wedge-shaped. [< Gk. *sphēn* wedge + -OID] — **sphe·noi·dal** (sfi·noid′l) *adj.*

sphenoid bone *Anat.* An irregular, compound bone situated at the base of the skull.

sphere (sfir) *n.* **1.** The surface described by a semicircle making one complete rotation on its diameter. **2.** A solid or hollow figure enclosed by a surface every point of which is equidistant from the center. **3.** A globe; ball. **4.** Compass or field of activity, endeavor, influence, etc.; range; scope; province. **5.** A particular social rank or position. **6.** The apparent outer dome of the heavens on which the heavenly bodies appear to lie. — *v.t.* **sphered, spher·ing** **1.** To place in or as in a sphere. **2.** To set among the celestial spheres. **3.** To make spherical. [< OF < L < Gk. *sphaira* ball]

-sphere *combining form* **1.** Denoting an enveloping spherical mass: *atmosphere.* **2.** Denoting a spherical form: *planisphere.* [< Gk. *sphaira* ball, sphere]

spher·i·cal (sfir′i·kəl, sfer′-) *adj.* **1.** Shaped like a sphere; globular. **2.** Pertaining to a sphere or spheres. **3.** Pertaining to the heavenly bodies; celestial. Also **spher′ic.** — **spher′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **spher′i·cal·ness** *n.*

sphe·ric·i·ty (sfi·ris′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** The state of being a sphere; spherical form; roundness.

sphe·roid (sfir′oid) *n.* *Geom.* A body having nearly the form of a sphere. — **sphe·roi′dal** (sfi·roid′l); **sphe·roi·dic** or **·di·cal** *adj.* — **sphe·roi′dal·ly** *adv.*

sphe·roi·dic·i·ty (sfir′oi·dis′ə·tē) *n.* The state or character of being a spheroid. Also **sphe·roi·di·ty** (sfi·roi′də·tē).

sphinc·ter (sfingk′tər) *n.* *Anat.* A band of muscle that surrounds an opening or tube in the body and serves to close it. [< LL < Gk. < *sphingein* to bind fast] — **sphinc′ter·al** *adj.*

sphinx (sfingks) *n.* *pl.* **sphinx·es** or **sphin·ges** (sfin′jēz) **1.** In Egyptian mythology, a wingless monster with a lion's body and the head of a man, a ram, or hawk. **2.** In Greek mythology, a winged monster with a woman's head and breasts and a lion's body, that destroyed those unable to guess her riddle. **3.** A mysterious or enigmatical person. — **the Sphinx** The colossal sphinx at Gizeh, having the body of a lion. [< L < Gk. < *sphingein* to close, strangle]

sphyg·mo·ma·nom·e·ter (sfig′mō·mə·nom′ə·tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring blood pressure in the arteries. [< Gk. *sphygmos* pulse + MANOMETER]

Spi·ca (spī′kə) *n.* A star, one of the 20 brightest, 1.21 magnitude; Alpha in the constellation Virgo.

spi·cate (spī′kāt) *adj.* **1.** *Bot.* Arranged in spikes: said of flowers. **2.** *Ornithol.* Having a spur, as the legs of some birds. Also **spi′cat·ed.** [< L *spicatus* < *spica* spike]

spic·ca·to (spēk·kä′tō) *Music* *n.* *pl.* **·tos** A method of producing rapid, detached notes on a stringed instrument, by allowing the bow to rebound slightly. [< Ital.]

spice (spīs) *n.* **1.** An aromatic, pungent vegetable substance, as cinnamon, cloves, etc., used to flavor food and beverages. **2.** Such substances collectively. **3.** That which gives zest or adds interest. **4.** An aromatic odor. — *v.t.* **spiced, spic·ing** **1.** To season with spice. **2.** To add zest to. [< OF *espice* < L *species*] — **spic′er** *n.*

spice·bush (spīs′bōōsh′) *n.* An aromatic American shrub of the laurel family. Also **spice′wood′** (-wōōd′).

spick (spik) *n. U.S. Slang* A Spanish-speaking person: an offensive term. Also **spic.**

spick-and-span (spik′ən-span′) *adj.* **1.** Neat and clean. **2.** Perfectly new, or looking as if new. [Prob. < *spick*, var. of SPIKE[1] + dial. E *span-new*, really or freshly new]

spic·ule (spik′yōōl) *n.* **1.** A small, slender, sharp-pointed body; a spikelet. **2.** *Zool.* One of the small, needlelike, growths supporting the soft tissues of certain invertebrates, as sponges. Also **spic·u·la** (spik′yə-lə). [< L *spicum* point, spike] — **spic′u·lar, spic′u·late** (-lāt, -lit) *adj.*

spic·u·lum (spik′yə-ləm) *n.* *pl.* **·la** (-lə) A spicule.

spic·y (spī′sē) *adj.* **spic·i·er, spic·i·est** **1.** Containing, flavored with, or fragrant with spices. **2.** Producing spices. **3.** Having zest or piquancy. **4.** Somewhat improper; risqué. — **spic′i·ly** *adv.* — **spic′i·ness** *n.*

spi·der (spī′dər) *n.* **1.** Any of a large number of eight-legged wingless arachnids having an unsegmented abdomen and capable of spinning webs for the capture of flies or other insects. **2.** A long-handled iron frying pan, often having legs. **3.** A trivet. [OE *spinnan* to spin] — **spi′der·y** *adj.*

spider crab Any of a genus of crustaceans with long legs, common on the Atlantic coast of North America.

spider monkey An arboreal South American monkey with very long limbs and a long prehensile tail.

spi·der·wort (spī′dər-wûrt′) *n.* Any of a genus of plants, esp., an American perennial with deep blue flowers.

spied (spīd) Past tense and past participle of SPY.

spiel (spēl, shpēl) *U.S. Slang v.i.* To talk; orate. — *n.* A speech; esp., a noisy, high-pressure sales talk. [< G, game, play < *spielen* to play] — **spiel′er** *n.*

spi·er (spī′ər) *n.* A spy; scout.

spif·fy (spif′ē) *adj.* **·fi·er, ·fi·est** *Slang* Smartly dressed; spruce. — **spif′fi·ness** *n.* [< dial. E *spiff* a dandy]

spig·ot (spig′ət) *n.* **1.** A faucet. **2.** A plug or valve for the bunghole of a cask. **3.** A turning plug fitting into a faucet. [ME *spigote*]

spike[1] (spīk) *n.* **1.** A long, thick metal nail. **2.** A projecting, pointed piece of metal, as in the soles of shoes to prevent slipping. **3.** A very narrow high heel, used on women's shoes. — *v.t.* **spiked, spik·ing** **1.** To fasten with spikes. **2.** To set or provide with spikes. **3.** To block; put a stop to. **4.** To pierce with or impale on a spike. **5.** *Informal* To add alcoholic liquor to. [ME < Scand.] — **spik′y** *adj.*

spike[2] (spīk) *n.* **1.** An ear of corn, barley, wheat, or other grain. **2.** *Bot.* A flower cluster having numerous flowers arranged closely on an elongated common axis. [< L *spica* ear of grain]

spike·let (spīk′lit) *n.* *Bot.* A small spike bearing few flowers.

spike·nard (spīk′nərd, -närd) *n.* **1.** A fragrant ointment of ancient times: also called *nard*. **2.** The East Indian herb that yields it. **3.** An American perennial herb having an aromatic root. [< L *spica* spike + *nardus* nard]

spile (spīl) *n.* **1.** A post or supporting timber; pile. **2.** A wooden pin or plug used as a vent in a cask; a spigot. **3.** A spout driven into a sugar maple to lead the sap to a bucket. — *v.t.* **spiled, spil·ing** **1.** To pierce for and provide with a spigot. **2.** To drive spiles into. [< MDu., skewer, splinter]

spill[1] (spil) *v.* **spilled** or **spilt, spill·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To allow or cause to fall or run out or over, as a liquid or a powder. **2.** To shed, as blood. **3.** *Naut.* To empty (a sail) of wind. **4.** To cause to fall, as from a horse. **5.** *Informal* To divulge; make known, as a secret. — *v.i.* **6.** To fall or run out or over: said of liquids, etc. — **to spill the beans** *Informal* To divulge a secret. — *n.* **1.** A fall to the ground, as from a horse; tumble. **2.** The act of spilling. [OE *spillan* to destroy] — **spill′er** *n.*

spill[2] (spil) *n.* **1.** A thin strip of wood or rolled paper, used for lighting fires, etc. **2.** A peg or plug. [< SPILE]

spill·way (spil′wā′) *n.* A passageway, as in a dam, to release the water in a reservoir.

spilt (spilt) Alternative past tense and past participle of SPILL[1].

spin (spin) *v.* **spun** (*Archaic* **span**), **spun, spin·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To draw out and twist into threads; also, to draw out and twist fiber into (threads, yarn, etc.). **2.** To make or produce as if by spinning. **3.** To form (a web, etc.): said of spiders, silkworms, etc. **4.** To tell, as a story or yarn. **5.** To protract; prolong, as a period of time: with *out*. **6.** To cause to whirl rapidly: to *spin* a top. — *v.i.* **7.** To make thread or yarn. **8.** To make a web or thread: said of spiders, etc. **9.** To whirl rapidly; rotate. **10.** To seem to be whirling, as from dizziness. **11.** To move rapidly. — *n.* **1.** An act or instance of spinning; a rapid whirling. **2.** Any rapid movement. **3.** *Informal* A ride or drive. **4.** *Aeron.* The descent of an airplane in a spiral curve about a vertical axis, with its nose steeply inclined. [OE *spinnan*]

spin·ach (spin′ich, -ij) *n.* **1.** A pot herb of the goosefoot family. **2.** Its fleshy leaves, used as a vegetable. [< OF *espinage* < LL *spinacia*]

spi·nal (spī′nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the backbone; vertebral. **2.** Resembling a spine, spines, or spinous processes. — *n.* An injection for spinal anesthesia.

spinal anesthesia *Surg.* Anesthesia produced by the injection of an anesthetic into the spinal cord.

spinal column *Anat.* The series of articulated vertebrae that enclose and protect the spinal cord and provide dorsal support for the ribs; the backbone.

spinal cord *Anat.* That portion of the central nervous system enclosed by the spinal column.

spin·dle (spin′dəl) *n.* **1.** A rod having a slit or catch in the top and a whorl of wood or metal at its lower end, on which thread is wound from the distaff in hand spinning. **2.** The slender rod in a spinning wheel, containing a spool or bobbin on which the thread is twisted and wound; also, a similar device on a spinning machine or shuttle. **3.** *Mech.* A rotating rod, axis, or shaft, esp. when small and bearing something that rotates: the *spindle* of a lathe. **4.** A needlelike rod mounted on a weighted base, used for impaling bills, checks, etc.: also **spindle file.** **5.** Any narrow, tapering object resembling a spindle. **6.** A small shaft passing through the lock of a door and bearing the knobs or handles. — *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.i.* **1.** To grow into a long, slender stalk or body. — *v.t.* **2.** To form into a spindle. **3.** To provide with a spindle. **4.** To impale on a spindle. [OE *spinnan* to spin]

spin·dle-leg·ged (spin′dəl-leg′id, -legd′) *adj.* Having long, slender legs. Also **spin′dle-shanked′** (-shangkt′).

spin·dle-legs (spin′dəl-legz′) *n.* *pl.* (*construed as sing. in def. 2*) **1.** Long, slender legs. **2.** *Informal* A person having long, slender legs. Also **spin′dle-shanks′** (-shangks′).

spin·dling (spind′ling) *adj.* Long and thin; disproportionately slender. — *n.* A spindling person or plant shoot.

spin·dly (spind′lē) *adj.* **·dli·er, ·dli·est** Of a slender, lanky growth or form.

spin·drift (spin′drift) *n.* Blown sea spray: also called *spoondrift*. [Alter. of *spoondrift* < *spoon*, var. of SPUME + DRIFT]

spine (spīn) *n.* **1.** The spinal column of a vertebrate; backbone. **2.** *Zool.* Any of various hard, pointed outgrowths on the bodies of certain animals, as the fin ray of a fish. **3.** *Bot.* A stiff, pointed woody process on the stems of certain plants; thorn. **4.** The back of a bound book, usu. inscribed with the title and name of the author. **5.** A projecting eminence or ridge. [< OF < L *spina* spine]

spi·nel (spi·nel′, spin′əl) *n.* Any of a class of hard, variously colored minerals, some of which, as the **ruby spinel**, are used as gemstones. [< F < Ital. < L *spina* spine]

spine·less (spīn′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no spine or backbone; invertebrate. **2.** Lacking spines. **3.** Lacking firmness of will or steadfastness; cowardly. — **spine′less·ness** *n.*

spin·et (spin′it) *n.* **1.** A small musical keyboard instrument of the harpsichord class. **2.** A small upright piano. [? after G. *Spinetti*, 16th c. Venetian inventor]

spin·na·ker (spin′ə-kər) *n.* *Naut.* A large, bellying jib sometimes carried on the mainmast of a racing vessel opposite the mainsail, used when sailing before the wind. [? < a mispronunciation of *Sphinx*, the name of the first yacht to carry this kind of sail, 1866]

spin·ner (spin′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which spins. **2.** In angling, a whirling spoon bait.

spin·ner·et (spin′ə-ret) *n.* **1.** An organ by which spiders or silkworms produce the filament for webs, cocoons, etc. **2.** A pierced metal plate through which plastic material is forced so as to make rayon fibers.

spin·ning (spin′ing) *n.* The act of one who or that which spins. — *adj.* **1.** That spins. **2.** Of, belonging to, or used in the process of spinning.

spinning jenny A framed mechanism for spinning more than one strand of yarn at a time.

spinning wheel A device used for spinning yarn or thread, a rotating spindle operated by a treadle and flywheel.

spin-off (spin′ôf′, -of′) *n.* An off-shoot or by-product.

spi·nose (spī′nōs) *adj.* Having many spines. — **spi′nose·ly** *adv.* — **spi·nos′i·ty** (-nos′ə-tē) *n.*

spin·ster (spin′stər) *n.* **1.** A woman who has remained unmarried, esp. one no longer young; an old maid. **2.** A woman who spins; a spinner. [ME < SPIN + -STER] — **spin′ster·hood** *n.* — **spin′ster·ish** *adj.*

spin·y (spī′nē) *adj.* **spin·i·er, spin·i·est** **1.** Having spines; thorny. **2.** Difficult; perplexing. — **spin′i·ness** *n.*

spiny anteater The echidna.

spiny lobster Any of various marine crustaceans having spiny shells but lacking large claws, valued as seafood: also called *crayfish, rock lobster*.

spir- Var. of SPIRO-.

spir·a·cle (spir′ə-kəl, spī′rə-) *n.* *Zool.* **1.** An aperture for the passage of air or water in the respiration of various animals, as sharks, rays, tadpoles, and insects. **2.** A breathing hole, as the nostril of a cetacean. [< OF < L *spiraculum* airhole]

spi·rae·a (spī-rē′ə) *n.* Any of a genus of shrubs of the rose family, having clusters of small, white or pink flowers. Also **spi·re′a.** [< L, meadowsweet]

spi·ral (spī′rəl) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* Any plane curve formed by a point that moves around a fixed center and continually increases or decreases its distance from it. **2.** A curve winding like a screw thread. **3.** Something spirally wound or having a spiral shape, as a spring. **4.** A flight of an airplane in a spiral path. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or resembling a spiral. **2.** Winding and advancing; helical. **3.** Winding and rising in a spire, as some springs. — *v.* **·raled** or **·ralled**, **·ral·ing** or **·ral·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to take a spiral form or course. — *v.i.* **2.** To take a spiral form or course. **3.** To rise sharply or disproportionately, as prices, costs, etc. [< Med.L < L *spira* coil] — **spi′ral·ly** *adv.*

spire[1] (spīr) *n.* **1.** The tapering or pyramidal roof or top of a tower. **2.** Any similar high, pointed formation; a pinnacle. **3.** A slender stalk or blade. — *v.* **spired, spir·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with a spire or spires. — *v.i.* **2.** To shoot or point up in or as in a spire. **3.** To put forth a spire or spires; sprout. [OE *spīr* stalk, stem]

spire[2] (spīr) *n.* A spiral or a single turn of one; whorl; twist. [< F < L *spira* < Gk. *speira* coil]

spi·ril·lum (spī·ril′əm) *n.* *pl.* **·la** (-lə) Any of a genus of rigid, spirally twisted flagellate bacteria. [< NL, dim. of L *spira* coil]

spir·it (spir′it) *n.* **1.** The vital essence or animating force in living organisms, esp. man, often considered divine in origin. **2.** The part of a human being characterized by intelligence, personality, self-consciousness, and will; the mind. **3.** The substance or universal aspect of reality, regarded as opposed to matter. **4.** *Often cap.* In the Bible, the creative, animating power of God. **5.** A supernatural or immaterial being, as an angel, ghost, specter, etc. **6.** A person regarded with reference to any particular activity, characteristic, or temper: a leading *spirit* in the community. **7.** *Usually pl.* A state of mind; mood; temper. **8.** Vivacity or energy; ardor. **9.** Ardent loyalty or devotion: school *spirit*. **10.** True intent or meaning as opposed to outward, formal observance: the *spirit* of the law. **11.** The characteristic temper or disposition of a period or movement: the *spirit* of the Reformation. **12.** *pl.* Strong alcoholic liquor. **13.** *Usually pl. Chem.* The essence or distilled extract of a substance: *spirits* of turpentine. **14.** *Often pl.* In pharmacy, a solution of a volatile principle in alcohol: *spirits* of ammonia. — *v.t.* **1.** To carry off secretly: with *away*, *off*, etc. **2.** To infuse with spirit or animation; inspirit; encourage: often with *up*. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to ghosts; spiritualistic. **2.** Operated by the burning of alcohol: a *spirit* lamp. [< OF < L *spiritus* breath, spirit]

Spir·it (spir′it) *n.* In Christian theology, the Holy Spirit.

spir·it·ed (spir′it·id) *adj.* **1.** Full of spirit; animated. **2.** Having (a specified kind of) spirit or nature: *high-spirited*. — **spir′it·ed·ly** *adv.* — **spir′it·ed·ness** *n.*

spirit gum A quick-drying solution of a gum in ether.

spir·it·less (spir′it·lis) *adj.* Lacking enthusiasm, energy, etc.; listless. — **spir′it·less·ly** *adv.* — **spir′it·less·ness** *n.*

spirit level An instrument used to determine any deviation from the horizontal or perpendicular by reference to the position of a bubble of air in a tube of liquid.

spir·i·tu·al (spir′i·chōō·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, like, or consisting of spirit, as distinguished from matter; incorporeal. **2.** Affecting the immaterial nature or soul of man. **3.** Of or pertaining to God; holy. **4.** Sacred or religious; not lay or temporal; ecclesiastical: *spiritual* authorities: distinguished from *secular*. **5.** Marked or characterized by the highest moral or intellectual qualities. — *n.* A religious folk song originating among the Negroes of the southern U.S.; also, any similar song. — **spir′i·tu·al·ly** *adv.* — **spir·i·tu·al·i·ty** (spir′i·chōō·al′ə·tē), **spir′i·tu·al·ness** *n.*

spir·i·tu·al·ism (spir′i·chōō·əl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The belief that the spirits of the dead communicate with and manifest their presence to the living, usually through the agency of a medium. **2.** *Philos.* A form of idealism that identifies the spirit as the only ultimate reality. **3.** The state or character of being spiritual. — **spir′i·tu·al·ist** *n.* — **spir′i·tu·al·is′tic** *adj.*

spir·i·tu·al·ize (spir′i·chōō·əl·iz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To make spiritual; free of grossness or materialism. **2.** To treat as having a spiritual meaning or sense. Also *Brit.* **spir′i·tu·al·ise′**. — **spir′i·tu·al·i·za′tion** *n.* — **spir′i·tu·al·iz′er** *n.*

spir·i·tu·el (spir′i·chōō·el′, *Fr.* spē·rē·tü·el′) *adj.* Characterized by wit and by the higher and finer qualities of the mind generally. [< F] — **spir′i·tu·elle′** *adj. fem.*

spir·i·tu·ous (spir′i·chōō·əs) *adj.* Containing alcohol, as distilled liquors; intoxicating. — **spir′i·tu·ous·ness** *n.*

spiro-[1] *combining form* Breath; respiration. Also, before vowels, *spir-*. [< L *spirare* to breathe]

spiro-[2] *combining form* Spiral; coiled. Also, before vowels, *spir-*. [< Gk. *speira* coil]

spi·ro·chete (spī′rə·kēt) *n.* **1.** Any of various motile bacteria having a corkscrewlike form and commonly found in water and sewage. **2.** Any similar bacteria including those that cause syphilis, trench mouth, and yaws. Also **spi′ro·chaete**. [< Gk. *speira* coil + *chaitē* bristle]

spir·y (spīr′ē) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or having the form of a spire. **2.** Abounding in spires, as a city.

spit[1] (spit) *v.* **spat** or **spit, spit·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To eject (saliva, etc.) from the mouth. **2.** To eject or utter with violence. **3.** To light, as a fuse. — *v.i.* **4.** To eject saliva, etc., from the mouth. **5.** To make a hissing or sputtering noise. **6.** To fall in scattered drops or flakes, as snow. — *n.* **1.** Spittle; saliva. **2.** An act of spitting or expectorating. **3.** A light, scattered fall of snow or rain. **4.** *Informal* Exact likeness; counterpart. [OE *spittan*] — **spit′ter** *n.*

spit[2] (spit) *n.* **1.** A pointed rod on which meat is turned and roasted before a fire. **2.** A point of low land extending from a shore into the water. — *v.t.* **spit·ted, spit·ting** To transfix or impale with or as with a spit. [OE *spitu*]

spit and image *Informal* An exact likeness; counterpart. Also **spitting image**. [See SPIT[1], n. (def. 4)]

spit·ball (spit′bôl) *n.* **1.** Paper chewed and shaped into a ball for use as a missile. **2.** In baseball, a pitched ball, now no longer legal, that is wet on one side with saliva, and deviates deceptively in its course.

spite (spīt) *n.* **1.** Malicious bitterness or hatred; grudge. **2.** That which is done in spite. — **in spite of** Notwithstanding. — **Syn.** See NOTWITHSTANDING. — *v.t.* **spit·ed, spit·ing** To show one's spite toward. [Short for DESPITE]

spite·ful (spīt′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Filled with spite. **2.** Prompted by spite. — **spite′ful·ly** *adv.* — **spite′ful·ness** *n.*

spit·fire (spit′fīr′) *n.* A quick-tempered person who is given to saying spiteful things.

spit·tle (spit′l) *n.* **1.** The fluid secreted by the mouth; saliva; spit. **2.** The salivalike matter in which the larvae of spittle insects live. [OE *spātl*; infl. in form by SPIT[1]]

spit·toon (spi·tōōn′) *n.* A receptacle for spit; a cuspidor.

spitz (spits) *n.* A small dog, a variety of Pomeranian, having long silky hair and a tapering muzzle. Also **spitz dog**. [< G, short for *spitzhund* < *spitz* pointed + *hund* dog]

splash (splash) *v.t.* **1.** To dash or spatter (a liquid, etc.) about. **2.** To spatter, wet, or soil with a liquid dashed about. **3.** To make (one's way) with splashes. **4.** To decorate or mark by or as by splashing. — *v.i.* **5.** To make a splash or splashes. **6.** To move, fall, or strike with a splash or splashes. — *n.* **1.** The act or noise of splashing. **2.** The result of splashing, as a spot. **3.** *Informal* A striking or ostentatious impression, action, success, etc.: to make a *splash*. [Var. of PLASH[1]] — **splash′er** *n.*

splash·down (splash′doun′) *n.* The setting down of a spacecraft or a part of it in the seas following its flight.

splash·y (splash′ē) **splash·i·er, splash·i·est** *adj.* **1.** Slushy; wet. **2.** Marked by or as by splashes; blotchy. **3.** *Informal* Sensational; showy: They made a *splashy* appearance.

splat (splat) *n.* A thin, broad piece of wood, as that forming the middle of a chair back. [Origin uncertain]

splat·ter (splat′ər) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To spatter or splash. — *n.* A spatter; splash. [Blend of SPLASH and SPATTER]

splay (splā) *adj.* **1.** Spread out; broad. **2.** Clumsily formed; awkward. — *n.* A slanted surface or beveled edge, as the sides of a doorway. — *v.t.* **1.** To make with a splay. **2.** To spread out; expand. — *v.i.* **3.** To spread out; open. **4.** To slant; slope. [Aphetic var. of DISPLAY]

splay·foot (splā′fōōt′) *n.* *pl.* **·feet** (-fēt′) **1.** Abnormal flatness and turning outward of the feet. **2.** A foot so deformed. — **splay′foot′ed** *adj.*

spleen (splēn) *n.* *Anat.* **1.** A highly vascular, flattened, ductless organ located on the upper left side of the abdominal cavity, and effecting certain modifications in the blood. **2.** Ill temper; spitefulness: to vent one's *spleen*. **3.** *Archaic* Low spirits; melancholy. [< OF < L < Gk. *splēn*] — **spleen′ful, spleen′ish, spleen′y** *adj.* — **spleen′ful·ly** *adv.*

splen·did (splen′did) *adj.* **1.** Magnificent; imposing. **2.** Inspiring to the imagination; glorious; illustrious. **3.** Giving out or reflecting brilliant light; shining. **4.** *Informal* Very good; excellent: a *splendid* offer. [< L *splendere* to shine] — **splen′did·ly** *adv.* — **splen′did·ness** *n.*

splen·dif·er·ous (splen·dif′ər·əs) *adj.* *Informal* Exhibiting great splendor; very magnificent: a facetious usage.

splen·dor (splen′dər) *n.* **1.** Exceeding brilliance from emitted or reflected light. **2.** Magnificence. **3.** Conspicuous greatness of achievement. Also *Brit.* **splen′dour.** [< L, brightness] — **splen′dor·ous, splen′drous** *adj.*

sple·net·ic (spli·net′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the spleen. **2.** Fretfully spiteful; peevish. Also **sple·net′i·cal.** — *n.* A peevish person. — **sple·net′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

splen·ic (splen′ik, splē′nik) *adj.* Of, in, near, or pertaining to the spleen.

spleno- *combining form* *Anat. & Med.* The spleen; of or related to the spleen. Also, before vowels, **splen-**. [< Gk. *splēn, splēnos* spleen]

splice (splīs) *v.t.* **spliced, splic·ing** 1. To unite, as by twisting or intertwining the ends of rope, wires, etc. 2. To connect, as timbers, by beveling, scarfing, or overlapping at the ends. 3. *Slang* To join in marriage. — *n.* 1. A union made by splicing. 2. The place at which two parts are spliced. [< MDu. *splissen*] — **splic'er** *n.*

splint (splint) *n.* 1. A thin, flat piece split off; a splinter. 2. A thin, flexible strip of split wood used for basketmaking, chair bottoms, etc. 3. *Surg.* An appliance, as of wood or metal, used for keeping a fractured limb or other injured part in a fixed or proper position. 4. A splint bone. — *v.t.* To confine, support, or brace, as a fractured limb, with or as with splints. [< MDu. *splinte*]

splin·ter (splin'tər) *n.* A thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, metal, etc., split or torn off lengthwise; a sliver. — *v.t. & v.i.* To split into thin sharp pieces or fragments; shatter; shiver. [< MDu.] — **splint'er·y** *adj.*

split (split) *v.* **split, split·ting** *v.t.* 1. To separate into parts by force, esp. into two approximately equal parts. 2. To break or divide lengthwise or along the grain; separate into layers. 3. To divide into groups or factions; disrupt, as a political party. 4. To divide and distribute by portions or shares. — *v.i.* 5. To break apart; divide lengthwise or along the grain. 6. To become divided through disagreement, etc. 7. To share something with others. — **to split hairs** To make fine distinctions; be unnecessarily precise. — **to split off** 1. To break off by splitting. 2. To separate by or as by splitting. — **to split the difference** To divide equally a sum in dispute. — **to split up** 1. To separate into parts and distribute. 2. To cease association; separate. — *n.* 1. The act of splitting; also, the result of splitting, as a cleft or rent. 2. Separation into factions; schism: a *split* in the church. 3. A sliver; splinter. 4. A share or portion, as of booty. 5. *Informal* A bottle or a drink half the usual size. 6. A confection made of a split banana, ice cream, syrup, chopped nuts, and whipped cream. 7. In bowling, the position of two or more pins left standing on such spots so that a spare is nearly impossible. 10. An acrobatic trick in which the legs are extended upon the floor in a straight line at right angles to the body: also **the splits.** — *adj.* 1. Cleft, esp. longitudinally; fissured. 2. Divided: a *split* ticket. [< MDu. *splitten*] — **split'ter** *n.*

split infinitive *Gram.* An infinitive in which the sign *to* is separated from the verb, generally by an adverb, as in "to really believe."

split level house A dwelling in which the floors of the several levels are less than a story above or below the adjoining one.

split ticket 1. A ballot on which the voter has distributed his vote among candidates of different parties. 2. A ballot containing names of candidates of more than one party or party faction. Compare STRAIGHT TICKET.

split·ting (split'ing) *adj.* 1. Acute or extreme: a *splitting* shriek. 2. That aches severely: a *splitting* head.

splotch (sploch) *n.* A discolored spot, as of ink, etc.; a daub; splash; spot. — *v.t.* To soil or mark with a splotch or splotches. [Cf. OE *splott* spot] — **splotch'y** *adj.*

splurge (splûrj) *Informal n.* 1. An ostentatious display. 2. An extravagant expenditure. — *v.i.* **splurged, splurg·ing** 1. To show off; be ostentatious. 2. To spend money lavishly or wastefully. [Origin uncertain] — **splurg'y** *adj.*

splut·ter (splut'ər) *v.i.* 1. To make a series of slight, explosive sounds, or throw off small particles, as meat frying. 2. To speak hastily, confusedly, or incoherently. — *v.t.* 3. To utter excitedly or confusedly; sputter. 4. To bespatter. — *n.* A noise as of spluttering; bustle; confused stir. [Blend of SPLASH and SPUTTER] — **splut'ter·er** *n.*

spoil (spoil) *v.* **spoiled** or **spoilt, spoil·ing** *v.t.* 1. To impair or destroy the value, usefulness, or beauty of. 2. To impair the character of, esp., by overindulgence: to *spoil* a child. 3. *Obs.* To take property from by force; despoil. — *v.i.* 4. To lose normal or useful qualities; esp., to become tainted or decayed, as food. — **Syn.** See DECAY. — **to be spoiling for** To long for; crave: He is *spoiling for* a fight. — *n.* 1. *Often pl.* Plunder seized by violence; loot. 2. *pl. Chiefly U.S.* The emoluments of public office. 3. The act of pillaging; spoliation. [< OF < L < *spolium* booty] — **spoil'er** *n.*

spoil·age (spoi'lij) *n.* 1. Spoiled material collectively. 2. Something that is or has been spoiled. 3. The process of spoiling. 4. The state of being spoiled.

spoil·sport (spoil'spôrt', -spōrt') *n.* A person whose actions or attitudes spoil the pleasures of others.

spoils system *U.S.* In a political party after a victorious campaign, the system or practice of making public offices the rewards of partisan services.

spoke[1] (spōk) *n.* 1. One of the rods or bars that serve to support the rim of a wheel by connecting it to the hub. 2. A stick or bar for insertion in a wheel to prevent its turning. 3. A rung of a ladder. — *v.t.* **spoked, spok·ing** 1. To provide with spokes. 2. To fasten (a wheel) with a stick or spoke to prevent its turning. [OE *spāca*]

spoke[2] (spōk) Past tense and archaic past participle of SPEAK.

spo·ken (spō'kən) Past participle of SPEAK. — *adj.* 1. Uttered orally, as opposed to written. 2. Speaking or having (a specified kind of) speech: *smooth-spoken.*

spoke·shave (spōk'shāv') *n.* A planing tool having a blade set between two handles, used in rounding and smoothing wooden surfaces; originally used for shaping spokes.

spokes·man (spōks'mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who speaks in the name and behalf of another or others. — **spokes'wom'an** (-wŏŏm'ən) *n. fem.*

spo·li·a·tion (spō'lē·ā'shən) *n.* The act of despoiling; esp., the authorized seizure of neutral ships by a belligerent. [< L < *spoliare* to despoil] — **spo'li·a'tor** *n.*

spo·li·a·tive (spō'lē·ā'tiv) *adj.* Tending to abstract from or lessen.

spon·dee (spon'dē) *n.* A metrical foot consisting of two long syllables or accented syllables. [< F < L < Gk. < *spondē* libation; because used in the solemn chants accompanying a libation] — **spon·da·ic** (-dā'ik) *adj.*

sponge (spunj) n. 1. Any of a varied group of aquatic, usu. marine organisms, characterized by a highly porous body without specialized internal organs and incapable of free movement. 2. The skeleton or network of elastic fibers that remains after the removal of the living matter from certain sponges and that readily absorbs liquids, used as an absorbent for bathing, etc. 3. Any spongelike substance used as an absorbent. 4. Leavened dough, or dough in the process of leavening. 5. *Surg.* An absorbent pad, as of sterilized gauze. 6. A sponge bath. 7. *Informal* One who lives at the expense of another or others; a parasite. — **to throw** (or **toss**) **up** (or **in**) **the sponge** *Informal* To give up; abandon the struggle. — *v.* **sponged, spong·ing** *v.t.* 1. To wipe, wet, or clean with a sponge. 2. To wipe out; expunge; erase. 3. To absorb; suck in. 4. *Informal* To get without cost or at another's expense. — *v.i.* 5. To be absorbent. 6. *Informal* To live or get something at the expense of others. [OE < L < Gk. *spongos.*] — **spong'er** *n.* — **spong'i·ness** *n.* — **spong'y** *adj.*

sponge bath A bath taken by washing oneself with a cloth or sponge rather than in a bathtub or shower.

sponge cake A cake of sugar, eggs, and flour, containing no shortening and beaten very light.

spon·son (spon'sən) *n.* 1. A curved projection from the hull of a vessel or seaplane, to give greater stability or increase the surface area. 2. A similar protuberance on a ship or tank, for storage purposes or for the training of a gun. 3. An air tank built into the side of a canoe, to improve stability and prevent sinking. [Appar. alter. of EXPANSION]

spon·sor (spon'sər) *n.* 1. One who makes himself responsible for a statement by, or the debt or duty of, another; a surety. 2. A godfather or godmother. 3. A business enterprise that finances a broadcast program that advertises its product or service. — *v.t.* To act as sponsor for; vouch for. [< L < *spondere* to be a security] — **spon·so·ri·al** (spon·sôr'ē·əl, -sō'rē·) *adj.* — **spon'sor·ship** *n.*

spon·ta·ne·i·ty (spon'tə·nē'ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **ties** 1. The quality or fact of being spontaneous. 2. A spontaneous act.

spon·ta·ne·ous (spon·tā'nē·əs) *adj.* 1. Done or resulting from one's own impulse or desire; not premeditated; unrestrained. 2. Arising from inherent qualities without external cause; self-generated. 3. *Biol.* Growing without cultivation; wild; indigenous. [< LL < L *sponte* of free will] — **spon·ta'ne·ous·ly** *adv.* — **spon·ta'ne·ous·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** 1. A *spontaneous* act seems to be prompted by inner feeling, rather than external stimulus: a *spontaneous* outburst of applause. An *impulsive* action comes from sudden inclination, and lacks deliberation: an *impulsive* gesture of welcome.

spontaneous combustion The burning of a substance through the generation of sufficient internal heat to ignite it, as masses of oiled rags, finely powdered ores, coal, etc.

spontaneous generation *Biol.* The doctrine of the generation of new organisms from putrid or decomposing organic matter assumed to be entirely devoid of life.

spoof (spōōf) *Informal v.t. & v.i.* To deceive or hoax; joke; parody. — *n.* Deception; parody; hoax. [after a game invented by Arthur Roberts, 1852–1933, English comedian]

spook (spōōk) *Informal n.* A ghost; an apparition; specter. — *v.t. Informal* To haunt (a person or place). [< Du.] — **spook'i·ly** *adv.* — **spook'ish, spook'y** *adj.*

spool (spōōl) *n.* 1. A small cylinder with a flange at each end and an axial bore, upon which thread or yarn is or may be wound. 2. The quantity of thread held by a spool. 3. Anything resembling a spool in shape or purpose. — *v.t.* To wind on a spool. [< MLG *spōle*]

spoon (spōōn) *n.* 1. A utensil having a shallow, generally ovoid bowl and a handle, used in preparing, serving, or eating food. 2. Something resembling a spoon or its bowl. 3. A metallic lure attached to a fishing line: also **spoon bait, trolling spoon.** 4. A wooden golf club with lofted face and comparatively short, stiff shaft. — *v.t.* 1. To lift up or out

with a spoon. **2.** To hollow out like the bowl of a spoon. — *v.i.* **3.** *Informal* To make love, as by caressing or kissing. [OE spōn sliver, chip]

spoon·bill (spōōn′bil) *n.* **1.** Any of various wading birds related to the ibises, having the bill broad and flattened. **2.** The shoveler. — **spoon′-billed′** *adj.*

spoon·drift (spōōn′drift′) *n.* Spindrift.

spoon·er·ism (spōō′nə·riz′əm) *n.* The unintentional transposition of sounds or of parts of words in speaking, as in "half-warmed fish" for "half-formed wish." [after William A. *Spooner*, 1844–1930, of New College, Oxford]

spoon-fed (spōōn′fed′) *adj.* **1.** Fed with a spoon. **2.** Pampered; over-indulged. **3.** Not given the opportunity to act or think for oneself.

spoon·ful (spōōn′fo͝ol′) *n.* *pl.* **·fuls** As much as a spoon will hold.

spoon·y (spōō′nē) *Informal* *adj.* **spoon·i·er, spoon·i·est** Sentimental or silly, as in lovemaking; soft. — *n.* *pl.* **spoon·ies** A foolish, sentimental lover. Also **spoon′ey.**

spoor (spo͝or) *n.* Footprint or other trace of a wild animal. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* To track by or follow a spoor. [< Du.]

spo·rad·ic (spō·rad′ik, spō-) *adj.* **1.** Occurring here and there; occasional. **2.** Separate; isolated. **3.** Neither epidemic nor endemic: said of disease. Also **spo·rad′i·cal.** [< Med.L < Gk. < *sporas* scattered] — **spo·rad′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

spo·ran·gi·um (spō·ran′jē·əm, spō-) *n.* *pl.* **·gi·a** (-jē·ə) *Bot.* A sac in which asexual spores are produced, as in certain algae and fungi: also called *spore case.* [< SPOR(O)- + Gk. *angeion* vessel] — **spo·ran′gi·al** *adj.*

spore (spôr, spōr) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* The reproductive body in cryptogams, analogous to the seeds of flowering plants, but able to develop asexually into an independent organism or individual. **2.** *Bacteriol.* A strongly resistant body developed in some bacilli, able to become active under suitable conditions. **3.** *Biol.* Any cell or minute body capable of developing into a new organism; a germ, seed, etc. — *v.i.* **spored, spor·ing** To develop spores: said of plants. [< NL < Gk. *seed, sowing*] — **spo·ra·ceous** (spō·rā′shəs, spō-) *adj.*

spore case A sporangium.

sporo- *combining form* Seed; spore. Also, before vowels, **spor-.** [< Gk. *spora* seed]

spo·ro·phyte (spôr′ə·fīt, spō′rə-) *n.* *Bot.* The stage in which spores are produced in certain plants that reproduce by alternation of generations.

-sporous *combining form* Having (a specified number or kind of) spores. [< SPOR(O)- + -OUS]

spo·ro·zo·an (spôr′ə·zō′ən, spō′rə-) *adj.* *Zool.* Designating or belonging to a class of parasitic protozoans reproducing by spores, as the malaria parasite. — *n.* A member of this class. [< SPORO- + Gk. *zōion* animal]

spor·ran (spor′ən) *n.* A purse, generally of fur, worn in front of the kilt by Highlanders. For illus. see KILT. [< Scottish Gaelic < LL *bursa* purse]

sport (spôrt, spōrt) *n.* **1.** That which amuses in general; diversion; pastime. **2.** A particular game or play pursued for diversion; esp., an outdoor or athletic game, as baseball, tennis, swimming, etc. **3.** A spirit of jesting. **4.** That with which one sports; a toy; plaything. **5.** Mockery; an object of derision: to make *sport* of someone; also, a laughingstock; butt. **6.** *Biol.* An animal or plant that exhibits sudden and spontaneous variation from the normal type; a mutation. **7.** *Informal* One who lives a fast, gay, or flashy life. **8.** A person characterized by his observance of the rules of fair play, or by his ability to get along with others: a good *sport.* — *v.i.* **1.** To amuse oneself; play; frolic. **2.** To participate in games. **3.** To make sport or jest; trifle. **4.** *Biol.* To vary suddenly or spontaneously from the normal type; mutate. — *v.t.* **5.** *Informal* To display or wear ostentatiously; show off. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or fitted for sports; also, appropriate for informal wear: a *sport* coat: also **sports.** [Aphetic var. of DISPORT] — **sport′er** *n.* — **sport′ful** *adj.* — **sport′ful·ly** *adv.* — **sport′ful·ness** *n.*

sport·ing (spôr′ting, spōr′-) *adj.* **1.** Of, engaged in, or connected with athletic games or field sports. **2.** Characterized by the spirit of sportsmanship; conforming to the codes or standards of sportsmanship. **3.** Associated with sports for gambling or betting: a *sporting* man. — **sport′ing·ly** *adv.*

porting chance *Informal* A chance involving the risk of loss or failure.

por·tive (spôr′tiv, spōr′-) *adj.* **1.** Relating to or fond of sport or play; frolicsome. **2.** Interested in, active in, or related to sports. — **spor′tive·ly** *adv.* — **spor′tive·ness** *n.*

ports car A low, rakish automobile, usu. seating two persons, and built for high speed and maneuverability.

sports·man (spôrts′mən, spōrts′-) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** One who pursues field sports, esp., hunting and fishing. **2.** One who abides by a code of fair play in games or in daily practice. — **sports′man-like** *adj.* — **sports′man·ship** *n.*

sports·wear (spôrts′wâr′, spōrts′-) *n.* Clothes made for informal or outdoor activities.

sports·wom·an (spôrts′wo͝om′ən, spōrts′-) *n.* *pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) A woman who participates in sports.

sport·y (spôr′tē, spōr′-) *adj.* **sport·i·er, sport·i·est** *Informal* **1.** Relating to or characteristic of a sport. **2.** Gay, loud, or dissipated. — **sport′i·ly** *adv.* — **sport′i·ness** *n.*

spor·ule (spôr′yo͞ol, spor′-) *n.* A spore; esp., a little spore. [< F < NL < *spora* spore]

spot (spot) *n.* **1.** A particular place of small extent; a definite locality. **2.** Any small portion of a surface differing as in color from the rest; blot. **3.** A stain or blemish on character; a fault. **4.** *Slang* A currency note having a specified value: a ten *spot.* **5.** *U.S. Slang* A spotlight. — **in a spot** *Slang* In a difficult or embarrassing situation; in trouble. — **to hit the spot** *Slang* To gratify an appetite or need. — **to touch a** (or **one's**) **sore spot** To mention a topic that is painful to one. — **on the spot** **1.** At once; immediately. **2.** At the very place. **3.** *Slang* In danger of death or of being held accountable for some action. — *v.* **spot·ted, spot·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To mark or soil with spots. **2.** To decorate with spots; dot. **3.** To place on a designated spot; locate; station. **4.** *Informal* To recognize or detect; see. — *v.i.* **5.** To become marked or soiled with spots. **6.** To make a stain or discoloration. — *adj.* **1.** Being on the place or spot. **2.** Paid or prepared for payment on delivery; spot cash. **3.** Made at random: a *spot* check. [ME < LG. Cf. MDu. *spotte.*] — **spot′less** *adj.* — — **spot′ta·ble** *adj.*

spot check An inspection of one or a few typical things out of many, to insure quality and maintenance of standards.

spot·light (spot′līt′) *n.* **1.** A circle of powerful light thrown on the stage to bring an actor or actors into clearer view. **2.** The apparatus that produces such a light. **3.** A pivoted automobile lamp. **4.** Notoriety; publicity.

spot·ted (spot′id) *adj.* **1.** Discolored in spots; stained; soiled. **2.** Characterized or marked by spots.

spotted fever *Pathol.* **1.** An epidemic form of cerebrospinal meningitis. **2.** Typhus.

spot·ter (spot′ər) *n.* **1.** *U.S. Informal* A detective; esp., one employed to discover dishonesty among employees. **2.** In civil defense, one who watches for enemy aircraft. **3.** In dry cleaning, one who removes spots.

spot·ty (spot′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** **1.** Having many spots. **2.** Lacking uniformity. — **spot′ti·ly** *adv.* — **spot′ti·ness** *n.*

spous·al (spou′zəl) *adj.* Pertaining to marriage. — *n.* *Often pl.* Marriage; espousal.

spouse (spouz, spous) *n.* A partner in marriage; one's husband or wife. [< OF < L *spondere* to promise, betroth]

spout (spout) *v.i.* **1.** To pour out copiously and forcibly, as a liquid under pressure. **2.** To discharge a fluid either continuously or in jets. **3.** *Informal* To speak or orate pompously; declaim. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to pour or shoot forth. **5.** To utter grandiloquently or pompously. — *n.* **1.** A tube, trough, etc., for the discharge of a liquid. **2.** A continuous stream of fluid. [ME *spoute*] — **spout′er** *n.*

sprain (sprān) *n.* **1.** A violent straining or twisting of the ligaments surrounding a joint. **2.** The condition due to such strain. — *v.t.* To cause a sprain in; wrench the muscles of (a joint). [? < OF *espreindre* to squeeze]

sprang (sprang) Alternative past tense of SPRING.

sprat (sprat) *n.* **1.** A herringlike fish found in shoals on the Atlantic coast of Europe. [OE *sprott*]

sprawl (sprôl) *v.i.* **1.** To sit or lie with the limbs stretched out ungracefully. **2.** To be stretched out ungracefully, as the limbs. **3.** To move with awkward motions of the limbs. **4.** To spread out in a straggling manner, as handwriting, vines, etc. — *v.t.* **5.** To cause to spread or extend awkwardly or irregularly. — *n.* The act or position of sprawling. [OE *spreawlian* to move convulsively] — **sprawl′er** *n.*

spray[1] (sprā) *n.* **1.** Liquid dispersed in fine particles. **2.** An instrument for discharging such particles. — *v.t.* **1.** To disperse (a liquid) in fine particles. **2.** To apply spray to. — *v.i.* **3.** To send forth spray. **4.** To go forth as spray. [Akin to MDu. *sprayen* to sprinkle] — **spray′er** *n.*

spray[2] (sprā) *n.* **1.** A small branch bearing dependent branchlets or flowers. **2.** Any ornament, pattern, etc., having a similar form. [ME]

spray gun A device that ejects liquids such as paint or insecticides in a fine spray by means of air pressure.

spread (spred) *v.* **spread, spread·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To open or unfold to full width or extent, as wings, sail, etc. **2.** To distribute over a surface, esp. in a thin layer; scatter or smear. **3.** To cover with a layer of something: to *spread* toast with marmalade. **4.** To force apart or farther apart. **5.** To extend over a period of time. **6.** To make more widely known, active, etc.: to *spread* a rumor; to *spread* contagion. **7.** To set (a table, etc.), as for a meal. **8.** To place on a table, etc., as a meal. — *v.i.* **9.** To be extended or expanded. **10.** To

be distributed. **11.** To become more widely known, active, etc. **12.** To be forced farther apart. — *n.* **1.** The act of spreading. **2.** An open extent or expanse. **3.** The limit of expansion of some designated object. **4.** A cloth or covering for a bed, table, etc. **5.** *Informal* An informal feast or banquet. **6.** Anything used to spread on bread or crackers. **7.** Two pages of a magazine or newspaper facing each other and covered by related material; also, print spread across two or more columns or on facing pages. — *adj.* Expanded; outstretched. [OE *sprædan*] — **spread'er** *n.*

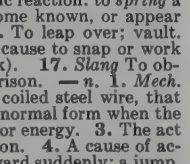
spread-ea·gle (spred'ē'gəl) *adj.* **1.** Resembling the figure of an eagle with extended wings. **2.** *U.S. Informal* Bombastic: applied esp. to patriotic oratory. — *v.t.* **-ea·gled, -ea·gling** To lash to the mast or shrouds in spread-eagle position as a punishment.

spree (sprē) *n.* **1.** A drinking spell. **2.** A gay frolic. **3.** Excessive indulgence in an activity. [Origin uncertain]

sprig (sprig) *n.* **1.** A shoot or sprout of a tree or plant. **2.** An ornament in this form. **3.** A young man; a youth. — *v.t.* **sprigged, sprig·ging** To ornament with a design of sprigs. [ME *sprigge*] — **sprig'ger** *n.* — **sprig'gy** *adj.*

spright·ly (sprīt'lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Full of animation; lively. — *adv.* Spiritedly; briskly; gaily. — **spright'li·ness** *n.*

spring (spring) *v.* **sprang** or **sprung, sprung, spring·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move or rise suddenly and rapidly; leap; dart. **2.** To move suddenly as by elastic reaction. **3.** To move as if with a leap: An angry retort *sprang* to his lips. **4.** To work or snap out of place, as a mechanical part. **5.** To become warped or bent, as boards. **6.** To rise above surrounding objects. **7.** To come into being: New towns have *sprung* up. **8.** To originate; proceed, as from a source. **9.** To develop; grow. — *v.t.* **10.** To cause to spring or leap. **11.** To cause to act, close, open, etc., suddenly, as by elastic reaction: to *spring* a trap. **12.** To cause to happen, become known, or appear suddenly: to *spring* a surprise. **13.** To leap over; vault. **14.** To warp or bend; split. **15.** To cause to snap or work out of place. **16.** To undergo (a leak). **17.** *Slang* To obtain the release of (a person) from prison. — *n.* **1.** *Mech.* An elastic body or contrivance, as a coiled steel wire, that yields under stress, and returns to its normal form when the stress is removed. **2.** Elastic quality or energy. **3.** The act of flying back from a position of tension. **4.** A cause of action. **5.** The act of leaping up or forward suddenly; a jump. **6.** The season in which vegetation starts anew, occurring between winter and summer. ◆ Collateral adjective: *vernal.* **7.** A flow, as of water. **8.** Any source or origin. **9.** A crack or break, as of a plank, etc., or a thing sprung or warped. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the season of spring. **2.** Acting like or having a spring. **3.** Hung on springs. [OE *springan*] — **spring'er** *n.*


SPRINGS
a Compression coil.
b Double spiral.
c Extension coil.

spring·board (spring'bôrd', -bōrd') *n.* **1.** A flexible, resilient board used by athletes and acrobats as an aid in leaping or tumbling. **2.** A diving board.

spring·bok (spring'bok') *n.* A small South African gazelle noted for its ability to leap high in the air. Also **spring'buck'** (-buk'). [< Afrikaans]

spring chicken **1.** A young chicken, 10 weeks to 10 months old, esp. tender for cooking. **2.** *Informal* A young, immature, or unsophisticated person.

spring fever The listlessness and restlessness that overtakes many people during the first warm days of spring.

spring lock A lock that fastens automatically by a spring.

spring tide **1.** The tide occurring at or shortly after the new or full moon, when the rise and fall are greatest. **2.** Any great wave or flood, as of emotion.

spring·time (spring'tīm') *n.* The season of spring. Also **spring'tide'** (-tīd').

spring·y (spring'ē) *adj.* **spring·i·er, spring·i·est** **1.** Elastic; resilient. **2.** Having many springs of water. — **spring'i·ly** *adv.* — **spring'i·ness** *n.*

sprin·kle (spring'kəl) *v.* **·kled, ·kling** *v.t.* **1.** To scatter in drops or small particles. **2.** To besprinkle. — *v.i.* **3.** To fall or rain in scattered drops. — *n.* **1.** A falling in drops or particles, or that which so falls; a sprinkling. **2.** A small quantity. [ME *sprenkelen*] — **sprin'kler** *n.*

sprin·kling (spring'kling) *n.* **1.** That which is sprinkled. **2.** A small number or quantity. **3.** A mottling. **4.** The act of scattering drops of liquid.

sprint (sprint) *n.* A short race run at top speed. — *v.i.* To run fast, as in a sprint. [< Scand.] — **sprint'er** *n.*

sprit (sprit) *n.* *Naut.* A spar reaching diagonally from a mast to the peak of a fore-and-aft sail. [OE *sprēot* pole]

sprite (sprit) *n.* A fairy, elf, or goblin. [< OF < L *spiritus* breath, spirit]

sprit·sail (sprit'səl, sprit'sāl') *n.* *Naut.* A sail extended by a sprit.

sprock·et (sprok'it) *n.* *Mech.* **1.** A projection, as on the rim of a wheel, for engaging with the links of a chain. **2.** A wheel bearing such projections: also **sprocket wheel.** [Origin uncertain]

sprout (sprout) *v.i.* **1.** To put forth shoots; begin to grow; germinate. **2.** To develop or grow rapidly. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to sprout. **4.** To remove shoots from. — *n.* **1.** A new shoot or bud on a plant. **2.** Something like or suggestive of a sprout. **3.** *pl.* Brussels sprouts. [OE *sprūtan*]

spruce[1] (sprōōs) *n.* **1.** Any of a genus of evergreen trees of the pine family, having a pyramidal crown, needle-shaped leaves, and pendulous cones. **2.** The wood of these trees. **3.** Any of certain coniferous trees, as the Douglas fir.

spruce[2] (sprōōs) *adj.* **1.** Having a smart, trim appearance. **2.** Fastidious. — *v.* **spruced, spruc·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make spruce: often with *up.* — *v.i.* **2.** To make oneself spruce: usu. with *up.* — **spruce'ly** *adv.* — **spruce'ness** *n.*

sprung (sprung) Past participle and alternative past tense of SPRING.

spry (sprī) *adj.* **spri·er** or **spry·er, spri·est** or **spry·est** Quick and active; agile; brisk; energetic. [< dial. E *sprey* < Scand.] — **spry'ly** *adv.* — **spry'ness** *n.*

spud (spud) *n.* **1.** A spadelike tool for removing the roots of weeds. **2.** *Informal* A potato. — *v.t.* **spud·ded, spud·ding** To remove with a spud. [ME *spudde* < Scand.]

spue (spyōō) See SPEW.

spume (spyōōm) *n.* Froth, as on an agitated or effervescing liquid; foam; scum. — *v.i.* **spumed, spum·ing** To foam; froth [< F < L *spuma* foam] —**spu'mous, spum'y** *adj.*

spu·mo·ne (spə·mō'nē, *Ital.* spōō·mō'nā) *n.* *pl.* **·ni** (-nē) A dessert of ice cream or water ice containing fruit, nuts, etc. Also **spu·mo'ni.** [< Ital. < L *spuma* foam]

spun (spun) Past tense and past participle of SPIN.

spunk (spungk) *n.* **1.** Punk or other tinder. **2.** A small fire, spark, or flame; also, a match. **3.** *Informal* Mettle; pluck; courage. [< Irish < L *spongia* sponge]

spunk·y (spungk'ē) *adj.* **spunk·i·er, spunk·i·est** *Informal* Spirited; courageous; also, touchy. — **spunk'i·ly** *adv.* — **spunk'i·ness** *n.*

spur (spûr) *n.* **1.** A pricking or goading instrument worn on a horseman's heel. **2.** Anything that incites or urges; incentive. **3.** A part or attachment projecting like or suggestive of a spur, as a crag or mountain peak. **4.** A stiff, sharp spine, as on the legs of some insects and birds. **5.** *Bot.* A tubular extension of some part of a flower, as in the larkspur. **6.** A spur track. **7.** A pointed, curved cutting instrument fastened to each leg of a gamecock. — **on the spur of the moment** Hastily; prompted by an impulse. — *v.* **spurred, spur·ring** *v.t.* **1.** To prick or urge with or as with spurs. **2.** To furnish with spurs. — *v.i.* **3.** To spur one's horse. **4.** To hurry. [OE *spura*] — **spur'rer** *n.*

spurge (spûrj) *n.* A plant, euphorbia. [< OF < L < *ex-* out + *purgare* to cleanse]

spur gear *Mech.* **1.** A spur wheel. **2.** Spur gearing.

spur gearing *Mech.* Gearing composed of spur wheels.

spu·ri·ous (spyōōr'ē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Not proceeding from the source pretended; not genuine; false. **2.** Illegitimate. [< L *spurius*] — **spu'ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **spu'ri·ous·ness** *n.*

spurn (spûrn) *v.t.* **1.** To reject with disdain; refuse contemptuously; scorn. **2.** To strike with the foot; kick. — *v.i.* **3.** To reject something with disdain. — *n.* The act of spurning; also, a kick. [OE *spurnan*] — **spurn'er** *n.*

spurred (spûrd) *adj.* **1.** Wearing or having spurs. **2.** Having sharp spikes, claws, or shoots.

spurt (spûrt) *n.* **1.** A sudden gush of liquid. **2.** Any sudden outbreak, as of anger. **3.** An extraordinary effort of brief duration. — *v.i.* **1.** To come out in a jet; gush forth. **2.** To make a sudden and extreme effort. — *v.t.* **3.** To force out in a jet; squirt. [< OE *spryttan* to come forth]

spur track A short side track connecting with the main track of a railroad: also called *spur.*

spur wheel *Mech.* A wheel having radial teeth on the rim, with their edges parallel to the axis; also called *spur gear.*

sput·nik (sput'nik, spōōt'-; *Russ.* spōōt'nyik) *n.* A Soviet artificial earth satellite, the first of which, **Sputnik I,** was launched in 1957. [< Russian, satellite]

sput·ter (sput'ər) *v.i.* **1.** To throw off solid or fluid particles in a series of slight explosions. **2.** To emit particles of saliva from the mouth, as when speaking excitedly. **3.** To speak rapidly or confusedly. — *v.t.* **4.** To emit in small particles. **5.** To utter in a confused or excited manner. — *n.* **1.** The act or sound of sputtering; esp., excited talk. **2.** That which is ejected in sputtering. — **sput'ter·er** *n.*

spu·tum (spyōō'təm) *n.* *pl.* **·ta** (-tə) Saliva; spittle; expectorated matter. [< L *spuere* to spit]

spy (spī) *n.* *pl.* **spies** **1.** One who enters an enemy's military lines covertly to get information. **2.** One who watches others secretly. — *v.* **spied, spy·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To keep watch closely or secretly; act as a spy. **2.** To make careful examination; pry: with *into.* — *v.t.* **3.** To observe stealthily and with hostile intent: usu. with *out.* **4.** To catch sight of; see.

5. To discover by careful or secret investigation: with *out*. [< OF *espier* to espy < Gmc.]

spy·glass (spī′glas′, -gläs′) *n.* A small telescope.

squab (skwob) *n.* **1.** A young pigeon, esp. when an unfledged nestling. **2.** A fat, short person. **3.** A soft, stuffed cushion. **4.** A sofa; couch. — *adj.* **1.** Fat and short; squat. **2.** Unfledged or recently hatched. [< dial. E < Scand.]

squab·ble (skwob′əl) *v.* **-bled, -bling** *v.i.* **1.** To engage in a petty wrangle or scuffle; quarrel. — *v.t.* **2.** *Printing* To disarrange (composed type). — *n.* A petty wrangle. — **Syn.** See QUARREL. — **squab′bler** *n.*

squad (skwod) *n.* **1.** A small group of persons organized for the performance of a specific function. **2.** A small detachment of troops or police; esp., the smallest tactical unit in the infantry of the U.S. Army. **3.** A team: a football *squad*. — *v.t.* **squad·ded, squad·ding** **1.** To form into a squad or squads. **2.** To assign to a squad. [< F < OF < Ital. < L *quattuor* four]

squad car An automobile used by police for patrolling, and equipped with radiotelephone: also called *patrol car*.

squad·ron (skwod′rən) *n.* **1.** In the U.S. Navy, two or more divisions of vessels or flights of naval aircraft. **2.** In the U.S. Air Force, a unit composed of two or more flights. **3.** A subordinate unit of a cavalry regiment. **4.** Any regularly arranged or organized body. [< Ital. < L *quattuor* four]

squadron leader In the Royal, Royal Canadian, and other Commonwealth air forces, a commissioned officer ranking next below a wing commander. See table at GRADE.

squal·id (skwol′id) *adj.* Having a foul appearance; dirty and wretched. [< L *squalere* to be foul] — **squal′id·ly** *adv.* — **squal′id·ness, squa·lid·i·ty** (skwo·lid′ə·tē) *n.*

squall[1] (skwôl) *n.* A loud, screaming outcry. — *v.i.* To cry loudly; scream; bawl. — **squall′er** *n.*

squall[2] (skwôl) *n.* **1.** A sudden, violent burst of wind, often accompanied by rain or snow. **2.** *Informal* A commotion. — *v.i.* To blow a squall. — **squall′y** *adj.*

squal·or (skwol′ər) *n.* The state of being squalid; filth and wretched poverty. [< L *squalere* to be foul]

squa·ma (skwā′mə) *n.* *pl.* **·mae** (-mē) *Biol.* A thin, scale-like structure; a scale. [< L] — **squa′mate** (-māt), **squa′·mose** (-mōs), **squa′mous** *adj.*

squan·der (skwon′dər) *v.t.* To spend (money, time, etc.) wastefully. — *n.* Prodigality; wasteful expenditure. [Origin unknown] — **squan′der·er** *n.* — **squan′der·ing·ly** *adv.*

square (skwâr) *n.* **1.** A parallelogram having four equal sides and four right angles. **2.** Any object, part, or surface that has this form, or nearly so. **3.** An instrument having an L- or T-shape by which to measure or lay out right angles. **4.** An open area in a city or town formed by the intersection of several streets. **5.** An open area in a city or town formed by the intersection of four or more streets, often planted with trees, flowers, etc. **6.** A section in a town bounded on four sides by streets; also, the distance between one street and the next. **7.** *Math.* The product of a number multiplied by itself. **8.** Formerly, a body of troops formed in a four-sided array. **9.** *Slang* One not conversant with the latest trends or fads. — **on the square** **1.** At right angles. **2.** *Informal* In a fair and honest manner. — **out of square** **1.** Not at right angles. **2.** Incorrectly; askew; out of order. — *adj.* **1.** Having four equal sides and four right angles; also, resembling a square in form. **2.** Formed with or characterized by a right angle; rectangular. **3.** Adapted to forming squares or computing in squares: a *square* measure. **4.** Direct; fair; just; honest. **5.** Having debit and credit balanced. **6.** Absolute; complete; unequivocal. **7.** Having a broad, stocky frame; strong, sturdy. **8.** *Informal* Solid; full; satisfying: a *square* meal. — **square peg in a round hole** A misfit. — *v.* **squared, squar·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make or form like a square. **2.** To shape or adjust so as to form a right angle. **3.** To mark with or divide into squares. **4.** To test for the purpose of adjusting to a straight line, right angle, or plane surface. **5.** To bring to a position suggestive of a right angle: *Square* your shoulders. **6.** To make satisfactory settlement or adjustment of: to *square* accounts. **7.** To make (the score of a game, etc.) equal. **8.** To cause to conform; adapt; reconcile. **9.** *Math.* **a** To multiply (a number) by itself. **b** To determine the area of. — *v.i.* **10.** To be at right angles. **11.** To conform; agree; harmonize. **12.** In golf, to make the scores equal. — **to square away** **1.** *Naut.* To set (the yards) at right angles to the keel. **2.** To square up. — **to square off** To prepare to fight. — **to square the circle** **1.** To construct a square equal in area to a given circle, an insoluble problem. **2.** To attempt something impossible. — *adv.* **1.** So as to be square, or at right angles. **2.** *Informal* Honestly; fairly. **3.** Directly; firmly. [< OF < L *quattuor* four] — **square′ness** *n.* — **squar′er** *n.*

square-dance (skwâr′dans′) *v.i.* **-danced, -danc·ing** *U.S.* To perform a square dance.

square dance *U.S.* Any dance, as a quadrille, in which the couples form sets in squares.

square deal *Informal* **1.** In card games, an honest deal. **2.** Fair or just treatment.

square knot A common knot, formed of two overhand knots: also called *reef knot*. For illus. see KNOT.

square·ly (skwâr′lē) *adv.* **1.** In a direct or straight manner. **2.** Honestly; fairly. **3.** *U.S.* Plainly; unequivocally. **4.** In a square form. **5.** At right angles (to a line or plane).

square meal *Informal* A full and substantial meal.

square measure A unit or system of units for measuring areas. See table front of book.

square-rigged (skwâr′rigd′) *adj.* *Naut.* Fitted with square-rigged sails as the principal sails.

square root *Math.* A number that, multiplied by itself, produces the given number: 4 is the *square root* of 16.

square shooter *Informal* An upright person.

squash[1] (skwosh) *v.t.* **1.** To beat or press into a pulp or soft mass; crush. **2.** To quell or suppress. — *v.i.* **3.** To be smashed or squashed. **4.** To make a splashing or sucking sound. — *n.* **1.** A soft or overripe object; also, a crushed mass. **2.** The sudden fall of a heavy, soft body; also, the sound made by such a fall. **3.** A sucking, oozy sound. **4.** Either of two games played on an indoor court with rackets and a ball. **5.** A beverage of which one ingredient is a fruit juice. — *adv.* With a squelching, oozy sound. [< OF < L *ex-* thoroughly + *quassare* to crush] — **squash′er** *n.*

squash[2] (skwosh) *n.* **1.** The edible fruit of various trailing annuals of the gourd family. **2.** The plant that bears it. [< Algonquian]

squash·y (skwosh′ē) *adj.* **squash·i·er, squash·i·est** Soft and moist. — **squash′i·ly** *adv.* — **squash′i·ness** *n.*

squat (skwot) *v.* **squat·ted** or **squat, squat·ting** *v.i.* **1.** To sit on the heels or hams, or with the legs near the body. **2.** To crouch or cower down. **3.** To settle on a piece of land without title or payment. **4.** To settle on government land in accordance with certain government regulations that will eventually give title. — *v.t.* **5.** To cause (oneself) to squat. — *adj.* **1.** Short and thick; squatty. **2.** Being in a squatting position. — *n.* **1.** A squatting attitude or position. **2.** The act of squatting. [< OF < *es-* thoroughly + *quatir* to press down] — **squat′ter** *n.*

squat·ty (skwot′ē) *adj.* Disproportionately short and thick.

squaw (skwô) *n.* **1.** An American Indian woman or wife. **2.** *Informal* Any woman or girl. [< Algonquian, woman]

squawk (skwôk) *v.i.* **1.** To utter a shrill, harsh cry, as a parrot. **2.** *Slang* To utter loud complaints or protests. — *n.* **1.** The harsh cry of certain birds; also, the act of squawking. **2.** *Slang* A loud protest or complaint. [Prob. imit.] — **squawk′er** *n.*

squeak (skwēk) *n.* A thin, sharp, penetrating sound. — **narrow** (or **near**) **squeak** *Informal* A narrow escape. — *v.i.* **1.** To make a squeak. **2.** *Slang* To let out information; squeal. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter or effect with a squeak. **4.** To cause to squeak. [ME *squeke*] — **squeak′er** *n.*

squeak·y (skwē′kē) *adj.* **squeak·i·er, squeak·i·est** Making a squeaking noise. — **squeak′i·ly** *adv.* — **squeak′i·ness** *n.*

squeal (skwēl) *v.i.* **1.** To utter a sharp, shrill, somewhat prolonged cry. **2.** *Slang* To turn informer; betray an accomplice or a plot. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter with a squeal. — *n.* A shrill, prolonged cry, as of a pig. [Imit.] — **squeal′er** *n.*

squeam·ish (skwē′mish) *adj.* **1.** Easily disgusted or shocked; modest; prudish. **2.** Overly fastidious. **3.** Easily nauseated. [< earlier *squaymisch* < AF *escoymous*; ult. origin unknown] — **squeam′ish·ly** *adv.* — **squeam′ish·ness** *n.*

squee·gee (skwē′jē) *n.* **1.** An implement having a stout, straight crosspiece edged with rubber or leather, used for removing water from decks or floors, window panes, etc. **2.** *Photog.* A smaller similar implement. — *v.t.* **1.** To smooth down, as a photographic film, with a squeegee. **2.** To cleanse with a squeegee. [< SQUEEZE]

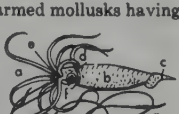
squeeze (skwēz) *v.* **squeezed, squeez·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To press hard upon; compress. **2.** To extract something from by pressure: to *squeeze* oranges. **3.** To draw forth by pressure; express: to *squeeze* juice. **4.** To force or push; cram. **5.** To oppress, as with burdensome taxes. **6.** To exert pressure upon (someone) to act as one desires. **7.** To make a facsimile impression of. — *v.i.* **8.** To apply pressure. **9.** To force one's way; push: with *in, through*, etc. **10.** To be pressed; yield to pressure. — **to squeeze out** To force out of business, or ruin financially. — *n.* **1.** The act or process of squeezing; pressure. **2.** A firm grasp of someone's hand; also, an embrace; hug. **3.** Something, as juice, extracted or expressed. **4.** A facsimile, as of a coin or inscription, produced by pressing some soft substance upon it. **5.** *Informal* Pressure exerted for the extortion of money or favors; also, financial pressure. [? < OF *es-* thoroughly + ME *queisen* to crush] — **squeez′a·ble** *adj.* — **squeez′er** *n.*

squeeze play In baseball, a play in which the batter tries to bunt the ball so that a man on third base may score by starting while the pitcher is about to deliver the ball.

squelch (skwelch) *v.t.* **1.** To crush; squash. **2.** *Informal* To silence, as with a crushing reply. —*v.i.* **3.** To make a splashing or sucking noise, as when walking in deep mud. **4.** To walk with such a sound. —*n.* **1.** A squelching sound. **2.** A squelched or crushed mass of anything. **3.** *Informal* A crushing reply. [Prob. imit.] —**squelch'er** *n.*

squib (skwib) *n.* **1.** A firework to be thrown or rolled swiftly, finally exploding like a rocket. **2.** A broken firecracker that burns with a spitting sound. **3.** A short speech or writing in a satirical vein. —*v.* **squibbed, squib·bing** *v.i.* **1.** To write or use squibs. **2.** To fire a squib. **3.** To explode or sound like a squib. **4.** To move quickly or restlessly. —*v.t.* **5.** To attack with squibs; lampoon. **6.** To fire or use as a squib. [Origin unknown]

squid (skwid) *n.* Any of various ten-armed mollusks having a slender conical body, ink sac, and broad tail flukes, used as food and for bait. [Origin uncertain]



SQUID
a Arm. *b* Body. *c* Caudal fin. *d* Eye. *e* Mouth. *f* Siphon. *g* Tentacles

squig·gle (skwig'əl) *Informal n.* A meaningless scrawl. —*v.i.* To wriggle. [Blend of SQUIRM and WRIGGLE]

squig·gly (skwig'lē) *adj.* **·gli·er, ·gli·est** Twisty; crooked.

squill (skwil) *n.* **1.** The bulb of a plant of the lily family, found in the Mediterranean region, used chiefly as an expectorant: also called *sea onion*. **2.** The plant itself. [< L < Gk. *skilla* sea onion]

squint (skwint) *v.i.* **1.** To look with half-closed eyes, as into bright light. **2.** To look with a side glance. **3.** To be cross-eyed. **4.** To incline or tend: with *toward*, etc. —*v.t.* **5.** To hold (the eyes) half-shut, as in glaring light. **6.** To cause to squint. —*adj.* **1.** Cross-eyed. **2.** Looking obliquely or askance; indirect. —*n.* **1.** *Pathol.* Strabismus. **2.** The act or habit of squinting. **3.** An indirect leaning, tendency, or drift. [Origin uncertain] —**squint'er** *n.*

squire (skwīr) *n.* **1.** In England a landed proprietor or country gentleman. **2.** *U.S.* A title often used in rural areas for justices of the peace, judges, lawyers, etc. **3.** A young aspirant to knighthood serving as an attendant. **4.** A man who escorts a woman in public; gallant. —*v.t.* & *v.i.* **squired, squir·ing** To attend or serve (someone) as a squire or escort. [Aphetic var. of ESQUIRE]

squirm (skwûrm) *v.i.* **1.** To bend and twist the body; wriggle; writhe. **2.** To show signs of pain or distress. —*n.* A squirming motion; a wriggle. [Origin uncertain] —**squirm'er** *n.* —**squirm'y** *adj.*

squir·rel (skwûr'əl, *Brit.* skwir'əl) *n.* **1.** Any of various arboreal rodents having a long bushy tail and feeding chiefly on nuts, as the **red squirrel**, the **gray squirrel**, and the **fox squirrel** of North America. **2.** Any of various related animals, as the chipmunk, flying squirrel, etc. **3.** The fur of a squirrel. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *skia* shadow + *oura* tail]

squirt (skwûrt) *v.i.* **1.** To come forth in a thin stream or jet; spurt out. **2.** To eject water, etc., thus. —*v.t.* **3.** To eject (water or other liquid) forcibly and in a jet. **4.** To wet or bespatter with a squirt or squirts. —*n.* **1.** The act of squirting; also, a jet of liquid squirted forth. **2.** A syringe or squirt gun. **3.** *Informal* A small, impudent, or presumptuous person. [Cf. LG *swirtjen*.] —**squirt'er** *n.*

squirt gun A child's toy gun used for squirting water.

squish (skwish) *v.t.* & *v.i.* *Informal* To squash. —*n.* A squashing sound. [Var. of SQUASH[1]] —**squish'y** *adj.*

stab (stab) *v.* **stabbed, stab·bing** *v.t.* **1.** To pierce with or as with a pointed weapon; wound. **2.** To thrust (a dagger, etc.), as into a body. **3.** To penetrate; pierce. —*v.i.* **4.** To thrust or lunge with a knife, sword, etc. **5.** To inflict a wound thus. —**to stab in the back** To slander or injure in a treacherous, stealthy manner. —*n.* A thrust made with any pointed weapon. —**to have** (or **make**) **a stab at** To make an attempt at. [? < Scot. & dial. E *stob* to push, thrust, fix a stake < *stob* stake] —**stab'ber** *n.*

sta·bil·i·ty (stə·bil'ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The condition of being stable. **2.** Steadfastness of purpose or resolution. **3.** Continued existence; permanance. [See STABLE.[1]]

sta·bi·lize (stā'bə·līz) *v.t.* **·lized, ·liz·ing** **1.** To make firm or stable. **2.** To keep steady; keep from changing or fluctuating: to *stabilize* prices. Also *esp. Brit.* **sta'bi·lise.** [< L *stabilis* steady + -IZE] —**sta'bi·li·za'tion** *n.*

sta·bi·liz·er (stā'bə·lī'zər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which stabilizes. **2.** *Aeron.* An airfoil serving to give an aircraft stability in flight. **3.** A device in a ship or boat, as a gyroscope, to keep it from rolling. **4.** *Chem.* A substance that increases the stability of another substance or compound.

sta·ble[1] (stā'bəl) *adj.* **1.** Standing firmly in place; not easily moved, shaken, or overthrown; fixed. **2.** Marked by fixity of purpose; steadfast. **3.** Having durability or permanence; abiding. **4.** *Chem.* Not easily decomposed: said of compounds. [< F < L *stabilis* < *stare* to stand] —**sta'bly** (-blē) *adv.* —**sta'ble·ness** *n.*

sta·ble[2] (stā'bəl) *n.* **1.** A building set apart for lodging and feeding horses or cattle; also, the animals. **2.** Race horses belonging to a particular owner; also, the owner and personnel collectively. **3.** *U.S.* A group of writers, artists, athletes, etc., under a single manager. —*v.t.* & *v.i.* **·bled, ·bling** To put or lodge in a stable. [< OF < L *stare* to stand]

stac·ca·to (stə·kä'tō) *adj.* **1.** *Music* Having or producing silence through most of the written time value of each note; very short and detached. **2.** Marked by abrupt, sharp emphasis. —*adv.* In a staccato manner. —*n.* *pl.* **·tos** **1.** *Music* A staccato style or passage. **2.** An abrupt, emphatic manner or sound. [< Ital., pp. of *staccare* to detach]

stack (stak) *n.* **1.** A large, orderly pile of unthreshed grain, hay, or straw, usu. conical. **2.** Any systematic pile or heap, as a pile of poker chips. **3.** A group of rifles (usu. three) set upright and supporting one another. **4.** A case composed of several rows of bookshelves one above the other. **5.** *pl.* That part of a library where most of the books are shelved. **6.** A chimney; smokestack. **7.** *Informal* A great amount; plenty. —*v.t.* **1.** To pile up in a stack. **2.** To load (a vehicle, etc.) with stacks of a material. —**to stack the cards** (or **deck**) **1.** To arrange cards secretly in the pack in a manner favorable to the dealer. **2.** To have an advantage secured beforehand. [< ON *stakkr*] —**stack'er** *n.*

sta·di·um (stā'dē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·di·a** (-dē·ə), *for def. 2* **·di·ums** **1.** In ancient Greece, a course for foot races, with banked seats for spectators. **2.** A similar modern structure in which athletic games are played. [< L < Gk. *stadion*, measure of length]

staff (staf, stäf) *n.* *pl.* **staffs**; *for defs. 1, 2, & 3, also* **staves** (stāvz) **1.** A stick or piece of wood carried for some special purpose. **2.** A shaft or pole that forms a support or handle. **3.** A stick used in measuring or testing. **4.** *Mil.* A body of officers not having command but assigned in an executive or advisory capacity. **5.** A body of persons associated in carrying out some special enterprise. **6.** *Music* The five horizontal lines and four spaces used to represent the pitches of tones: also called *stave*. —*v.t.* To provide (an office, etc.) with a staff. [OE *stæf* stick]

staff officer **1.** An officer on the staff of a military commander. **2.** In the U.S. Navy, an officer without command or operational functions, as a doctor, dentist, chaplain, etc.

stag (stag) *n.* **1.** The male of the red deer. **2.** The male of other large deer, as the caribou. **3.** A swine castrated after maturity. **4.** A man who attends a social function unaccompanied by a woman. **5.** A social gathering for men only. —*adj.* Of or for men only. —*v.i.* **stagged, stag·ging** To attend a social affair unaccompanied by a woman. [OE *stagga*]

stage (stāj) *n.* **1.** A raised platform, with its scenery and mechanical appliances, on which the performance in a theater or hall takes place. **2.** The theater: to write for the *stage*. **3.** The drama; also, the dramatic profession. **4.** The field or plan of action of some event: to set the *stage* for war. **5.** A definite portion of a journey. **6.** A step in some development, progress, or process. **7.** A water level: The river rose to flood *stage*. **8.** A horizontal section or story of a building. **9.** *Aerospace* One of the separate propulsion units of a rocket vehicle, each of which becomes operational after the preceding one reaches burnout and is jettisoned. **10.** Any raised platform or floor. **11.** One of the regular stopping places on the route of a stagecoach or postrider. —**by easy stages** Traveling or acting without hurry and with frequent stops. —*v.t.* **staged, stag·ing** **1.** To put or exhibit on the stage. **2.** To conduct; carry on. [< OF < L *status*, pp. of *stare* to stand]

stage·coach (stāj'kōch') *n.* A large, horse-drawn, four-wheeled vehicle having a regular route from town to town.

stage·craft (stāj'kraft', -kräft') *n.* Skill in writing or staging plays.

stage door A door to a theater used by actors and stagehands that leads to the stage or behind the scenes.

stage fright A sudden panic that sometimes attacks those appearing before an audience.

stage·hand (stāj'hand') *n.* A worker in a theater who handles scenery and props, operates lights, etc.

stage manager One who superintends the stage during the performance of a play.

stage-struck (stāj'struk') *adj.* Struck with the idea of becoming an actor or an actress; enamored of theatrical life.

stage whisper **1.** Any loud whisper intended to be overheard. **2.** A direction by a prompter in the wings to an actor on the stage, intended not to be heard by the audience.

stage·y (stā'jē) See STAGY.

stag·fla·tion (stag'flā'shən) *n.* An economic condition in which inflation is combined with slow buying and high unemployment. [<STAG(NANT) + (IN)FLATION]

stag·ger (stag'ər) *v.i.* **1.** To walk or run unsteadily; totter;

reel. **2.** To become less confident or resolute; waver; hesitate. —*v.t.* **3.** To cause to stagger. **4.** To affect strongly; overwhelm, as with grief. **5.** To place in alternating rows or groups. **6.** To arrange so as to prevent congestion or confusion: to *stagger* lunch hours. —*n.* The act of staggering or the condition of being staggered. [< ON *stakra*] —**stag'ger·er** *n.* —**stag'ger·ing·ly** *adv.*

stag·gers (stag'ərz) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** *Vet.* Any of various diseases of domestic animals, as horses, characterized by staggering and sudden falling, due to disorder of the brain and spinal cord. **2.** A reeling sensation.

stag·ing (stā'jing) *n.* **1.** A scaffolding or temporary platform. **2.** The act of putting a play upon the stage. **3.** The business of driving or running stagecoaches.

stag line *U.S. Informal* A group of males at a dance who are without partners.

stag·nant (stag'nənt) *adj.* **1.** Standing still; not flowing: said of water or air. **2.** Foul from long standing, as water. **3.** Lacking briskness or activity; dull; sluggish. —**stag'·nan·cy** *n.* —**stag'nant·ly** *adv.*

stag·nate (stag'nāt) *v.i.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** **1.** To be or become stagnant. **2.** To become dull or inert; vegetate. [< L *stagnare* to stagnate] —**stag·na·tion** (stag·nā'shən) *n.*

stag·y (stā'jē) *adj.* **stag·i·er, stag·i·est** Having a theatrical manner; of or suited to the stage: also spelled *stagey*. —**stag'i·ly** *adv.* —**stag'i·ness** *n.*

staid (stād) *adj.* **1.** Steady and sober. **2.** Fixed; established. [Orig. pt. and pp. of STAY[1]] —**staid'ly** *adv.* —**staid'ness** *n.*

stain (stān) *n.* **1.** A spot; smirch; blot. **2.** The act of discoloring, or the state of being discolored. **3.** A dye or thin pigment used in staining. **4.** A moral taint; tarnish. —*v.t.* **1.** To make a stain upon; discolor; soil. **2.** To color by the use of a dye or stain. **3.** To bring a moral stain upon; blemish. —*v.i.* **4.** To take or impart a stain. [Aphetic var. of DISDAIN] —**stain'a·ble** *adj.* —**stain'er** *n.* —**stain'less** *adj.* —**stain'less·ly** *adv.*

stained glass (stānd) Glass colored by the addition of pigments in the form of metallic oxides, used in church windows, etc. —**stained-glass** (stānd'glas', -gläs') *adj.*

stainless steel A steel alloy made resistant to corrosion and atmospheric influences by the addition of chromium and other ingredients.

stair (stâr) *n.* **1.** A step, or one of a series of steps, for mounting or descending from one level to another. **2.** *Usually pl.* A series of steps. [OE *stæger*]

stair·case (stâr'kās') *n.* A flight or series of flights of stairs, usually from one floor to another.

stair·way (stâr'wā') *n.* A flight of stairs; staircase.

stake (stāk) *n.* **1.** A stick or post sharpened at one end for driving into the ground, used as a boundary mark, support for a fence, etc. **2.** A post to which a person is bound, to be executed by being burned alive; also, execution in this manner. **3.** Something wagered or risked, as money bet on a race. **4.** *Often pl.* A prize in a contest. **5.** An interest in an enterprise. **6.** A grubstake. —**at stake** In hazard or jeopardy; in question: My whole future was *at stake*. —**to pull up stakes** To wind up one's business in a place and move on. —*v.t.* **staked, stak·ing** **1.** To fasten or support by means of a stake. **2.** To mark the boundaries of with stakes: often with *off* or *out*. **3.** *Informal* To put at hazard; wager; risk. **4.** *Informal* To grubstake; also, to supply with working capital; finance. [OE *staca*]

sta·lac·tite (stə·lak'tīt, stal'ək·tīt') *n.* A long, tapering formation hanging from the roof of a cavern, produced by continuous watery deposits containing certain minerals. [< NL < Gk. *stalassein* to trickle, drip] —**stal·ac·tit·ic** (stal'·ək·tit'ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

sta·lag·mite (stə·lag'mīt', stal'əg·mīt') *n.* An incrustation, usu. cylindrical or conical, on the floor of a cavern, the counterpart of a stalactite. [< NL < Gk. < *stalassein* to drip] —**stal·ag·mit·ic** (stal'əg·mit'·ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

STALACTITE (*a*) AND STALAGMITE (*b*)

stale (stāl) *adj.* **stal·er, stal·est** **1.** Having lost freshness; slightly changed or deteriorated, as air, beer, bread, etc. **2.** Lacking in interest from age or familiarity; worn out; trite. **3.** Being in poor condition from prolonged activity or overstrain. **4.** Inactive; dull, as after a period of overactivity. —*v.i.* **staled, stal·ing** To become stale or trite. [Origin uncertain] —**stale'ly** *adv.* —**stale'·ness** *n.*

tale·mate (stāl'māt') *n.* **1.** In chess, a draw resulting when a player can make no move without placing his king in check. **2.** Any tie or deadlock. —*v.t.* **·mat·ed, ·mat·ing** **1.** To put into a condition of stalemate. **2.** To bring to a standstill. [< AF *estale* fixed position + MATE[2]]

stalk[1] (stôk) *n.* **1.** The stem or axis of a plant. **2.** A supporting or connecting part of a plant. **3.** *Zool.* Any support on which an organ is borne. **4.** Any stem or main axis, as of a goblet. [ME *stalke*] —**stalked** (stôkt) *adj.* —**stalk'less** *adj.* —**stalk'y** *adj.*

stalk[2] (stôk) *v.i.* **1.** To approach game, etc., stealthily. **2.** To walk in a stiff, dignified manner. —*v.t.* **3.** To approach (game, etc.) stealthily. **4.** To hover over. —*n.* **1.** The act of stalking game. **2.** A stately step or walk. [OE *bestealcian* to move stealthily] —**stalk'er** *n.*

stalk·ing-horse (stô'king·hôrs') *n.* **1.** Anything serving to conceal one's intention. **2.** In politics, a candidate put forth to divide the opposition or to hide another candidacy. **3.** A horse behind which a hunter conceals himself.

stall (stôl) *n.* **1.** A compartment in which a horse or bovine animal is confined and fed. **2.** A small sales booth or compartment in a street, market, etc. **3.** A pew, as in a church. **4.** A space set aside for the parking of an automobile. **5.** *Aeron.* The condition of an airplane that, from loss of speed or excessive angle of attack, begins to drop. **6.** *Informal* An evasion. —*v.t.* **1.** To place or keep in a stall. **2.** To bring to a standstill; stop the progress or motion of, esp. unintentionally. —*v.i.* **3.** To come to a standstill; stop, esp. unintentionally. **4.** To stick fast in mud, snow, etc. **5.** *Informal* To make delays; be evasive. **6.** To live or be kept in a stall. **7.** *Aeron.* To go into a stall. [OE *steall*]

stall-fed (stôl'fed') *v.t.* **-fed, -feed·ing** To feed (cattle) in a stall or stable; fatten. —**stall-fed** (-fed') *adj.*

stal·lion (stal'yən) *n.* An uncastrated male horse. [< OF *estalon* < OHG *stal* stable]

stall shower A small enclosed place, with a glass door or curtain, for taking a shower bath.

stal·wart (stôl'wərt) *adj.* **1.** Strong and brawny; robust. **2.** Resolute; determined; unwavering. **3.** Brave; courageous. —*n.* **1.** A brave or stalwart person. **2.** An uncompromising partisan, as in politics. [OE < *stǽl* place + *wierthe* worth] —**stal'wart·ly** *adv.* —**stal'wart·ness** *n.*

sta·men (stā'mən) *n.* *pl.* **sta·mens** or *Rare* **stam·i·na** (stam'ə·nə) *Bot.* The pollen-bearing organ of a flower. For illus. see FLOWER. [< L, warp, thread]

stam·i·na (stam'ə·nə) *n.* Physical or moral capacity to endure or withstand hardship or difficulty; vitality; vigor. [< L, pl. of *stamen* warp, thread] —**stam'i·nal** *adj.*

stam·i·nate (stam'ə·nit, -nāt) *adj.* *Bot.* **1.** Having stamens. **2.** Having stamens but no pistils.

stam·mer (stam'ər) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To speak or utter haltingly, with involuntary repetitions or prolongations of a sound or syllable. —*n.* The act or condition of stammering. [OE *stamerian*] —**stam'mer·er** *n.*

stamp (stamp) *v.t.* **1.** To strike heavily with the sole of the foot. **2.** To bring down (the foot) heavily and noisily. **3.** To affect in a specified manner by or as by stamping with the foot: to *stamp* a fire out. **4.** To make marks or figures upon by means of a die, stamp, etc. **5.** To imprint or impress with a die, stamp, etc. **6.** To fix or imprint permanently: The deed was *stamped* on his memory. **7.** To assign a specified quality to; characterize; brand: to *stamp* a story false. **8.** To affix an official seal, stamp, etc., to. **9.** To crush, break, or pulverize, as ore. —*v.i.* **10.** To strike the foot heavily on the ground. **11.** To walk with heavy, resounding steps. —*n.* **1.** A die or block having a pattern or design for impressing upon a surface. **2.** The pattern, impression, design, etc., so made. **3.** A weight or block for crushing ore. **4.** Any characteristic mark, as a label or imprint; a brand. **5.** Characteristic quality or form; kind; sort: men of his *stamp*. **6.** The act of stamping. **7.** A printed device prepared and sold by a government, for attachment to a letter, commodity, etc., as proof that the tax or fee has been paid. [ME *stampen*] —**stamp'er** *n.*

stam·pede (stam·pēd') *n.* **1.** A sudden starting and rushing off through panic, as a herd of cattle, horses, etc. **2.** Any sudden, tumultuous running movement of a crowd or mob. **3.** Any sudden mass movement. —*v.* **·ped·ed, ·ped·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause a stampede or panic in. —*v.i.* **2.** To rush or flee in a stampede. [< Am. Sp. *estampida* crash] —**stam·ped'er** *n.*

stamp·ing ground (stam'ping) A favorite or habitual gathering place, for people or animals.

stance (stans) *n.* **1.** Mode of standing; posture. **2.** In golf, the relative positions of the player's feet and the ball, when making a stroke. [< OF < L *stare* to stand]

stanch (stanch, stänch) *v.t.* **1.** To stop or check the flow of (blood, etc.). **2.** To stop the flow of blood from (a wound). Also spelled *staunch*. —*adj.* See STAUNCH. [< OF *estanchier* to halt] —**stanch'er** *n.*

stan·chion (stan′shən) *n.* **1.** An upright bar forming a principal support. **2.** A vertical bar or pair of bars used to confine cattle in a stall. — *v.t.* To provide or confine with stanchions. [< OF *estanchon* < *estance* situation, position]

stand (stand) *v.* **stood, stand·ing** *v.i* **1.** To assume or maintain an erect position on one's feet. **2.** To be in a vertical position; be erect. **3.** To measure a specified height when standing. **4.** To assume a specified position: to *stand* aside. **5.** To assume or have a definite opinion, position, or attitude: How do you *stand* on civil rights? **6.** To be situated; have position or location; lie. **7.** To remain unimpaired, unchanged, or valid: My decision still *stands*. **8.** To have or be in a specified state, condition, or relation: He *stood* in fear of his life. **9.** To be of a specified rank or class: He *stands* third. **10.** To assume an attitude for defense or offense: *Stand* and fight. **11.** To be or remain firm or resolute, as in determination. **12.** To be consistent; accord; agree. **13.** To collect and remain; also, to be stagnant, as water. **14.** To stop or pause; halt. **15.** To scruple; hesitate. **16.** *Naut.* To take a direction; steer: The brig *stood* into the wind. **17.** To point, as a hunting dog. **18.** *Brit.* To be a candidate, as for election. — *v.t.* **19.** To place upright; set in an erect position. **20.** To put up with; endure; tolerate. **21.** To be subjected to; undergo: He must *stand* trial. **22.** To withstand; resist. **23.** *Informal* To pay for; bear the expense of: to *stand* a treat. — **to stand a chance** (or **show**) To have a chance or likelihood, as of success. — **to stand by 1.** To stay near and be ready to help, operate, or begin. **2.** To help; support. **3.** To abide by; make good. **4.** To remain passive and watch, as when help is needed. — **to stand clear** To remain at a safe distance. — **to stand for 1.** To represent; symbolize. **2.** To put up with; tolerate. — **to stand in** *Informal* To cost. — **to stand in for** To act as a substitute for. — **to stand off** *Informal* **1.** To keep at a distance. **2.** To fail to agree or comply. — **to stand on 1.** To be based on or grounded in; rest. **2.** To insist on or demand observance of: to *stand on* ceremony. **3.** *Naut.* To keep on the same tack or course. — **to stand on one's own (two) feet** (or **legs**) To manage one's own affairs. — **to stand out 1.** To stick out; project or protrude. **2.** To be prominent; appear in relief or contrast. **3.** To refuse to consent or agree; remain in opposition. — **to stand over 1.** To remain near and watch, as a subordinate. **2.** To be postponed. — **to stand pat 1.** In poker, to play one's hand as dealt, without drawing new cards. **2.** To resist change. — **to stand to reason** To conform to reason. — **to stand up 1.** To stand erect. **2.** To withstand wear, criticism, analysis, etc. **3.** *Slang* To fail to keep an appointment with. — **to stand up for** To side with; take the part of. — **to stand up to** To confront courageously; face. — **to stand up with** To be best man or bridesmaid for. — *n.* **1.** The act of standing, esp. of standing firmly: to make a *stand* against the enemy. **2.** An opinion, attitude, or position, as in a controversy. **3.** A structure or platform upon which persons or things may sit or stand, or on which articles may be kept or displayed. **4.** A small table. **5.** A rack or other piece of furniture on which hats, canes, etc. may be hung or placed. **6.** A stall, counter, or the like, where merchandise is displayed. **7.** Any place where or in which something or someone stands. **8.** In the theater, a stop made while on tour to give a performance: a one-night *stand*. **9.** The growing trees in a forest. — **to take a stand** To have or reveal an opinion or attitude; as on a controversial issue. [OE *standan*] — **stand′er** *n.*

stan·dard (stan′dərd) *n.* **1.** A flag, ensign, or banner, used as a distinctive emblem of a government, body of men, military unit, etc. **2.** Any established measure of extent, quantity, quality, or value: a *standard* of weight. **3.** Any type, model, or example for comparison; a criterion of excellence: a *standard* of conduct. **4.** An upright timber, post, pole, or beam, esp. as a support. — *adj.* **1.** Serving as a gauge or model: a *standard* weight. **2.** Of recognized excellence or authority: a *standard* book or author. **3.** *Ling.* Designating or belonging to those usages or varieties of a language that have gained literary, cultural, and social acceptance and prestige: *standard* English. [< OF *estandard* banner]

stan·dard-bear·er (stan′dərd·bâr′ər) *n.* **1.** The member of a military unit who carries the flag or ensign. **2.** A leader or a candidate for a leading position, as for a presidency.

stan·dard-bred (*n.* stan′dərd·bred′; *adj.* stan′dərd·bred′) *n.* A breed of horse notable for its trotters and pacers. — *adj.* Bred so as to be of a required strain, quality, or pedigree, as poultry, horses, etc.

standard candle *Physics* A candle (def. 3).

standard English *Ling.* Those usages in English that have gained literary, cultural, and social acceptance and prestige, and are considered appropriate for educated speakers of the language. See LEVEL OF USAGE.

standard gauge A railroad having a track width of 56½ inches, considered as standard. — **stan·dard-gauge** (stan′dərd·gāj′) *adj.*

stan·dard·ize (stan′dər·diz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make to or regulate by a standard. — **stan′dard·i·za′tion** *n.* — **stan′dard·iz′er** *n.*

standard of living The average quantity and quality of goods, services, luxuries, etc., that a person or group uses or consumes in daily living.

standard time Time as reckoned from a meridian officially established as standard over a large area. In the conterminous U.S. the four standard time zones are the **Eastern** (E.S.T.), **Central** (C.S.T.), **Mountain** (M.S.T.), and **Pacific** (P.S.T.), using respectively the mean local time of the 75th, 90th, 105th, and 120th meridians west of Greenwich, and being 5, 6, 7, and 8 hours slower (or earlier) than Greenwich time. Canada has a fifth zone, the **Atlantic** (or **Provincial**), based on the local time of the 60th meridian, 4 hours slower than Greenwich time.

stand-by (stand′bī′) *n.* *pl.* **·bys** A person or thing on call for emergency use.

stand-ee (stan·dē′) *n.* *Informal* A person who must stand for lack of chairs or seats, as at a theater or on a train.

stand-in (stand′in′) *n.* **1.** A position of influence or favor; a pull. **2.** A person who takes the place of a motion-picture player, as during waiting intervals or in hazardous actions.

stand·ing (stan′ding) *adj.* **1.** Remaining erect; not prostrated or cut down, as grain. **2.** For regular or permanent use; not special or temporary: a *standing* army. **3.** Stagnant; not flowing. **4.** Begun while standing: a *standing* high jump. **5.** Established; permanent. — *n.* **1.** High grade or rank; good reputation: a man of *standing*. **2.** Time in which something goes on; duration: a feud of long *standing*. **3.** The act of one who stands; erectness; stance.

standing army An army that is prepared at all times for action, esp. during peacetime, and that consists of the regular army plus reservists and conscripts.

standing room Place in which to stand, as in a building, theater, etc., where the seats are all occupied.

stand-off (stand′ôf′, -of′) *n.* *Informal* **1.** A draw or tie, as in a game. **2.** A counterbalancing or neutralization. **3.** Indifference or coldness; aloofness. **4.** A postponement; delay.

stand-off·ish (stand′ôf′ish, -of′-) *adj.* Aloof; coolly reserved. — **stand′off′ish·ness** *n.*

stand-pat (stand′pat′) *adj.* Characterized by or pertaining to the policy of opposition to change; conservative. — **stand′pat′ter** *n.*

stand-pipe (stand′pīp′) *n.* A vertical pipe into which the water is pumped to give it a head; a water tower.

stand-point (stand′point′) *n.* A position from which things are viewed or judged; point of view.

stand-still (stand′stil′) *n.* A cessation; halt; rest. — *adj.* In a state of rest or inactivity; standing still.

stand-up (stand′up′) *adj.* **1.** Having an erect position: a *standup* collar. **2.** Done, consumed, etc., while standing.

stank (stangk) Past tense of STINK.

stan·nic (stan′ik) *adj.* *Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or containing tin, esp. in its higher valence. [< L *stannum* tin + -IC]

stan·nous (stan′əs) *adj.* *Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or containing tin, esp. in its lower valence. [< L *stannum* tin + -OUS]

stan·num (stan′əm) *n.* Tin. [< L]

stan·za (stan′zə) *n.* A certain number of lines of verse grouped in a definite scheme of meter and sequence; a metrical division of a poem. [< Ital., room, stanza < L *stans*, *stantis* standing] — **stan·za·ic** (stan·zā′ik) *adj.*

sta·pes (stā′pēz) *n.* *pl.* **sta·pes** or **sta·pe·des** (stə·pē′dēz) *Anat.* The innermost ossicle of the middle ear of mammals: also called *stirrup bone*. For illus. see EAR. [< LL *stapes* stirrup] — **sta·pe·di·al** (stə·pē′dē·əl) *adj.*

staph (staf) *n.* *Informal* Staphylococci; also, an infection caused by staphylococci.

staph·y·lo·coc·cus (staf′ə·lō·kok′əs) *n.* *pl.* **·coc·ci** (-kok′sī) Any of a genus of typically pathogenic bacteria occurring singly, in pairs, or in irregular clusters; esp. an infective agent in boils and suppurating wounds. [< NL < Gk. *staphylos* bunch of grapes + *kokkos* berry] — **staph′y·lo·coc′cic** (-kok′sik) *adj.*

sta·ple[1] (stā′pəl) *n.* **1.** *Usu.* *pl.* A basic food or other ordinary item of household use. **2.** A principal commodity or production of a country or region. **3.** A main constituent of something. **4.** The carded or combed fiber of cotton, wool, or flax. **5.** Raw material. — *adj.* **1.** Regularly and constantly produced, used, or sold. **2.** Main; chief. **3.** Having regular commercial channels; marketable. — *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To sort or classify according to length, as wool fiber. [< OF *estaple* market, support < Gmc.] — **sta′pler** *n.*

sta·ple[2] (stā′pəl) *n.* **1.** A U-shaped piece of metal with pointed ends, driven into a surface to secure a bolt, hook, hasp, etc. **2.** A thin piece of wire usu. shaped like a bracket ([), driven into paper, fabrics, etc., to serve as a fastening. — *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To fix or fasten by a staple or staples. [OE *stapol* post, prop] — **sta′pler** *n.*

star (stär) *n.* **1.** Any of the heavenly bodies visible from earth on clear nights as apparently fixed points of light. **2.**

Astron. One of a class of self-luminous celestial bodies, exclusive of comets, meteors, and nebulae, but including the sun. ◆ Collateral adjectives: *astral, sidereal, stellar.* **3.** A conventional figure usu. having five or more radiating points, used as an emblem or device, as on the shoulder strap of a general. **4.** An actor or actress who plays the leading part. **5.** Anyone who shines prominently in a calling or profession: a sports *star.* **6.** An asterisk (*). **7.** A heavenly body considered as influencing one's fate. **8.** *Often pl.* Fortune; destiny. **— to see stars** *Informal* To see bright spots before the eyes, as from a sharp jolt to the head. **— *v.* starred, star·ring** *v.t.* **1.** To set or adorn with spangles or stars. **2.** To mark with an asterisk. **3.** To present as a star in a play or motion picture. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To shine brightly as a star. **5.** To play the leading part; be the star. **—** *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a star or stars. **2.** Prominent; brilliant: a *star* football player. [OE *steorra*] **— star′less** *adj.* **— star′-like′** *adj.*

star·board (stär′bərd) *Naut. n.* The right-hand side of a vessel as one faces the front or bow. **—** *adj.* Being on or toward the starboard. Opposed to *larboard, port.* [OE *steorbord* steering side]

starch (stärch) *n.* **1.** *Biochem.* A white, odorless, tasteless, granular carbohydrate $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_n$, found in most plants: also called *amylum.* **2.** A preparation of this substance, used for stiffening linen, and for many industrial purposes. **3.** Stiffness or formality; a formal manner. **4.** *U.S. Slang* Energy; vigor. **—** *v.t.* To apply starch to; stiffen with or as with starch. [OE *stercan* to stiffen < *steare* stiff]

Star Chamber **1.** Formerly, in England, a secret high court, abolished in 1641 because of abuses. **2.** Any court engaged in arbitrary or illegal procedure.

starch·y (stär′chē) *adj.* **starch·i·er, starch·i·est** **1.** Stiffened with starch; stiff. Also **starched** (stärcht). **2.** Prim; formal; precise. **3.** Formed of or combined with starch; farinaceous. **— starch′i·ly** *adv.* **— starch′i·ness** *n.*

star·dom (stär′dəm) *n.* The status of a star (defs. 4 & 5).

stare (stâr) *v.* **stared, star·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To gaze fixedly, as from admiration, fear, or insolence. **2.** To be conspicuously or unduly apparent; glare. **3.** To stand on end, as hair. **—** *v.t.* **4.** To stare at. **5.** To affect in a specified manner by staring: to *stare* a person into silence. **—** *n.* The act of staring; an intense gaze. [OE *starian*] **— star′er** *n.*

star·fish (stär′fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** Any of various radially symmetrical marine animals, commonly with a star-shaped body having five or more arms.

STARFISH (Ventral view showing tube feet)

star·gaze (stär′gāz′) *v.i.* **·gazed, ·gaz·ing** **1.** To gaze at or study the stars. **2.** To engage in reverie; daydream. **— star′gaz·er** *n.* **— star′·gaz·ing** *n. & adj.*

stark (stärk) *adj.* **1.** Without ornamentation; blunt; simple: the *stark* truth. **2.** Complete; utter: *stark* misery. **3.** Stiff or rigid, as in death. **4.** Severe; tempestuous, as weather. **5.** Strict or grim, as a person. **—** *adv.* **1.** In a stark manner. **2.** Completely; utterly: *stark* mad. [OE *stearc* stiff] **— stark′ly** *adv.*

star·let (stär′lit) *n.* **1.** A small star. **2.** *U.S. Informal* A young movie or television actress represented as a future star.

star·light (stär′līt′) *n.* The light given by a star or stars. **—** *adj.* Lighted by or only by the stars: also **star′lit′** (-lit′).

star·ling (stär′ling) *n.* Any of various birds native to Europe and naturalized in North America, having a metallic purple and green luster. [OE *stærling* < *stær* starling]

star·of-Beth·le·hem (stär′əv·beth′lē·əm, -lə·hem) *n.* A European plant of the lily family having white stellate flowers, naturalized in the eastern U.S.

star of Bethlehem The large star by which the three Magi were guided to Jesus's manger in Bethlehem.

starred (stärd) *adj.* **1.** Spangled with stars. **2.** Presented or advertised as the star of a play, motion picture, etc. **3.** Marked with an asterisk. **4.** Affected by astral influence: chiefly in combination: *ill-starred.*

star·ry (stär′ē) *adj.* **·ri·er, ·ri·est** **1.** Set with stars or star-like spots or points; abounding in stars. **2.** Lighted by the stars. **3.** Shining as or like the stars. **4.** Shaped like a star. **5.** Of, pertaining to, proceeding from, or connected with stars. **6.** Consisting of stars; stellar. **— star′ri·ness** *n.*

star·ry-eyed (stär′ē·īd′) *adj.* Given to fanciful wishes or yearnings.

Stars and Bars, The The first flag of the Confederacy, consisting of a field of three bars and a circle of white stars.

Stars and Stripes, The The flag of the U.S. of America, a field of thirteen horizontal stripes, alternately red and white, and a blue union with 50 stars.

star-span·gled (stär′spang′gəld) *adj.* Spangled with stars or starlike spots or points.

Star-Spangled Banner, The **1.** The flag of the U.S. **2.** The national anthem of the U.S. The poem was written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 during the bombardment by the British of Fort McHenry, Md.

start (stärt) *v.i.* **1.** To make a beginning or start; set out. **2.** To begin; commence. **3.** To make an involuntary, startled movement, as from fear or surprise. **4.** To move suddenly, as with a spring, leap, or bound; jump. **5.** To seem to bulge or protrude: His eyes *started* from his head. **6.** To be displaced or loosened. **—** *v.t.* **7.** To set in motion or circulation: to *start* an engine. **8.** To begin; commence: to *start* a lecture. **9.** To set up; establish. **10.** To introduce (a subject) or propound (a question). **11.** To displace or loosen, etc. **12.** To rouse from cover; cause to take flight; flush, as game. **13.** To draw the contents from; tap, as a cask. **— to start in** To begin; undertake. **— to start off** To begin a journey; set out. **— to start out** To make a beginning or start, as of a journey. **— to start up** **1.** To rise or appear suddenly. **2.** To begin or cause to begin operation, as an engine. **—** *n.* **1.** A setting out or going forth; beginning. **2.** A quick, startled movement, as at something unexpected. **3.** A temporary or spasmodic action or attempt; a brief, intermittent effort: by fits and *starts.* **4.** Advantage or distance in advance at the outset; lead. **5.** Impetus at the beginning of motion or course of action: to get a *start* in business. **6.** A loosened place or condition; crack. [ME *sterten* to start, leap]

start·er (stär′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which starts. **2.** One who sees to it that buses, etc., leave on schedule. **3.** A mechanism for starting an internal combustion engine without manual cranking: also called *self-starter.* **4.** A competitor at the start of a race. **5.** A person who gives the signal for the start of a race.

star·tle (stär′təl) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.t.* **1.** To arouse or excite suddenly; cause to start involuntarily; alarm. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To be aroused or excited suddenly; take alarm. **—** *n.* A sudden fright or shock; a scare. [OE *steartlian* to kick, struggle] **— star′tler** *n.*

star·tling (stärt′ling) *adj.* Rousing sudden surprise, alarm, or the like. **— star′tling·ly** *adv.*

star·va·tion (stär·vā′shən) *n.* The act of starving, or the state of being starved.

starve (stärv) *v.* **starved, starv·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To perish from lack of food. **2.** To suffer from extreme hunger. **3.** To suffer from lack or need: to *starve* for friendship. **—** *v.t.* **4.** To cause to die of hunger; deprive of food. **5.** To bring to a specified condition by starving: to *starve* an enemy into surrender. [OE *steorfan* to die] **— starv′er** *n.*

starve·ling (stärv′ling) *n.* A person or animal that is starving, starved, or emaciated. **—** *adj.* **1.** Starving; emaciated; hungry. **2.** Failing to meet needs; inadequate.

stash (stash) *v.t. Slang* To hide or conceal (money, valuables, etc.), for storage and safekeeping: often with *away.* [? Blend of STORE + CACHE]

sta·sis (stā′sis, stas′is) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) *Pathol.* **1.** Stoppage in the circulation of any of the body fluids. **2.** Retarded movement of the intestinal contents. [< NL < Gk., a standing < *histanai* to stand]

stat- Var. of STATO-.

-stat *combining form* A device that stops or makes constant: *thermostat; rheostat.* [< Gk. *-statēs* causing to stand]

state (stāt) *n.* **1.** Mode of existence as determined by circumstances, external or internal; nature; condition; situation. **2.** Frame of mind; mood. **3.** Mode or style of living; station. **4.** Grand and ceremonious style; pomp; formality. **5.** A sovereign political community organized under a distinct government recognized and conformed to by the people as supreme, and having jurisdiction over a given territory; a nation. **6.** *Usu. cap.* One of a number of political communities or bodies politic united to form one sovereign state; esp. one of the United States. **7.** *pl.* The legislative bodies of a nation; estates. **8.** The territorial, political, and governmental entity constituting a state or nation; authority of government. **— Syn.** See NATION. **— Department of State** An executive department of the U.S. government (established in 1789), headed by the Secretary of State, that supervises the conduct of foreign affairs, directs the activities of all diplomatic and consular representatives, protects national interests abroad, and assists in the formulation of policies in relation to international problems. Also **State Department.** **— to lie in state** To be placed on public view, with ceremony and honors, before burial. **—** *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the state, nation, or government: *state* papers. **2.** Intended for use on occasions of ceremony. **—** *v.t.* **stat·ed, stat·ing** **1.** To set forth explicitly in speech or writing; assert; declare. **2.** To fix; determine; settle. [Aphetic var. of OF *estat* < L *status* condition, state] **— sta·tal** (stā′tal) *adj.*

state bank **1.** *U.S.* A bank that has a charter from a State

government. **2.** Any bank that is owned or controlled by a state, esp. one that issues currency.
state·craft (stāt′kraft′, -kräft′) *n.* The art or practice of conducting affairs of state.
stat·ed (stā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Announced; specified. **2.** Established; regular; fixed. — **stat′ed·ly** *adv.*
State·hood (stāt′hŏŏd) *n.* The status of one of the United States, as distinguished from that of a Territory.
State House A building used for sessions of a State legislature and for other public purposes; State capitol.
state·less (stāt′lis) *adj.* **1.** Without nationality: a *stateless* person. **2.** Without a state or community of states.
state line In the U.S., any boundary between States.
state·ly (stāt′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Dignified; lofty. — *adv.* Loftily: also **state′li·ly** (-lə·lē). — **state′li·ness** *n.*
state·ment (stāt′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of stating. **2.** That which is stated. **3.** A summary of the assets and liabilities of a bank or firm, showing the balance due. **4.** A report sent, usu. monthly, to a debtor of a business firm or to a depositor in a bank.
state park *U.S.* A tract of land provided and maintained by a State for conservation and recreation.
State policeman *U.S.* A member of the separate police force of a State; also called *State trooper, trooper.*
state·room (stāt′rōōm′, -rŏŏm′) *n.* **1.** A private room having sleeping accommodations on a passenger ship. **2.** A private sleeping compartment on a railroad car.
state's evidence **1.** Evidence produced by the State in criminal prosecutions. **2.** One who confesses himself guilty of a crime and testifies as a witness against his accomplices. — **to turn state's evidence** To become a witness for the state and inculpate one's accomplices.
state-side (stāt′sīd′) *adj.* Of or in the continental U.S. — *adv.* In or to the continental U.S.
states·man (stāts′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** One who is skilled in government; a political leader of distinguished ability. **2.** One engaged in government, or influential in state affairs. — **states′man·like′, states′man·ly** *adj.* — **states′·man·ship** *n.* — **states′wom′an** (-wŏŏm′ən) *n.fem.*
state socialism A political theory advocating government ownership of utilities and industries.
States' rights **1.** The rights and powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the respective States. **2.** An interpretation of the Constitution that makes these rights and powers as large as possible. Also **State rights.**
State trooper *U.S.* A State policeman.
state-wide (stāt′wīd′) *adj.* Throughout a state.
stat·ic (stat′ik) *adj.* **1.** At rest; dormant; not active, moving, or changing. **2.** Pertaining to bodies at rest or forces in equilibrium: opposed to *dynamic.* **3.** *Physics* Acting as weight, but not moving: *static* pressure. **4.** *Electr.* Pertaining to electricity at rest, or to stationary electric charges. Also **stat′i·cal.** — *n.* *Telecom.* A disturbance of a carrier wave caused by atmospheric or man-made sources; also, the noise caused by this. [< NL < Gk. *statikos* causing to stand] — **stat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
stat·ics (stat′iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of mechanics dealing with bodies at rest and with the interaction of forces in equilibrium.
sta·tion (stā′shən) *n.* **1.** The headquarters of some official person or body of men: a police *station.* **2.** An established building or place serving as a starting point, stage, stopping place, or post; terminal; depot. **3.** A place where a person or thing usu. stands or is; an assigned location. **4.** Social condition; rank. **5.** *Mil.* The place to which an individual, unit, or ship is assigned for duty; post. **6.** The offices, studios, and technical installations of a radio or television broadcasting unit. **7.** *Mining* A recess in a shaft or passage of a mine. **8.** *Austral.* A cattle or sheep ranch. — *v.t.* To assign to a station; place in a post or position. [< F < L < *stare* to stand]
sta·tion·ar·y (stā′shən·er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Remaining in one place; fixed. **2.** Not portable or not easily portable. **3.** Exhibiting no change of character or condition. — *n.* *pl.* **·ar·ies** One who or that which is stationary.
sta·tion·er (stā′shən·ər) *n.* A dealer in stationery and related articles. [< Med.L *stationarius* stationary]
sta·tion·er·y (stā′shən·er′ē) *n.* **1.** Writing paper and envelopes. **2.** Writing materials, as pencils, notebooks, etc.
sta·tion·mas·ter (stā′shən·mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* The person having charge of a bus or railroad station.
Stations of the Cross The fourteen images or pictures representing successive scenes of the Passion of Christ, and before which devotions are performed.
station wagon A large automobile with one or more rows of removable or folding seats and a hinged tailgate.
stat·ism (stā′tiz·əm) *n.* **1.** A theory of government holding that the returns from group or individual enterprise are vested in the state. **2.** Loosely, adherence to state sovereignty, as in a republic. — **stat′ist** *n. & adj.*
sta·tis·tic (stə·tis′tik) *adj.* Statistical. — *n.* Any element entering into a statistical statement or array.
sta·tis·ti·cal (stə·tis′tə·kəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, consisting of, or derived from statistics: also *statistic.* — **sta·tis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
stat·is·ti·cian (stat′is·tish′ən) *n.* One skilled in collecting and tabulating statistical data.
sta·tis·tics (stə·tis′tiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing. in def. 2*) **1.** Quantitative data, pertaining to any subject or group, esp. when systematically gathered and collated. **2.** The science that deals with the collection, tabulation, and systematic classification of quantitative data, esp. as a basis for inference and induction. [< G < Med.L, ult. < L *status* state, condition]
stato- *combining form* Position. Also, before vowels, *stat-.* [< Gk. *statos* standing, fixed < *histanai* to stand]
sta·tor (stā′tər) *n.* *Mech.* The stationary portion of a dynamo, turbine, motor, etc.: distinguished from *rotor.* [< NL < L, supporter < *stare* to stand]
stat·u·ar·y (stach′ōō·er′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ar·ies** **1.** Statues collectively. **2.** The art of making statues. — *adj.* Of or suitable for statues.
stat·ue (stach′ōō) *n.* A representation of a human or animal figure in marble, bronze, etc., esp. when nearly life-size or larger, and preserving the proportions in all directions. [< F < L < *stare* to stand]
Statue of Liberty A giant bronze statue on Liberty Island, depicting a crowned woman holding aloft a burning torch; presented to the U.S. by France and unveiled in 1886.
stat·u·esque (stach′ōō·esk′) *adj.* Resembling a statue, as in grace, pose, or dignity. — **stat′u·esque′ly** *adv.* — **stat′u·esque′ness** *n.*
stat·u·ette (stach′ōō·et′) *n.* A small statue. [< F]
stat·ure (stach′ər) *n.* **1.** The natural height of an animal body, esp. of a human body. **2.** The height of anything, esp. of a tree. **3.** Development; growth: moral *stature.* [< OF < L < *status* state]
sta·tus (stā′təs, stat′əs) *n.* **1.** State, condition, or relation. **2.** Relative position or rank. [< L < *stare* to stand]
sta·tus quo (stā′təs kwō, stat′əs) The condition or state in which (a person or thing is or has been): often used with *the*: to maintain the *status quo.* Also **status in quo.** [< L]
stat·ute (stach′ōōt) *n.* **1.** A legislative enactment duly sanctioned and authenticated by constitutional rule; act of Parliament, Congress, etc. **2.** Any authoritatively declared rule, ordinance, decree, or law. — *adj.* Consisting of or regulated by statute. [< F < LL *statuere* to constitute]
statute law The law as set forth in statutes.
statute mile A mile (def. 1).
statute of limitations A statute that imposes time limits upon the right of certain actions, as by obliging a creditor to demand payment of a debt within a specified time.
stat·u·to·ry (stach′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a statute. **2.** Created by or dependent upon legislation.
statutory rape The crime of having sexual relations with a girl who is under the age of consent.
staunch (stônch, stänch) *adj.* **1.** Firm and dependable; constant; loyal: a *staunch* friend. **2.** Having firm constitution or construction: a *staunch* ship. **3.** Strong and vigorous. Also spelled *stanch.* — *v.t.* See STANCH. [< OF *estanchier* to make stand.] — **staunch′ly** *adv.* — **staunch′ness** *n.*
stauro- *combining form* Cross. [< Gk. *stauros* cross]
stave (stāv) *n.* **1.** A curved strip of wood, forming a part of the sides of a barrel, tub, or the like. **2.** Any narrow strip of material used for a like purpose. **3.** *Music* A staff. **4.** A stanza; verse. **5.** A rod, cudgel, or staff. **6.** A rung of a rack or ladder. — *v.* **staved** or **stove, stav·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To break in the staves of (a cask or a boat). **2.** To crush the shell or surface of; smash. **3.** To make (a hole) by crushing or collision. **4.** To furnish with staves. **5.** To ward off, as with a staff: usu. with *off*: to *stave* off hunger. — *v.i.* **6.** To be broken in, as a vessel's hull. [Back formation < *staves*]
staves (stāvz) **1.** Alternative plural of STAFF. **2.** Plural of STAVE.
stay[1] (stā) *v.i.* **1.** To cease motion; stop; halt. **2.** To continue in a specified place, condition, or state: to *stay* healthy. **3.** To remain temporarily as a guest, resident, etc. **4.** To pause; wait; tarry. **5.** *Informal* To have endurance; last. **6.** *Informal* To keep pace with a competitor, as in a race. **7.** In poker, to remain in a round by meeting an ante, bet, or raise. — *v.t.* **8.** To bring to a stop; halt; check. **9.** To hinder; delay. **10.** To postpone. **11.** To satisfy the demands of temporarily; to *stay* the pangs of hunger. **12.** To remain for the duration of: I will *stay* the night. **13.** To remain till or beyond the end of: with *out*: to *stay* out one's welcome. — **to stay put** *U.S. Informal* To remain or hold in spite of everything. — *n.* **1.** The act or time of staying; sojourn; visit. **2.** That which checks or stops; esp., a suspension of judicial proceedings. **3.** Staying power; endurance. **4.** A state of rest; standstill. [< AF *estaier*, OF *ester* < L *stare* to *stand*] — **stay′er** *n.*

stay[2] (stā) *v.t.* **1.** To be a support to; prop or hold up. **2.** To support mentally; sustain. **3.** To cause to depend or rely, as for support: with *on* or *upon*. — *n.* **1.** Anything that props or supports. **2.** A strip of plastic or metal, used to stiffen corsets, girdles, etc. **3.** *pl.* Formerly, a corset. [< OF *estayer*]

stay[3] (stā) *Naut. n.* **1.** A strong rope, often of wire, used to support, steady, or fasten a mast or spar. **2.** Any rope supporting a mast or funnel. — *v.t.* **1.** To support with a stay or stays, as a mast. **2.** To put (a vessel) on the opposite tack. — *v.i.* **3.** To tack: said of vessels. [OE *stæg*]

stay·ing power (stā′ing) The ability to endure.

stay·sail (stā′səl, -sāl′) *n. Naut.* A sail, usu. triangular, extended on a stay.

stead (sted) *n.* **1.** Place of another person or thing: preceded by *in*: Serfdom came in the *stead* of slavery. Compare INSTEAD. **2.** Place or attitude of support; service: chiefly in the phrase **to stand one in (good) stead.** **3.** A steading or farm: used chiefly in compounds: *homestead*. [OE *stede*]

stead·fast (sted′fast′, -fäst′, -fəst) *adj.* **1.** Firmly fixed in faith or devotion to duty; constant; unchanging. **2.** Directed fixedly at one point or to one end, as a gaze or purpose; steady. Also spelled *stedfast*. [OE *stedefæst*] — **stead′fast′ly** *adv.* — **stead′fast′ness** *n.*

stead·y (sted′ē) *adj.* **stead·i·er, stead·i·est** **1.** Stable in position; firmly supported; fixed. **2.** Moving or acting with uniform regularity; unfaltering: a *steady* light. **3.** Not readily disturbed or upset: *steady* nerves. **4.** Free from intemperance and dissipation: *steady* habits. **5.** Constant in mind or conduct; steadfast. **6.** Regular; reliable: a *steady* customer. **7.** Uninterrupted; continuous. **8.** *Naut.* Having the direction of the ship's head unchanged. — *v.t. & v.i.* **stead·ied, stead·y·ing** To make or become steady. — *interj.* Not so fast; keep calm: an order enjoining self-control or composure. — *n. Slang* One's regular sweetheart. — **to go steady** *Informal* To date only one person of the opposite sex. [< STEAD + -Y[3]] — **stead′i·er** *n.* — **stead′i·ly** *adv.* — **stead′i·ness** *n.*

steak (stāk) *n.* **1.** A slice of meat or fish, usu. broiled or fried. **2.** Meat chopped for cooking like a steak. [< ON *steik*]

steal (stēl) *v.* **stole, sto·len, steal·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take from another without right, authority, or permission, and usu. in a secret manner. **2.** To take or obtain in a surreptitious, artful, or subtle manner. **3.** To move, place, or convey stealthily: with *away, from, in, into*, etc. **4.** In baseball, to reach (second base, third base, or home plate) without the aid of a hit, error, passed ball, or wild pitch: said of a baserunner. — *v.i.* **5.** To commit theft. **6.** To move secretly or furtively. **7.** In baseball, to steal a base. — *n.* **1.** The act of stealing. **2.** That which is stolen. **3.** *U.S. Slang* A bargain. [OE *stelan*] — **steal′er** *n.*

stealth (stelth) *n.* **1.** The quality or habit of acting secretly; a concealed manner of acting. **2.** A secret or clandestine act, movement, or proceeding. [ME < OE *stelan* to steal]

stealth·y (stel′thē) *adj.* **stealth·i·er, stealth·i·est** Moving or acting secretly or slyly; done or characterized by stealth; furtive. — **stealth′i·ly** *adv.* — **stealth′i·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** Anything *stealthy* seeks to avoid notice; it may be applied to a worthy act or purpose. *Furtive* suggests the actions or manner of a thief; we speak of a *furtive* act, a *furtive* face. *Surreptitious* suggests quickness as well as concealment in acting illegally or improperly: a *surreptitious* glance into a neighbor's window. *Clandestine* describes that which is concealed because morally offensive or socially and politically dangerous: a *clandestine* love affair, a *clandestine* rally.

steam (stēm) *n.* **1.** Water in the form of vapor. **2.** The gas or vapor into which water is changed by boiling, esp. when used under pressure as a source of energy. **3.** The visible mist into which aqueous vapor is condensed by cooling. **4.** Any kind of vaporous exhalation. **5.** *Informal* Vigor; force; speed. — **to let (or blow) off steam** *Informal* To give expression to pent-up emotions or opinions. — *v.i.* **1.** To give off or emit steam or vapor. **2.** To rise or pass off as steam. **3.** To become covered with condensed water vapor: often with *up*. **4.** To generate steam. **5.** To move or travel by the agency of steam. — *v.t.* **6.** To treat with steam, as in softening, cooking, cleaning, etc. — *adj.* **1.** Of, driven, or operated by steam. **2.** Containing or conveying steam: a *steam* boiler. **3.** Treated by steam. [OE *stēam*]

steam·boat (stēm′bōt′) *n.* A steamship.

steam engine An engine that derives its motive force from the action of steam, usu. by pressure against a piston sliding within a closed cylinder.

steam·er (stē′mər) *n.* **1.** A ship propelled by steam. **2.** A vessel in which something is steamed, as for cooking.

steamer trunk A trunk small enough to fit under a berth in a ship's cabin.

steam·fit·ter (stēm′fit′ər) *n.* A man who sets up or repairs steam pipes and their fittings. — **steam′fit′ting** *n.*

steam organ A calliope.

steam·roll·er (stēm′rō′lər) *n.* **1.** A road-rolling machine driven by steam. **2.** Any force that ruthlessly overcomes opposition. Also **steam roller.** — *v.t.* **1.** To work (a road, etc.) with a steamroller. **2.** To suppress; crush. **3.** To provide a path for by crushing opposition. — *v.i.* **4.** To work with or as with a steamroller. — *adj.* Resembling the action of a steamroller; aggressive: *steamroller* tactics.

steam·ship (stēm′ship′) *n.* A large vessel used for ocean traffic and usu. propelled by steam; a steamer.

steam shovel A machine for digging and excavation, operated by steam power.

steam table *U.S.* A long table, as in restaurants, with openings in which containers of food are placed to be kept warm by hot water or steam circulating beneath them.

steam turbine A turbine operated by steam power.

steam·y (stē′mē) *adj.* **steam·i·er, steam·i·est** Consisting of, like, or full of steam. — **steam′i·ly** *adv.* — **steam′i·ness** *n.*

ste·ar·ic (stē·ar′ik, stir′ik) *adj. Chem.* Of, pertaining to, or derived from stearin. [< F < Gk. *stear* suet]

stearic acid *Chem.* A white fatty acid, $C_{17}H_{35}COOH$, found in animal fats and in many vegetable oils.

ste·a·rin (stē′ə·rin, stir′in) *n. Chem.* **1.** A white, crystalline compound $(C_{17}H_{35}CO)_3C_3H_5$, obtained from various animal and vegetable fats. **2.** Stearic acid, esp. as prepared for making candles, etc. **3.** Fat in solid form. Also **ste′a·rine** (-rin, -rēn). [< F < Gk. *stear* suet]

ste·a·tite (stē′ə·tīt) *n.* Massive talc found in extensive beds and quarried for hearths, sink linings, coarse utensils, etc.: also called *soapstone*. [< L < Gk. *stear, steatos* suet, tallow] — **ste′a·tit′ic** (-tit′ik) *adj.*

sted·fast (sted′fast′, -fäst′, -fəst) See STEADFAST.

steed (stēd) *n.* A horse; esp., a spirited war horse: now chiefly a literary term. [OE *stēda* studhorse]

steel (stēl) *n.* **1.** A tough alloy of iron containing carbon in variable amounts, malleable under proper conditions, and greatly hardened by sudden cooling. The addition of other components, as chromium and nickel, gives a large range of alloys having special properties. **2.** Something made of steel, as a sword. **3.** Hardness of character. **4.** A strip or band of steel, as for stiffening a corset. — *adj.* **1.** Made or composed of steel. **2.** Resembling steel, as in hardness. **3.** Adamant; unyielding. — *v.t.* **1.** To cover with steel; plate, edge, point, or face with steel. **2.** To make hard or strong like steel. **3.** To make unfeeling; harden. [OE *stȳle, stēle*]

steel blue A metallic blue, as of certain steels.

steel engraving **1.** The art and process of engraving on a steel plate. **2.** The impression made from such a plate.

steel gray Any of several dark shades of gray.

steel·head (stēl′hed′) *n. U.S. & Canadian* The rainbow trout, esp. in its migratory stage to and from the sea, highly esteemed as a game fish: also called *salmon trout*.

steel wool Steel fibers matted together for use as an abrasive, as in cleaning, polishing, etc.

steel·work (stēl′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** Any article or construction of steel. **2.** *pl.* A shop or factory where steel is made or fabricated. — **steel′work′ing** *n.*

steel·work·er (stēl′wûr′kər) *n.* A worker in a steel mill.

steel·y (stē′lē) *adj.* **steel·i·er, steel·i·est** **1.** Made of, containing, resembling, or suggesting steel. **2.** Having a steel-like hardness: a *steely* gaze. — **steel′i·ness** *n.*

steel·yard (stēl′yärd′, -yərd, stil′yərd) *n.* A weighing device consisting of a scaled beam, counterpoise, and hooks. The article to be weighed is hung at the short end and the counterpoise weight on the long arm. Also **steel′yards.** [after *Steelyard*, formerly, the London headquarters for Hanseatic traders]

steen·bok (stān′bok, stēn′-) *n.* A small, fawn-colored African antelope: also called *steinbok*. [< Du. < *steen* stone + *bok* buck]

steep[1] (stēp) *adj.* **1.** Making a large angle with the plane of the horizon; precipitous. **2.** *Informal* Exorbitant; excessive; high, as a price. — *n.* A precipitous place, as a cliff or hill. [OE *stēap*] — **steep′ly** *adv.* — **steep′ness** *n.*

steep[2] (stēp) *v.t.* **1.** To soak in a liquid, as for softening, cleansing, etc. **2.** To imbue thoroughly; saturate: *steeped* in crime. — *v.i.* **3.** To undergo soaking in a liquid. — *n.* **1.** The process of steeping or the state of being steeped. **2.** A liquid or bath for steeping something; esp., a fertilizing liquid for seeds. [ME *stepen*, ? < Scand.] — **steep′er** *n.*

steep·en (stē′pən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become steep or steeper.

stee·ple (stē′pəl) *n.* A lofty, usu. tapering structure rising above the tower of a church; a spire. [OE *stīpel*]

stee·ple·chase (stē′pəl·chās′) *n.* **1.** A race on horseback across country, in which obstacles are to be leaped. **2.** A

race over a course artificially prepared, as with hedges, rails, etc. **3.** Any cross-country run. [So called because originally the goal of the racers was a distant church steeple] — **stee'ple·chas'er** *n.* — **stee'ple·chas'ing** *n.*

stee·ple·jack (stē'pəl·jak') *n.* A man whose occupation is to climb steeples and other tall structures to inspect or make repairs. [< STEEPLE + obs. *jack* workman]

steer[1] (stir) *v.t.* **1.** To direct the course of (a vessel or vehicle) by means of a rudder, steering wheel, etc. **2.** To follow (a course). **3.** To direct; guide. — *v.i.* **4.** To direct the course of a vessel, vehicle, etc. **5.** To undergo guiding or steering. **6.** To follow a course: to *steer* for land. — **to steer clear of** To avoid. — *n. U.S. Slang* A piece of advice. [OE *stīeran*] — **steer'a·ble** *adj.* — **steer'er** *n.*

steer[2] (stir) *n.* **1.** A male bovine animal, esp. when castrated and from two to four years old. **2.** An ox of any age raised for beef. [OE *stēor*]

steer·age (stir'ij) *n.* **1.** Formerly, the part of an ocean passenger vessel in the forward lower decks. **2.** Any markedly inferior, overcrowded, third-class accommodations. **3.** The act of steering. **4.** The effect of the helm on a vessel.

steer·age·way (stir'ij·wā') *n. Naut.* The lowest speed at which a vessel can be accurately steered.

steer·ing committee (stir'ing) A committee in a legislature or other assemblage that arranges or directs the course of the business to be considered.

steering gear The coordinated mechanism that steers a ship, automotive vehicle, aircraft, bicycle, etc.

steering wheel A wheel turned by the driver or pilot of a vehicle, ship, etc., to change its direction.

steers·man (stirz'mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who steers a boat; a helmsman.

steg·o·my·ia (steg'ə·mī'ə) *n.* Aedes, a type of mosquito: a former name. [< NL < Gk. *stegos* roof + *myia* fly]

stein (stīn) *n.* A beer mug, esp. of earthenware. [< G]

stein·bok (stīn'bok) *n.* A steenbok.

stel·lar (stel'ər) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the stars; astral. **2.** Of or pertaining to a prominent actor or actress or to other persons in the arts. [< LL < L *stella* star]

stel·late (stel'it, -āt) *adj.* Star-shaped or starlike. Also **stel·lat·ed** (stel'ā·tid). [< L < *stella* star] — **stel'late·ly** *adv.*

stelli- *combining form* Star. [< L *stella* star]

St. El·mo's fire (sānt el'mōz) A luminous charge of atmospheric electricity sometimes appearing on the masts of ships, on church steeples, etc. Also **St. Elmo's light.**

stem[1] (stem) *n.* **1.** The main body or stalk of a tree, shrub, or other plant, rising above the ground. **2.** The relatively slender growth supporting the fruit, flower, or leaf of a plant. **3.** The long, slender, usu. cylindrical portion of an instrument, drinking vessels, etc. **4.** In a watch, the small, projecting, knobbed rod used for winding the mainspring. **5.** *Printing* The upright stroke of a type face or letter. **6.** *Music* The line attached to the head of a written musical note. **7.** *Ling.* A root plus a thematic vowel, as the Latin stem *luci-* ("light") in *lucifer* ("light-bearer"), composed of the root *luc-* plus the thematic vowel *-i-.* — *v.* **stemmed, stem·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To remove the stems of or from. **2.** To supply with stems. — *v.i.* **3.** To grow out of; develop or arise: usually with *from.* [OE *stemn, stefn* stem of a tree, prow of a ship] — **stem'mer** *n.* — **stem'less** *adj.*

stem[2] (stem) *n. Naut.* **1.** A nearly upright timber or metal piece uniting the two sides of a vessel at the bow. **2.** The bow or prow of a vessel. — **from stem to stern** From end to end; thoroughly. — *v.* **stemmed, stem·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To resist or make progress against, as a current: said of a vessel. **2.** To stand firm or make progress against (any opposing force): to *stem* the tide. [< STEM[1]]

stem[3] (stem) *v.t.* **stemmed, stem·ming** **1.** To stop, hold back, or dam up, as a current; stanch. **2.** To make tight, as a joint; to plug. [< ON *stemma* to stop]

stem·ware (stem'wâr') *n.* Drinking vessels with stems, as goblets, taken collectively.

stem-wind·er (stem'win'dər) *n.* A watch wound by turning the crown of the stem. — **stem'-wind'ing** *adj.*

stench (stench) *n.* A foul odor; stink. [OE *stenc*]

sten·cil (sten'səl) *n.* **1.** A sheet of paper, etc., in which a pattern is cut by means of spaces or dots, through which applied paint or ink penetrates to a surface beneath. **2.** A decoration or the like produced by stenciling. — *v.t.* **sten·ciled** or **·cilled, sten·cil·ing** or **·cil·ling** To mark with a stencil. [Prob. ME *stansel* to decorate with many colors < OF, ult. < L *scintilla* spark] — **sten'cil·er** or **sten'cil·ler** *n.*

steno- *combining form* Tight; narrow; contracted. Also, before vowels, **sten-.** [< Gk. *stenos* narrow]

ste·nog·ra·pher (stə·nog'rə·fər) *n.* One who writes stenography or is skilled in shorthand.

ste·nog·ra·phy (stə·nog'rə·fē) *n.* The art of writing by the use of contractions or arbitrary symbols; shorthand. — **sten·o·graph·ic** (sten'ə·graf'ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **sten'o·graph'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sten·o·type (sten'ə·tīp) *n.* **1.** A letter or combination of letters representing a sound, word, or phrase, esp. in shorthand. **2.** A Stenotype.

Sten·o·type (sten'ə·tīp) *n.* A keyboard-operated machine used in stenotypy: a trade name. Also *stenotype.*

sten·o·typ·y (sten'ə·ti'pē) *n.* A system of shorthand employing ordinary letters alone or in various combinations to represent specific sounds, words, or phrases.

sten·tor (sten'tôr) *n.* One who possesses an uncommonly strong, loud voice. [< *Stentor*]

Sten·tor (sten'tôr) In the *Iliad,* a herald with a loud voice.

sten·to·ri·an (sten·tôr'ē·ən, -tō'rē-) *adj.* Extremely loud.

step (step) *n.* **1.** An act of progressive motion that requires one of the supporting limbs of the body to be thrust in the direction of the movement, and to reassume its function of support; a pace. **2.** The distance passed over in making such a motion. **3.** Any short distance; a space easily traversed. **4.** That which the foot rests upon in ascending or descending, as a stair or ladder rung. **5.** A single action or proceeding regarded as leading to something: a *step* toward emancipation. **6.** An advance or promotion that forms one of a series; grade. **7.** The manner of stepping; gait. **8.** The sound of a footfall. **9.** A footprint; track. **10.** *pl.* Progression by walking; walk. **11.** A patterned combination of foot movements in dancing: the tango *step.* **12.** *Music* An interval corresponding to one degree of a scale or staff; a major or minor second. **13.** Something resembling a step, as a socket, supporting framework, etc.: the *step* of a mast. — **in step** **1.** Walking, dancing, marching, etc., in accord with the proper rhythm or cadence, or in conformity with others. **2.** *Informal* In agreement or conformity. — **out of step** Not in step. — **to take steps** To adopt measures, as to attain an end. — *v.* **stepped, step·ping** *v.i.* **1.** To move forward or backward by taking a step or steps. **2.** To walk a short distance: to *step* across the street. **3.** To move with measured, dignified, or graceful steps. **4.** To move or act quickly or briskly. **5.** To pass into a situation, circumstance, etc., as if in a single step: He *stepped* into a fortune. — *v.t.* **6.** To take (a pace, stride, etc.). **7.** To perform the steps of: to *step* a quadrille. **8.** To place or move (the foot) in taking a step. **9.** To measure by taking steps: often with *off.* **10.** To cut or arrange in steps. **11.** *Naut.* To place the lower end of (a mast) in its step. — **to step down** **1.** To decrease gradually, or by steps or degrees. **2.** To resign from an office or position. — **to step in** To begin to take part; intervene. — **to step on** (or **upon**) **1.** To put the foot down on. **2.** To put the foot on so as to activate, as a brake or treadle. **3.** *Informal* To reprove or subdue. — **to step on it** *Informal* To hurry; hasten. — **to step out** **1.** To go outside, esp. for a short while. **2.** *Informal* To go out for fun or entertainment. **3.** To quit; resign. **4.** To walk vigorously and with long strides. — **to step up** To increase; accelerate. [OE *stæpe*]

step- *combining form* Related through the previous marriage of a parent or spouse, but not by blood. [OE < stem of *āstīgan, āstēpan* to bereave, orphan]

step-broth·er (step'bruth'ər) *n.* The son of one's stepparent by a former marriage.

step-child (step'chīld') *n.* The child of one's husband or wife by a former marriage.

step-daugh·ter (step'dô'tər) *n.* A female stepchild.

step-down (step'doun') *adj.* **1.** Decreasing by stages. **2.** *Electr.* Converting a high voltage into a low voltage, as a transformer. **3.** *Mech.* Designating a gear that transfers motion at a reduced rate. Opposed to *step-up.*

step·fa·ther (step'fä'thər) *n.* The husband of one's mother, other than one's own father.

step-in (step'in') *n.* **1.** A woman's brief underpants: also **step'-ins'.** **2.** A pumplike shoe.

step·lad·der (step'lad'ər) *n.* A set of portable steps with, usu., a hinged frame at the back, that may be extended to support the steps in an upright position.

step·moth·er (step'muth'ər) *n.* The wife of one's father, other than one's own mother.

step-par·ent (step'pâr'ənt) *n.* A stepfather or stepmother.

steppe (step) *n.* A vast plain devoid of forest; esp., one of the extensive plains in Russia and Siberia. [< Russian *step'*]

step·per (step'ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which steps: The horse is a high *stepper.* **2.** *Slang* A dancer.

step·ping·stone (step'ing·stōn') *n.* **1.** A stone affording a footrest, as for crossing a stream. **2.** A preliminary step or stage in the fulfillment of a goal: *steppingstones* to success.

step·sis·ter (step'sis'tər) *n.* The daughter of one's stepparent by a former marriage.

step·son (step'sun') *n.* A male stepchild.

step-up (step'up') *adj.* **1.** Increasing by stages. **2.** *Electr.* Converting a low voltage into a high voltage, as a transformer. **3.** Designating a gear that transfers motion at an increased rate. Opposed to *step-down.*

-ster *suffix of nouns* **1.** One who makes or is occupied with: often pejorative: *songster, prankster.* **2.** One who belongs or is related to: *gangster.* **3.** One who is: *youngster.* [OE *-estre,* fem. suffix expressing the agent]

stere (stir) *n.* In the metric system, a measure of capacity equal to one cubic meter. See table front of book. [< F < Gk. *stereos* solid]

ster·e·o (ster′ē-ō, stir′-) *n.* A stereophonic system. — *adj.* Stereophonic.

stereo- *combining form* Solid; firm; hard; three-dimensional. Also, before vowels, **stere-**. [< Gk. *stereos* hard]

ster·e·o·chem·is·try (ster′ē-ō-kem′is-trē, stir′-) *n.* The branch of chemistry that treats of the spatial arrangement of atoms and molecules.

ster·e·o·phon·ic (ster′ē-ə-fon′ik, stir′-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, designed for, or characterized by the perception of sound by both ears; binaural. **2.** *Electronics* Designating a system of sound reproduction in which two or more receivers or loudspeakers are so placed as to give the effect of hearing the sound from more than one direction. Also *stereo.* — **ster′e·o·phon′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **ster·e·o·phon·y** (ster′ē-of′ə-nē, stir′-, ster′ē-ə-fō′nē, stir′-) *n.*

ster·e·op·ti·con (ster′ē-op′ti-kon, stir′-) *n.* A double magic lantern arranged to combine two images of the same object or scene, or used to bring one image after another on the screen. [< STEREO- + Gk. *optikos* of sight]

ster·e·o·scope (ster′ē-ə-skōp, stir′-) *n.* An instrument for blending into one image two pictures of an object from slightly different points of view, so as to produce the impression of relief and solidity. — **ster′e·o·scop′ic** (-skop′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **ster′e·o·scop′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·e·os·co·py (ster′ē-os′kə-pē, stir′-) *n.* **1.** The art of making or using stereoscopes and stereoscopic slides. **2.** The viewing of objects as in three dimensions. — **ster′e·os′co·pist** *n.*

ster·e·o·type (ster′ē-ə-tīp′, stir′-) *n.* **1.** A plate cast in type metal from a matrix and reproducing on its surface the composed type or other material impressed upon the matrix. **2.** Anything made or processed in this way. **3.** Stereotypy. **4.** A conventional or hackneyed expression, custom, mental image, etc. **5.** A person possessing characteristics that typify a particular group. — *v.t.* **·typed, ·typ·ing 1.** To make a stereotype of. **2.** To fix firmly or unalterably. — **ster′e·o·typ′er, ster′e·o·typ′ist** *n.*

ster·e·o·typed (ster′ē-ə-tīpt′, stir′-) *adj.* **1.** Formalized; hackneyed; trite. **2.** Produced from a stereotype.

ster·e·o·typ·y (ster′ē-ə-tī′pē, stir′-) *n.* The art or act of making stereotypes: also called *stereotype.*

ster·ile (ster′əl, *esp. Brit.* -īl) *adj.* **1.** Having no reproductive power; barren. **2.** *Bot.* Incapable of germinating. **3.** Lacking productiveness: *sterile* soil. **4.** Containing no bacteria or other microorganisms. **5.** Lacking in vigor or imagination: *sterile* verse. [< L *sterilis* barren] — **ster′ile·ly** *adv.* — **ster′ile·ness, ste·ril·i·ty** (stə-ril′ə-tē) *n.*

ster·il·ize (ster′əl-īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing 1.** To free from infective or pathogenic microorganisms. **2.** To deprive of productive or reproductive power. **3.** To make barren. Also *Brit.* **ster′il·ise.** — **ster′il·i·za′tion** (-ə-zā′shən, -ī-zā′-) *n.* — **ster′il·iz′er** *n.*

ster·ling (stûr′ling) *n.* **1.** The official standard of fineness for British coins: for silver, 0.500; for gold, 0.91666. **2.** Sterling silver, 0.925 fine, as used in manufacturing articles; also, articles made of it. **3.** A former silver penny of England and Scotland. — *adj.* **1.** Made of or payable in sterling. **2.** Made of sterling silver. **3.** Genuine. **4.** Valuable; esteemed: *sterling* qualities. [Prob. OE *steorra* star + -LING; because a star was stamped on some of the coins]

stern[1] (stûrn) *adj.* **1.** Marked by severity or harshness; unyielding. **2.** Strict; severe. **3.** Inspiring fear; awesome. **4.** Resolute; stout: a *stern* resolve. [OE *styrne*] — **stern′ly** *adv.* — **stern′ness** *n.*

stern[2] (stûrn) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* The aft part of a ship, boat, etc. **2.** The hindmost part of any object. — *adj.* Situated at or belonging to the stern. [< ON *stjōra* to steer]

stern·most (stûrn′mōst′, -məst) *adj.* Farthest to the rear or stern.

sterno- *combining form Anat.* The sternum. Also, before vowels, **stern-**. [< L *sternum* or Gk. *stērnon* breast]

stern·post (stûrn′pōst′) *n. Naut.* The main vertical post of the stern frame of a vessel, to which the rudder is attached.

ster·num (stûr′nəm) *n. pl.* **·na** (-nə) or **·nums** *Anat.* The breastbone that forms the ventral support of the ribs in vertebrates. [< L < Gk. *stērnon* breast] — **ster′nal** *adj.*

stern·ward (stûrn′wərd) *adj. & adv.* Toward the stern.

stern·way (stûrn′wā′) *n. Naut.* Backward movement of a vessel.

stern-wheel·er (stûrn′hwē′lər) *n.* A steamboat propelled by one large paddle wheel at the stern.

ster·oid (ster′oid) *n. Biochem.* Any of a large group of fat-soluble organic compounds, including the sterols, the bile acids, and the sex hormones.

ster·ol (ster′ōl, -ol) *n. Biochem.* Any of a class of complex, chiefly unsaturated solid alcohols, widely distributed in plant and animal tissue, as cholesterol. [Contr. of CHOLESTEROL]

ster·tor·ous (stûr′tər-əs) *adj.* Characterized by snoring or accompanied by a snoring sound. [< NL < L *stertere* to snore] — **ster′tor·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ster′tor·ous·ness** *n.*

stet (stet) Let it stand: a direction used in proofreading to indicate that a word, letter, etc., marked for omission or correction is to remain. — *v.t.* **stet·ted, stet·ting** To cancel a former correction or omission of by marking with the word *stet.* Compare DELE. [< L < *stare* to stand, stay]

stetho- *combining form* The breast or chest; pectoral. Also, before vowels, **steth-**. [< Gk. *stēthos* breast]

steth·o·scope (steth′ə-skōp) *n. Med.* An apparatus for auscultation, adapted for conveying the sounds of the body to the examiner's ear or ears. — **steth′o·scop′ic** (-skop′ik), **steth′o·scop′i·cal** *adj.* — **steth′o·scop′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **ste·thos·co·py** (ste·thos′kə-pē) *n.*

ste·ve·dore (stē′və-dôr, -dōr) *n.* One whose business is stowing or unloading the holds of vessels. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·dored, ·dor·ing** To load or unload (a vessel). [< Sp. < L *stipare* to compress, stuff]

stew (stōō, styōō) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To boil slowly and gently; seethe; keep or be at the simmering point. **2.** *Informal* To worry. — *n.* **1.** Stewed food, esp. a preparation of meat or fish and vegetables cooked together by stewing. **2.** *Informal* Mental agitation; worry. [< OF, prob. ult. < L *ex-* out + Gk. *typhos* steam, vapor]

stew·ard (stōō′ərd, styōō′-) *n.* **1.** One who is entrusted with the management of property, finances, or other affairs not his own. **2.** One who has charge of buying provisions, managing servants, etc., in a private residence or in a club, hotel, etc. **3.** One in charge of provisions and usu. of the tables on a ship. **4.** On an airplane, ship, or bus, one who waits on the passengers. **5.** One who manages any affair: *steward* of the races. [OE < *stī* hall, sty + *weard* ward, keeper] — **stew′ard·ess** *n.fem.* — **stew′ard·ship** *n.*

stewed (stōōd, styōōd) *adj.* **1.** Cooked by stewing. **2.** *Slang* Drunk.

stew·pan (stōō′pan, styōō′-) *n.* A cooking vessel used for stewing.

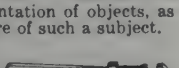
stib·i·um (stib′ē-əm) *n.* Antimony. [< L < Gk. *stibi*] — **stib′i·al** *adj.*

-stichous *combining form* Having (a specified number of) rows. [< Gk. *stichos* row, line]

stick (stik) *n.* **1.** A slender piece of wood, as a branch cut from a tree or bush, a baton or wand, etc. **2.** *Brit.* A cane. **3.** Anything resembling a stick in form: a *stick* of candy or dynamite. **4.** A piece of wood of any size, cut for fuel, lumber, or timber. **5.** *Aeron.* The control lever of an airplane, that operates the elevators and ailerons. **6.** A poke, stab, or thrust with a pointed instrument. **7.** The state of being stuck together; adhesion. **8.** In sports, a baseball bat, hockey stick, etc. **9.** *Informal* A stiff, inert, or dull person. **10.** A stalk, as of asparagus. — **the sticks** *Informal* An obscure rural district; the backwoods or country. — *v.* **stuck** or (*for def. 15*) **sticked, stick·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pierce, stab, or penetrate with a pointed object. **2.** To kill or wound by piercing; stab. **3.** To thrust or force, as a sword or pin, into or through something else. **4.** To force the end of (a nail, etc.) into something so as to be fixed in place. **5.** To fasten in place with or as with pins, nails, etc.: to *stick* a ribbon on a dress. **6.** To cover with objects piercing the surface. **7.** To impale; transfix. **8.** To put or thrust: He *stuck* his hand into his pocket. **9.** To fasten to a surface by or as by an adhesive substance. **10.** To bring to a standstill; obstruct; halt: usu. in the passive: We were *stuck* in Rome. **11.** *Informal* To smear with something sticky. **12.** *Informal* To baffle; puzzle. **13.** *Slang* To impose upon; cheat. **14.** *Slang* To force great expense, an unpleasant task, etc., upon. **15.** To provide with sticks or brush on which to grow, as a vine. — *v.i.* **16.** To be or become fixed in place by being thrust in: to *stick* in a cushion. **17.** To become or remain attached or close to something by or as by adhesion; adhere; cling. **18.** To come to a standstill; become blocked or obstructed. **19.** To be baffled or disconcerted. **20.** To hesitate; scruple: with *at* or *to.* **21.** To persist; persevere: with *at* or *to.* **22.** To remain firm or resolute; be faithful. **23.** To be extended; protrude: with *from, out, through, up,* etc. — **to stick around** *Slang* To remain near or near at hand. — **to stick by** To remain faithful to; be loyal to. — **to stick it out** To persevere to the end. — **to stick up** *Slang* To detain and rob. — **to stick up for** *Informal* To take the part of; defend. [OE *sticca*]

stick·er (stik′ər) *n.* **1.** A gummed label, sign, etc. **2.** One who or that which fastens with or as with paste. **3.** One who holds tenaciously to anything. **4.** *Informal* A puzzle. **5.** A prickly stem, thorn, or bur.

stick·ing plaster (stik′ing) Adhesive tape.
stick·le (stik′əl) *v.i.* **·led, ·ling** **1.** To contend or argue about trifling matters. **2.** To insist or hesitate for petty reasons. [ME *stighlen*, freq. of OE *stihtan* to arrange]
stick·le·back (stik′əl·bak′) *n.* A small fresh- or salt-water fish, having sharp dorsal spines.
stick·ler (stik′lər) *n.* One who contends over or insists upon something: usu. with *for*: a *stickler* for details.
stick-pin (stik′pin′) *n. U.S.* An ornamental pin for a necktie.
stick-to-it-ive (stik·to͞o′it·iv) *adj. Informal* Persevering. — **stick-to′-it-ive·ly** *adv.* — **stick-to′-it-ive·ness** *n.*
stick-up (stik′up′) *n. Slang* A robbery or holdup.
stick·y (stik′ē) *adj.* **stick·i·er, stick·i·est** **1.** Adhering to a surface; adhesive. **2.** Covered with something adhesive. **3.** Warm and humid. — **stick′i·ly** *adv.* — **stick′i·ness** *n.*
stiff (stif) *adj.* **1.** Resisting the action of a bending force; rigid. **2.** Not easily moved: *stiff* brakes; also, moving or functioning painfully or without suppleness: a *stiff* neck. **3.** Not natural, graceful, or easy; constrained and awkward; formal. **4.** Not liquid or fluid, thick; viscous. **5.** Taut; tightly drawn. **6.** Having a strong, steady movement: a *stiff* breeze. **7.** Firm in resistance; stubborn. **8.** Harsh; severe: a *stiff* penalty. **9.** High; dear: a *stiff* price. **10.** Strong or potent, as in alcoholic content: a *stiff* drink. **11.** Difficult; arduous: a *stiff* climb. — *n. Slang* **1.** A corpse. **2.** An awkward or unresponsive person; esp., a bore. **3.** A man; fellow: working *stiff*; also, a roughneck. [OE *stīf*] — **stiff′ly** *adv.* — **stiff′ness** *n.*
stiff·en (stif′ən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become stiff or stiffer. — **stiff′en·er** *n.*
stiff-necked (stif′nekt′) *adj.* Not yielding; stubborn.
sti·fle (stī′fəl) *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.t.* **1.** To keep back; suppress or repress; check: to *stifle* sobs. **2.** To suffocate; choke. — *v.i.* **3.** To die of suffocation. **4.** To experience difficulty in breathing, as in a stuffy room. [ME < OF *estouffer* to smother] — **sti′fler** *n.* — **sti′fling** *adj.* — **sti′fling·ly** *adv.*
stig·ma (stig′mə) *n. pl.* **stig·ma·ta** (stig′mə·tə, stig·mä′tə) or (*for defs. 1–3, usu.*) **stig·mas** **1.** A mark of infamy, or token of disgrace. **2.** A mark indicating a defect or something not normal. **3.** *Bot.* The part of a pistil that receives the pollen. For illus. see FLOWER. **4.** *Biol.* **a** A mark or spot. **b** An aperture or opening, as a pore. **5.** *pl.* The wounds that Christ received during the Passion and Crucifixion. **6.** Formerly, a brand made on slaves and criminals. [< L < Gk. *stizein* to prick, brand] — **stig·mat′ic** (-mat′ik), **stig·mat′i·cal** *adj.*
stig·ma·tize (stig′mə·tīz) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** **1.** To characterize or brand as ignominious. **2.** To mark with a stigma. [< Med.L < Gk. *stigma* pointed end, mark] — **stig′ma·ti·za′tion** *n.* — **stig′ma·tiz′er** *n.*
stile (stīl) *n.* **1.** A step, or series of steps, on each side of a fence or wall to aid in surmounting it. **2.** A turnstile. [OE *stīgan* to climb]
sti·let·to (sti·let′ō) *n. pl.* **·tos** or **·toes** A small dagger with a slender blade. — *v.t.* **·toed, ·to·ing** To pierce with a stiletto; stab. [< Ital. < L *stilus* writing instrument]
still[1] (stil) *adj.* **1.** Making no sound; silent. **2.** Peaceful; tranquil. **3.** Without movement; motionless. **4.** Low in sound; quiet; hushed. **5.** Subdued; soft. **6.** Dead; inanimate. **7.** Having no effervescence: said of wines. **8.** *Photog.* Of or designating a single photograph, as contrasted with a motion picture. — **Syn.** See CALM. — *n.* **1.** *Poetic* Stillness; calm. **2.** A still-life picture. **3.** *Photog.* A still photograph. — *adv.* **1.** Now as previously; up to this or that time: He is *still* here. **2.** All the same: nevertheless. **3.** Even; yet: *still* more. **4.** *Poetic & Dial.* Always; constantly. — *conj.* Nevertheless; and yet. — *v.t.* **1.** To cause to be still or calm. **2.** To silence or hush. **3.** To quiet or allay, as fears. — *v.i.* **4.** To become still. [OE *stille*] — **still′ness** *n.*
still[2] (stil) *n.* **1.** An apparatus in which a substance is vaporized by heat, and the vapor then liquefied in a condenser, used esp. for distilling alcoholic liquors. **2.** A distillery. — *v.t. & v.i.* To distill. [< L < *stilla* drop]
still-born (stil′bôrn′) *adj.* Dead at birth. — **still′birth′** *n.*
still life **1.** In painting, the representation of objects, as tables, flowers, fruit, etc. **2.** A picture of such a subject.
Still·son wrench (stil′sən) A wrench closely resembling a monkey wrench, but with serrated jaws, one of which is capable of slight angular movement, so that the grip is increased by pressure on the handle: a trade name.


STILLSON WRENCH

still·y (*adj.* stil′ē; *adv.* stil′lē) *adj.* Still; silent; calm. — *adv.* Calmly; quietly; without noise.
stilt (stilt) *n.* **1.** One of a pair of long, slender poles made with a projection to support the foot some distance above the ground in walking. **2.** A tall post or pillar used as a support, as for a dock. **3.** Any of several long-legged, wading birds. — *v.t.* To raise on stilts. [ME *stilte*, ? < LG]
stilt·ed (stil′tid) *adj.* **1.** Artificially formal or elevated in manner; pompous. **2.** Raised or built on or as on stilts. — **stilt′ed·ly** *adv.* — **stilt′ed·ness** *n.*
stim·u·lant (stim′yə·lənt) *n.* **1.** Anything that quickens or promotes the activity of some physiological process, as a drug. **2.** An alcoholic beverage. — *adj.* Acting as a stimulant; serving to stimulate. [See STIMULATE.]
stim·u·late (stim′yə·lāt) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To rouse to activity or to quickened action; spur. **2.** *Physiol.* To excite (an organ or tissue) by applying some form of stimulus. **3.** To affect by alcoholic beverages. — *v.i.* **4.** To act as a stimulant. [< L < *stimulus* goad] — **stim′u·lat′er, stim′u·la′tor** *n.* — **stim′u·la′tion** *n.* — **stim′u·la′tive** *adj. & n.*
stim·u·lus (stim′yə·ləs) *n. pl.* **·li** (-lī) **1.** Anything that rouses the mind or spirits; an incentive. **2.** *Physiol.* Any agent or form of excitation that influences the activity of an organism as a whole or in any of its parts. [< L]
sti·my (stī′mē) See STYMIE.
sting (sting) *v.* **stung, stung, sting·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pierce or prick painfully, as with a sharp, sometimes venomous organ. **2.** To cause to suffer sharp, smarting pain from or as from a sting. **3.** To cause to suffer mentally; pain: His heart was *stung* with remorse. **4.** To stimulate; goad; spur. **5.** *Slang* To get the better of; also, to overcharge. — *v.i.* **6.** To have or use a sting, as a bee. **7.** To suffer or cause a sharp, smarting pain. **8.** To suffer or cause mental distress; pain. — *n.* **1.** *Zool.* A sharp, pointed organ, as of a bee, able to inflict a wound. **2.** The act of stinging; also, the wound or the pain caused by a sting. **3.** Any sharp, smarting sensation: the *sting* of remorse. **4.** A spur; goad. **5.** *Bot.* One of the sharp-pointed hairs of a nettle, charged with an irritating fluid: also **stinging hair.** [OE *stingan*] — **sting′er** *n.* — **sting′ing·ly** *adv.* — **sting′y** *adj.*
sting ray Any of a family of flat-bodied fishes having broad pectoral fins and a whiplike tail capable of inflicting wounds: also called **sting·a·ree** (sting′ə·rē, sting′ə·rē′) *n.*
stin·gy (stin′jē) *adj.* **·gi·er, ·gi·est** **1.** Unwilling to spend or give; miserly. **2.** Scanty; inadequate; meager. [< dial. E *stinge* sting + -Y[1]] — **stin′gi·ly** *adv.* — **stin′gi·ness** *n.* — **Syn. 1.** niggardly, parsimonious, close, closefisted, tight.
stink (stingk) *n.* A strong, foul odor; stench. — **Syn.** See SMELL. — *v.* **stank** or **stunk, stunk, stink·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To give forth a foul odor. **2.** To be extremely offensive or hateful. **3.** *Informal* To be of bad quality. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to stink. — **to make** (or **raise**) **a stink** *Slang* To protest vehemently. — **to stink out** To drive out by a foul or suffocating odor. [OE *stincan* to smell] — **stink′ing·ly** *adv.*
stink·bug (stingk′bug′) *n.* Any of various large, flattened bugs that emit an unpleasant odor if disturbed.
stink·weed (stingk′wēd′) *n.* Any of various plants having a disagreeable odor, as the jimsonweed.
stint (stint) *v.t.* **1.** To limit, as in amount or share; be stingy with. — *v.i.* **2.** To be frugal or sparing. — *n.* **1.** A fixed amount, as of work to be performed within a specified time. **2.** A bound; restriction; limit. **3.** A small sandpiper. [ME *stynten* to cause to stop] — **stint′er** *n.*
stipe (stīp) *n.* **1.** *Zool.* A stalk or support. **2.** *Bot.* A stalklike support or stem, as that supporting a fern's frond, etc. [< F < L *stipes* branch]
sti·pend (stī′pend) *n.* An allowance, salary, or pension; esp., money paid under a scholarship. [< L < *stips* coin, payment in coin + *pendere* to weigh, pay out]
sti·pen·di·ar·y (stī·pen′dē·er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Receiving or performing services for a stipend. **2.** Of or like a stipend. **3.** Paid for by a stipend, as services. — *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** One who receives a stipend. See STIPEND.]
stip·ple (stip′əl) *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To draw, paint, or engrave with dots or short touches instead of lines. — *n.* **1.** A method of painting, etc., by stippling. **2.** A painting produced by stippling; also the effect of stippling. [< Du. < *stip* dot] — **stip′pler** *n.*
stip·u·late (stip′yə·lāt) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To specify as the terms of or condition for an agreement, contract, etc. **2.** To promise; guarantee. — *v.i.* **3.** To demand something as a requirement: with *for*. **4.** To make an agreement. [< L < *stipulari* to bargain] — **stip′u·la′tor** *n.*
stip·u·la·tion (stip′yə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of stipulating, or the state of being stipulated. **2.** That which is stipulated; a condition. — **stip′u·la·to′ry** (-lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*
stip·ule (stip′yo͞ol) *n. Bot.* One of a pair of leaflike appendages at the base of the petiole of certain leaves. [< L *stipula* stalk] — **stip·u·late** (stip′yə·lit, -lāt) *adj.*
stir[1] (stûr) *v.* **stirred, stir·ring** *v.t.* **1.** To agitate so as to alter the relative position of the particles or components of, as soup with a spoon. **2.** To cause to move, esp., slightly or irregularly; disturb. **3.** To move vigorously; bestir. **4.** To rouse, as from sleep, indifference, or inactivity; stimulate. **5.** To incite; provoke: often with *up*. **6.** To affect strongly; move with emotion. — *v.i.* **7.** To move, esp., slightly. **8.** To be active; move about. **9.** To happen. **10.** To undergo

stirring: This molasses *stirs* easily. — *n.* **1.** The act of stirring, or state of being stirred; activity. **2.** General interest or commotion. **3.** Excitement or agitation. **4.** A poke; nudge. [OE *styrian*] — **stir′rer** *n.*

stir[2] (stûr) *n. Slang* A jail; prison. [Origin uncertain]

stir·ring (stûr′ing) *adj.* **1.** Stimulating; inspiring. **2.** Full of activity or stir; lively. — **stir′ring·ly** *adv.*

stir·rup (stûr′əp, stir′-) *n.* **1.** An inverted U-shaped support hung from either side of a saddle to hold the rider's foot in and after mounting. **2.** Any similarly shaped supports, as for a beam. [OE *stigrāp* mounting rope]

stirrup bone *Anat.* The stapes.

stitch (stich) *n.* **1.** A single passage of a threaded needle through fabric and back again, as in sewing or embroidery, or, in surgery, through skin or flesh. **2.** A single turn of thread or yarn around a needle, as in knitting or crocheting; also, the link or loop resulting from such a turn. **3.** Any particular arrangement of a thread used in sewing, crocheting, etc.: a chain *stitch*. **4.** A sharp sudden pain, esp. in the back or side. **5.** *Informal* The smallest bit or fragment: not a *stitch* of work. — *v.t.* **1.** To join together or ornament with stitches. — *v.i.* **2.** To make stitches; sew. [OE *stice* a prick, stab] — **stitch′er** *n.*

sti·ver (stī′vər) *n.* **1.** A small Dutch coin, 1/20 of a guilder. **2.** Anything of little value. [< Du. *stuiver*]

St. Johns·wort (sānt jonz′wûrt′) A hardy perennial with deep yellow flowers. Also **St.-John's-wort.**

stoat (stōt) *n.* The ermine, esp. in its brown summer coat. [ME *stote*; origin uncertain]

stock (stok) *n.* **1.** A quantity of something acquired or kept for future use. **2.** The total merchandise or goods that a commercial establishment has on hand. **3.** Livestock. **4.** In finance: **a** The capital or fund raised by a corporation through the sale of shares. **b** The proportional part of this capital credited to an individual stockholder and represented by the number of shares he owns. **c** A certificate showing ownership of shares. **5.** The trunk or main stem of a tree or other plant. **6.** A line of familial descent. **7.** The original progenitor of a family line. **8.** An ethnic group; race. **9.** A family of languages. **10.** A related group or family of plants or animals; also, a type of animal or plant from which others are derived. **11.** *Bot.* **a** A rhizome. **b** In horticulture, a stem upon which a graft is made; also, a plant, tree, etc. that provides cuttings and slips. **12.** The broth from boiled meat or fish used in preparing soups, etc. **13.** Raw material: paper *stock*. **14.** *pl.* A timber frame with holes for confining the ankles, formerly used in punishing petty offenders. **15.** *pl.* The timber frame on which a vessel rests during construction. **16.** In firearms: **a** The rear wooden portion of a rifle etc., to which the barrel and mechanisms are secured. **b** The arm on rapidfire guns connecting the shoulder piece to the slide. **c** The handle of a pistol or similar firearm. **17.** The handle of certain instruments, as of a whip or fishing rod. **18.** A theatrical stock company; also, its repertoire. **19.** A broad, stiffened band, formerly worn as a cravat. **20.** An ornamental garden plant, as the gillyflower. — **in stock** On hand and available for sale or use. — **to take stock** **1.** To take an inventory. **2.** To estimate or appraise. — *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with livestock or with merchandise. **2.** To keep for sale. **3.** To put aside for future use. **4.** To provide with a handle or stock. — *v.i.* **5.** To lay in supplies or stock: often with *up*. — *adj.* **1.** Kept continually ready or constantly brought forth, like old goods: a *stock* joke. **2.** Kept on hand: a *stock* size. **3.** Banal; commonplace: a *stock* phrase. **4.** Used for breeding purposes. **5.** Employed in handling or caring for the stock. — *adv.* Motionlessly; like a stump: used in combination: *stock-still*. [OE *stocc*]

stock·ade (sto·kād′) *n.* **1.** A line of stout posts, stakes, etc., set upright in the earth to form a fence or barrier; also, the area thus enclosed, used as a prison, etc. **2.** Any similar area. — *v.t.* **·ad·ed, ·ad·ing** To surround or fortify with a stockade. [< OF < Sp. < *estaque* stake < Gmc.]

stock·breed·er (stok′brē′dər) *n.* One who breeds and raises livestock. — **stock′breed′ing** *n.*

stock·bro·ker (stok′brō′kər) *n.* One who buys and sells stocks or securities for others. — **stock′bro′ker·age** (-ij), **stock′bro′king** *n.*

stock car An automobile, often a sedan, modified for racing.

stock company **1.** An incorporated company that issues stock. **2.** A more or less permanent dramatic company under one management, that presents a series of plays.

stock exchange **1.** A place where stocks and bonds are bought and sold. **2.** An association of stockbrokers who transact business in stocks, bonds, etc.

stock farm A farm that specializes in breeding livestock.

stock·fish (stok′fish′) *n.* Cod, haddock, or the like, cured by splitting and drying in the air, without salt.

stock·hold·er (stok′hol′dər) *n.* One who holds certificates of ownership in a company or corporation. — **stock′hold·ing** *adj. & n.*

stock·i·net (stok′i·net′) *n.* An elastic knitted fabric, machine-made and used for undergarments, stockings, etc. Also **stock′i·nette′**. [Alter. of *stockinget* < STOCKING + -ET]

stock·ing (stok′ing) *n.* **1.** A close-fitting woven or knitted covering for the foot and leg. **2.** Something resembling such a covering. — **in one's stocking feet** Wearing one's stockings or socks, but no shoes. [< STOCK, in obs. sense of "a stocking" + -ING[3]] — **stock′inged** (-ingd) *adj.*

stock·man (stok′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** One who raises, owns, or has charge of livestock; a cattleman. **2.** One who works in a stockroom, warehouse, etc.

stock market **1.** A stock exchange. **2.** The business transacted in such a place: The *stock market* was active. **3.** The rise and fall of prices of stocks and bonds.

stock·pile (stok′pīl) *n.* A storage pile of materials or supplies. Also **stock pile.** — *v.t. & v.i.* **·piled, ·pil·ing** To accumulate a supply or stockpile (of).

stock raising Breeding and raising of livestock.

stock·room (stok′rōōm′) *n.* A room where reserve stocks of goods are stored. Also **stock room.**

stock-still (stok′stil′) *adj.* Still as a post; motionless.

stock·y (stok′ē) *adj.* **stock·i·er, stock·i·est** Solidly built, thickset, and usu. short. — **stock′i·ly** *adv.* — **stock′i·ness** *n.*

stock·yard (stok′yärd′) *n.* A large yard where cattle, sheep, pigs, etc., are kept ready for shipping or slaughter.

stodg·y (stoj′ē) *adj.* **stodg·i·er, stodg·i·est** **1.** Dull, stupid, and commonplace. **2.** Crammed full; distended; bulky. **3.** Indigestible and heavy: said of food. **4.** Thickset; stocky. — **stodg′i·ly** *adv.* — **stodg′i·ness** *n.*

sto·gy (stō′gē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** A long, slender, inexpensive cigar. **2.** A stout, heavy boot or shoe. Also **sto′gey, sto′gie.** [Earlier *stoga* < (CONE)STOGA (WAGON), because their drivers wore heavy boots and smoked coarse cigars]

sto·ic (stō′ik) *n.* A person apparently unaffected by pleasure or pain. — *adj.* Indifferent to pleasure or pain; impassive. Also **sto′i·cal.** — **sto′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **sto′i·cal·ness** *n.*

Sto·ic (stō′ik) *n.* A member of a school of Greek philosophy founded by Zeno about 308 B.C., holding that wisdom lies in being superior to passion, joy, grief, etc. and in unperturbed submission to the divine will. — *adj.* Of the Stoics or Stoicism. [< L < Gk. < *Stoa* (*Poikilē*) (Painted) Porch, the colonnade at Athens where Zeno taught]

sto·i·cism (stō′ə·siz′əm) *n.* Indifference to pleasure or pain; stoicalness.

Sto·i·cism (stō′ə·siz′əm) *n.* The doctrines of the Stoics.

stoke (stōk) *v.t. & v.i.* **stoked, stok·ing** To supply (a furnace) with fuel; stir up or tend (a fire or furnace). [Back formation < STOKER]

stoke·hold (stōk′hōld′) *n. Naut.* The furnace room of a steamship.

stoke·hole (stōk′hōl′) *n.* **1.** The space about the mouth of a furnace of the mouth itself. **2.** A stokehold.

stok·er (stō′kər) *n.* **1.** One who supplies fuel to a furnace; a fireman on a locomotive, etc. **2.** A device for feeding coal to a furnace. [< Du. < *stoken* to stir a fire]

stole[1] (stōl) *n.* **1.** *Eccl.* A long, narrow band of decorated cloth worn about the shoulders by officiating clergymen. **2.** A long scarf worn about the shoulders by women. [OE < L < Gk. *stolē* garment] — **stoled** (stōld) *adj.*

stole[2] (stōl) Past tense of STEAL.

sto·len (stō′lən) Past participle of STEAL.

stol·id (stol′id) *adj.* Having or showing little feeling or perception; impassive; dull. [< L *stolidus* dull] — **sto·lid·i·ty** (stə·lid′ə·tē), **stol′id·ness** *n.* — **stol′id·ly** *adv.*

sto·ma (stō′mə) *n.* · *pl.* **sto·ma·ta** (stō′mə·tə, stom′ə·tə) **1.** *Bot.* A minute orifice or pore in the epidermis of plants, esp., of leaves and stems. **2.** *Biol.* **a** An aperture in the walls of blood vessels or in serous membranes. **b** A mouthlike opening in nematodes. [< NL < Gk. *stoma* mouth]

-stoma See -STOME.

stom·ach (stum′ək) *n.* **1.** The pouchlike, highly vascular enlargement of the alimentary canal, situated in man and vertebrates between the esophagus and the small intestine, and serving as one of the principal organs of digestion. ◆ Collateral adjective: *gastric*. **2.** Any digestive cavity. **3.** Loosely, the abdomen or belly. **4.** Desire for food; appetite. **5.** Any desire or inclination. — *v.t.* **1.** To put up with; endure. **2.** To take into and retain in the stomach; digest. [< OF < L < Gk. < *stoma* mouth]

stom·ach·er (stum′ək·ər) *n.* A former ornamental article of dress, worn over the breast and stomach.

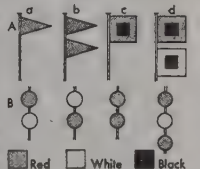
sto·mach·ic (stō·mak′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the stomach. **2.** Beneficial to or stimulating the activity of the stomach. Also **stom·ach·al** (stum′ək·əl), **sto·mach′i·cal.** — *n.* Any medicine strengthening or stimulating the stomach.

sto·ma·ta (stō′mə·tə, stom′ə·tə) Plural of STOMA.
stomato- *combining form* Of, like, or pertaining to the mouth. Also, before vowels, **stomat-**. [< Gk. *stoma, stomatos* mouth]
sto·ma·tous (stō′mə·təs, stom′ə-) *adj.* Having a stoma or stomata.
-stome *combining form* Mouth; mouthlike opening: *peristome.* Also spelled *-stoma.* [< Gk. *stoma* mouth]
-stomous *combining form* Having a (specified kind of) mouth: *microstomous.* Also **-stomatous.** [< Gk. *stoma, stomatos* mouth]
stomp (stomp) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To tread heavily or violently (upon); press down. **2.** *Dial.* To stamp. — *n.* A dance involving a heavy and lively step. [Var. of STAMP]
-stomy *combining form Surg.* An operation to form an artificial opening for or into (a specified organ or part): *colostomy.* [< Gk. *stoma* mouth]
stone (stōn) *n.* **1.** The hard, nonmetallic mineral or earthy matter of which rock is composed. **2.** A small piece of rock, as a pebble. **3.** Rock, or a piece of rock that has been hewn or shaped. **4.** A precious stone; gem. **5.** Anything resembling a stone in shape or hardness: a *hailstone.* **6.** A gravestone. **7.** A grindstone or millstone. **8.** *Pathol.* A stony concretion in the bladder, or a disease characterized by such concretions. **9.** *Bot.* The hard covering of the kernel in a fruit. **10.** (*pl.* **stone**) In England, 14 pounds avoirdupois. — *adj.* **1.** Made of stone: a *stone* ax. **2.** Made of coarse hard earthenware: a *stone* bottle. — *v.t.* **stoned, ston·ing** **1.** To hurl stones at; pelt or kill with stones. **2.** To remove the stones or pits from. **3.** To furnish or line, as a well, with stone. [OE *stān*] — **ston′er** *n.*
Stone Age The earliest known period in human culture when stone implements and weapons were used.
stone-blind (stōn′blīnd′) *adj.* Totally blind.
stone-broke (stōn′brōk′) *adj. Informal* Without any money; having no funds. Also **ston′y-broke′** (stō′nē-).
stone·crop (stōn′krop′) *n.* Any of various plants having small fleshy leaves and yellow flowers, often grown in rock gardens.
stone·cut·ter (stōn′kut′ər) *n.* One who or that which cuts stone; especially, a machine for facing stone.
stone-deaf (stōn′def′) *adj.* Completely deaf.
Stone·henge (stōn′henj) A prehistoric structure on Salisbury Plain, England, consisting primarily of great circles of huge, dressed stones.

STONEHENGE

stone·ma·son (stōn′mā′sən) *n.* One who prepares and lays stones in building. — **stone′ma′son·ry** (-rē) *n.*
stone's throw A short distance.
stone·ware (stōn′wâr′) *n.* A variety of very hard pottery, made from siliceous clay or clay mixed with flint or sand.
stone·work (stōn′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** Work concerned with cutting or setting stone; also, something made of stone. **2.** *pl.* A place where stone is prepared for masonry. — **stone′·work′er** *n.*
ston·y (stō′nē) *adj.* **ston·i·er, ston·i·est** **1.** Abounding in stone. **2.** Made or consisting of stone. **3.** Hard as stone. **4.** Unfeeling or inflexible. **5.** Converting into stone; petrifying. — **ston′i·ly** *adv.* — **ston′·i·ness** *n.*
stood (stōōd) Past tense and past participle of STAND.
stooge (stōōj) *Informal n.* **1.** An actor placed in the audience to heckle a comedian on the stage. **2.** An actor who feeds lines to the principal comedian, acts as a foil for his jokes, etc. **3.** Anyone who acts as or is the tool or dupe of another. — *v.i.* **stooged, stoog·ing** To act as a stooge: usually with *for.* [Origin unknown]
stool (stōōl) *n.* **1.** A backless and armless seat, high or low, for one person. **2.** A low bench or support for the feet or for the knees in kneeling. **3.** A seat used in defecating; a privy. **4.** The matter evacuated from the bowels at each movement. **5.** *Bot.* **a** A stump or root from which suckers or sprouts shoot up. **b** The shoots from such a root or stump. **6.** A decoy. — *v.i.* **1.** To send up shoots or suckers. **2.** To decoy wild fowl with a stool. **3.** To void feces. **4.** *U.S. Slang* To be a stool pigeon. [OE *stōl*]
stool pigeon **1.** A living or artificial pigeon attached to a perch to decoy others. **2.** *U.S. Slang* An informer or spy, esp. for the police.
stoop[1] (stōōp) *v.i.* **1.** To bend or lean the body forward and down; bow; crouch. **2.** To stand or walk with the upper part of the body habitually bent forward; slouch. **3.** To bend; lean; sink, as a tree. **4.** To lower or degrade oneself: to *stoop* to cheating. **5.** To swoop, as a hawk on prey. — *v.t.* **6.** To bend (one's head, shoulders, etc.) forward. — *n.* **1.** An act of stooping; a slouch. **2.** A habitual forward inclination of the head and shoulders. **3.** A decline from dignity or superiority. **4.** A swoop. [OE *stūpian*]
stoop[2] (stōōp) *n. U.S.* **1.** Originally, a platform at the door of a house approached by steps and having seats. **2.** A small porch at the entrance to a house. [< Du. *stoep*]
stoop[3] (stōōp) See STOUP.
stop (stop) *v.* **stopped** or (*Chiefly Poetic*) **stopt, stop·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To bring (something in motion) to a halt; arrest the progress of. **2.** To prevent the doing or completion of. **3.** To prevent (a person) from doing something; restrain. **4.** To keep back, withhold, or cut off, as wages or supplies. **5.** To cease doing; desist from. **6.** To intercept in transit, as a letter. **7.** To block up, obstruct, or clog (a passage, road, etc.): often with *up.* **8.** To cover over, or otherwise close, as a hole, cavity, etc. **9.** To close (a bottle, barrel, etc.) with a cork, plug, or other stopper. **10.** To stanch (a wound, etc.). **11.** To defeat; also, to kill. **12.** *Music* To press down (a string) on the finger board, or to close (a hole) in order to vary the pitch produced by an instrument; finger. **13.** To punctuate. **14.** In boxing, etc., to parry. — *v.i.* **15.** To come to a halt; cease progress or motion. **16.** To cease doing something; pause or desist. **17.** To come to an end. — **to stop off** *U.S. Informal* To cease traveling temporarily before reaching one's destination. — **to stop over** *U.S. Informal* **1.** To stay at a place temporarily. **2.** To interrupt a journey; make a stopover. — *n.* **1.** The act of stopping, or the state of being stopped; a halt; pause; end. **2.** That which stops or limits the range or time of a movement: a camera *stop.* **3.** An obstruction or obstacle. **4.** *Music* **a** The stopping of a string or hole of an instrument. **b** In an organ or harpsichord, a knob controlling a register of pipes or strings; also the register so controlled. **5.** *Brit.* A punctuation mark, as a period. **6.** In telegrams and cablegrams, the word *stop* spelled out to indicate a punctuation mark. **7.** In joinery, a block, pin, or the like to check sliding motion, as of a drawer. **8.** *Phonet.* **a** Complete blockage of the breath stream (implosion), as with the lips or tongue, followed by a sudden release (plosion). **b** A consonant so produced, as *p, b, t, d, k,* and *g.* [OE *-stoppian,* as in *forstoppian* to stop up]
stop·cock (stop′kok′) *n.* A faucet or short pipe having a valve for stopping or regulating the passage of fluids.
stope (stōp) *Mining n.* An excavation from which the ore is removed in a series of steps. — *v.t. & v.i.* **stoped, stop·ing** To excavate in stopes. [Appar. akin to STEP]
stop-gap (stop′gap′) *n.* **1.** That which stops a gap. **2.** Something improvised to fill a need temporarily; an expedient. — *adj.* That serves as a stopgap.
stop·light (stop′līt) *n.* **1.** The red light on a traffic light. **2.** A red light on the rear of a motor vehicle that shines upon application of the brakes.
stop order An order to an agent or broker to buy or sell a stock at the market only when it reaches a specified price.
stop-o·ver (stop′ō′vər) *n.* **1.** The act of staying in a place for a brief period, esp. while traveling. **2.** The act of interrupting a journey without paying additional fare, as by taking a later train. Also **stop′-off′** (-ôf′, -of′).
stop·page (stop′ij) *n.* **1.** The act of stopping, or the state of being stopped. **2.** An obstruction of some kind; block.
stop payment An order to a bank to refuse payment on a certain check.
stop·per (stop′ər) *n.* **1.** Something that stops up or closes, as a plug or cork. **2.** One who or that which stops or checks a movement, action, etc. — *v.t.* To close with a stopper.
stop·ple (stop′əl) *n.* A stopper, plug, cork, or bung. — *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To close with or as with a stopple. [ME *stoppel,* prob. < *stoppen* to stop]
stopt (stopt) Alternative, chiefly poetic, past tense and past participle of STOP.
stop·watch (stop′woch′) *n.* A watch that has a hand indicating fractions of a second and that may be instantaneously started or stopped, used for timing races, etc.
stor·age (stôr′ij, stō′rij) *n.* **1.** The depositing of articles in a warehouse for safekeeping. **2.** Space for storing goods. **3.** A charge for storing. **4.** The charging of a storage battery.
storage battery One or more secondary cells arranged as a single source of direct current and capable of being recharged on reversal of the current.
storage cell *Electr.* A secondary cell.
store (stôr, stōr) *v.t.* **stored, stor·ing** **1.** To put away for future use; accumulate. **2.** To furnish or supply; provide. **3.** To place in a warehouse or other place of deposit for safekeeping. — *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A place where merchandise of any kind is kept for sale. **2.** That which is stored or laid up against future need. **3.** *pl.* Supplies, as of arms, or clothing. **4.** A place where commodities are stored; warehouse. — **in store** Set apart for the future; forthcoming; impending. — **to set store by** To value or esteem; regard. [< OF < L *instaurare* to restore, erect]
store·house (stôr′hous′, stōr′-) *n.* **1.** A building in which goods are stored; warehouse. **2.** A large or inexhaustible fund; reservoir: a *storehouse* of ideas.
store·keep·er (stôr′kē′pər, stōr′-) *n.* **1.** A person who keeps a retail store or shop; shopkeeper. **2.** One who has charge of stores or supplies.

store·room (stôr′ro͞om′, -ro͝om′, stōr′-) *n.* A room in which things are stored, as supplies.
sto·rey (stôr′ē, stō′rē) See STORY².
sto·ried¹ (stôr′ēd, stō′rēd) *adj.* Having or consisting of stories, as a building: usu. in compounds: a six-*storied* house. Also **sto′reyed.**
sto·ried² (stôr′ēd, stō′rēd) *adj.* **1.** Having a notable history. **2.** Related in a story. **3.** Ornamented with designs representing scenes from history or story.
stork (stôrk) *n.* Any of a family of large wading birds with long necks and long legs. [OE *storc*]
storm (stôrm) *n.* **1.** A disturbance of the atmosphere, generally a great whirling motion of the air, accompanied by rain, snow, etc. **2.** *Meteorol.* In the Beaufort scale, a wind force of the 11th degree. **3.** A furious flight or shower of objects, esp. of missiles. **4.** A violent outburst, as of passion or excitement: a *storm* of applause. **5.** *Mil.* A violent and rapid assault on a fortified place. **6.** A violent commotion, as in politics, society, or domestic life. — *v.i.* **1.** To blow with violence; rain, snow, hail, etc., heavily: used impersonally: It *stormed* all day. **2.** To be very angry; rage. **3.** To move or rush with violence or rage. — *v.t.* **4.** *Mil.* To take or try to take by storm. [OE]
storm-bound (stôrm′bound′) *adj.* Delayed, confined, or cut off from communications because of a storm.
storm center **1.** *Meteorol.* The center or area of lowest pressure and comparative calm in a cyclonic storm. **2.** The central point of a heated argument; the focus of any trouble.
storm door A strong outer door for added protection during storms and inclement weather.
storm petrel Any of certain small petrels of the North Atlantic, thought to portend storm; Mother Carey's chicken: also called *stormy petrel.*
storm trooper In Germany, a member of the Nazi party militia unit, the *Sturmabteilung*: also called *Brown Shirt.*
storm warning A signal, as a flag or light, used to warn mariners of coming storm. Also **storm signal.**
storm window An extra window outside the ordinary one as a protection against storms or for greater insulation.
storm·y (stôr′mē) *adj.* **storm·i·er, storm·i·est** **1.** Characterized by or subject to storms; tempestuous. **2.** Characterized by violent emotions or actions: a *stormy* life. — **storm′i·ly** *adv.* — **storm′i·ness** *n.*
stormy petrel **1.** The storm petrel. **2.** One who portends trouble or discord, as by rebelling against accepted ideas, practices, etc.
sto·ry¹ (stôr′ē, stō′rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** A narrative or recital of an event or series of events, whether real or fictitious. **2.** A narrative, usu. of fictitious events, intended to entertain a reader or hearer. **3.** A short story. **4.** A report. **5.** A news article in a newspaper or magazine; also, the material for such an article. **6.** An anecdote. **7.** *Informal* A lie. **8.** The series of events in a novel, play, etc. — **Syn.** See LIE². — *v.t.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** **1.** To relate as a story. **2.** To adorn with designs representing scenes from history, legend, etc. [< OF < L *historia* an account]



STORM WARNINGS
A Daylight. *B* Night. *a* Small-craft warning. *b* Gale. *c* Whole gale. *d* Hurricane.

sto·ry² (stôr′ē, stō′rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** A horizontal division in a building comprising the space between two successive floors. **2.** Habitable rooms on the same level. Also, *Chiefly Brit.*, *storey.* [Special use of STORY¹; ? from earlier sense of "a tier of painted windows or sculptures that narrated an event"]
story line The rough plot of a film, play, novel, etc.
sto·ry-tell·er (stôr′ē-tel′ər, stō′rē-) *n.* **1.** One who relates stories. **2.** *Informal* A liar. — **sto′ry-tell′ing** *n.* & *adj.*
stoup (stōōp) *n.* **1.** *Eccl.* A basin for holy water at the entrance of a church. **2.** *Scot.* A pail, cup, etc.; also, its contents. Also spelled *stoop, stowp.* [< ON *staup* bucket]
stout (stout) *adj.* **1.** Strong or firm of structure or material; sound; tough. **2.** Determined; resolute. **3.** Fat. **4.** Substantial; solid: *stout* fare. **5.** Having muscular strength; robust. **6.** Proud; stubborn. — *n.* **1.** A stout person. **2.** A very dark porter or ale. [< OF *estout* bold, strong] — **stout′ly** *adv.* — **stout′ness** *n.*
stout-heart·ed (stout′här′tid) *adj.* Brave; courageous. — **stout′heart′ed·ly** *adv.* — **stout′heart′ed·ness** *n.*
stove¹ (stōv) *n.* **1.** An apparatus, usu. of metal, in which gas, oil, electricity, etc., is consumed for heating or cooking. **2.** A pottery kiln. [OE *stofa* heated room]
stove² (stōv) Alternative past tense and past participle of STAVE.
stove-pipe (stōv′pīp′) *n.* **1.** A pipe, usu. of thin sheet iron, for conducting the smoke and gases of combustion from a stove to a chimney flue. **2.** *U.S. Informal* A tall silk hat: also **stovepipe hat.**
stow (stō) *v.t.* **1.** To place or arrange compactly; pack. **2.** To fill by packing. **3.** To have room for; hold: said of a room, receptacle, etc. **4.** *Slang* To stop; cease. — **to stow away** **1.** To put in a place of safekeeping, hiding, etc. **2.** To be a stowaway. [ME < OE *stōw* place]
stow·age (stō′ij) *n.* **1.** The act or manner of stowing, or the state of being stowed. **2.** Space for stowing goods; also, the goods stowed. **3.** Charge for stowing goods.
stow·a·way (stō′ə-wā′) *n.* One who conceals himself, as on a vessel, to obtain free passage or evade officials.
stowp (stōōp) See STOUP.
stra·bis·mus (strə-biz′məs) *n.* *Pathol.* A condition in which the eyes cannot be simultaneously focused on the same spot. When one or both eyes turn inward, the patient is *crosseyed*, when outward, *walleyed.* [< NL < Gk. *strabizein* to squint] — **stra·bis′mal, stra·bis′mic** or **·mi·cal** *adj.*
strad·dle (strad′l) *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.i.* **1.** To stand, walk, or sit with the legs spread apart. **2.** To stand wide apart: said of the legs. **3.** *Informal* To appear to favor both sides of an issue. — *v.t.* **4.** To stand, walk, or sit with the legs on either side of. **5.** To spread (the legs) wide apart. **6.** *Informal* To appear to favor both sides of (an issue). **7.** *Mil.* To fire shots both beyond and in front of (a target) so as to determine the range — *n.* **1.** The act of straddling. **2.** The space between the feet or legs of one who straddles. **3.** A noncommittal or vacillating position on any issue. **4.** In the securities trade, a transaction in which the holder obtains the option of either delivering or buying a certain amount of stock or other commodity at a fixed price within a stipulated period. [OE *strīdan* to stride] — **strad′dler** *n.* — **strad′dling·ly** *adv.*
Strad·i·var·i·us (strad′i·vâr′ē·əs) *n.* One of the violins produced by **Antonio Stra·di·va·ri** (strä′dē·vä·rē), 1644?–1737. Italian violinmaker noted for the fine quality of his instruments.
strafe (sträf, sträf) *v.t.* **strafed, straf·ing** **1.** To attack (troops, emplacements, etc.) with machine-gun fire from low-flying airplanes. **2.** To bombard or shell heavily. **3.** *Slang* To punish. — *n.* A heavy bombardment. [< G *strafen* to punish] — **straf′er** *n.*
strag·gle (strag′əl) *v.i.* **·gled, ·gling** **1.** To stray from or lag behind the main body. **2.** To wander aimlessly about. **3.** To occur at irregular intervals. [? Freq. of obs. *strake* to move, go about] — **strag′gler** *n.*
strag·gly (strag′lē) *adj.* **·gli·er, ·gli·est** Scattered or spread out irregularly.
straight (strāt) *adj.* **1.** Extending uniformly in one direction without curve or bend. **2.** Free from kinks; not curly. **3.** Not stooped or inclined; erect, as in posture. **4.** Not deviating from truth, fairness, or honesty. **5.** Clear; frank; direct. **6.** Free from obstruction; uninterrupted; unbroken. **7.** Correctly kept, ordered, or arranged: Are the facts *straight* in your mind? **8.** Sold without discount for number or quantity taken. **9.** *Informal* Strictly adhering to a particular party or policy: a *straight* Democrat. **10.** In poker, consisting of five cards forming a sequence: a *straight* flush. **11.** Having nothing added; undiluted: — *n.* **1.** A straight part or piece. **2.** The part of a racecourse between the winning post and the last turn. **3.** In poker, a numerical sequence of five cards not of the same suit, or a hand containing this. **4.** A straight line. — *adv.* **1.** In a straight line or a direct course. **2.** Closely in line; correspondingly. **3.** At once; straightway. — **to go straight** To reform after a criminal career. [ME < OE *streccan* to stretch] — **straight′ly** *adv.* — **straight′ness** *n.*
straight angle *Geom.* An angle of 180°.
straight-a·way (strāt′ə-wā′) *adj.* Having no curve or turn. — *n.* A straight course or track. — *adv.* At once.
straight-edge (strāt′ej′) *n.* A bar of wood or metal having one edge true to a straight line, used for ruling, etc.
straight-en (strāt′n) *v.t.* **1.** To make straight. **2.** To lay out (a corpse). — *v.i.* **3.** To become straight. — **to straighten out** To restore order to; set right; rectify. — **to straighten up** **1.** To make neat; tidy. **2.** To stand in erect posture. — **straight′en·er** *n.*
straight face A face that betrays no emotion, esp. amusement. — **straight-faced** (strāt′fāst′) *adj.*
straight flush See under FLUSH².
straight-for·ward (strāt′fôr′wərd) *adj.* **1.** Proceeding in a straight course. **2.** Honest; frank. — *adv.* In a straight course or direct manner: also **straight′for′wards.** — **straight′for′ward·ly** *adv.* — **straight′for′ward·ness** *n.*
straight man *U.S. Informal* An entertainer who acts as a foil for a comedian.
straight-out (strāt′out′) *adj.* *Informal* **1.** Showing the

true sentiments or feelings; unreserved. **2.** Real; genuine. **3.** Uncompromising; all-out: a *straight-out* Republican.

straight ticket **1.** A political party ballot or ticket that presents the regular party candidates without addition or change. **2.** A ballot cast for all the candidates of one party.

straight·way (strāt′wā′) *adv.* Immediately; straightaway.

strain[1] (strān) *v.t.* **1.** To exert to the utmost. **2.** To injure by overexertion; sprain. **3.** To pull or draw tight; stretch. **4.** To stretch beyond the true intent, proper limit, etc.: to *strain* a point. **5.** To pass through a filtering agent or strainer. **6.** To remove by filtration. **7.** To alter or deform in structure or shape as a result of pressure or stress. **8.** To embrace tightly; hug. — *v.i.* **9.** To make violent efforts; strive. **10.** To be or become wrenched or twisted. **11.** To filter, trickle, or percolate. — **to strain at** **1.** To push or pull with violent efforts. **2.** To strive for. **3.** To scruple or balk at accepting. — *n.* **1.** An act of straining, or the state of being strained. **2.** The injury resulting from excessive tension or effort. **3.** Severe mental or emotional tension. [< OF < L *stringere* to bind tight]

strain[2] (strān) *n.* **1.** Line of descent, or the individuals, collectively, in that line; race; stock. **2.** Inborn or hereditary tendency; trace; element. **3.** *Biol.* A special line of animals or plants bred from a certain species or variety. **4.** *Often pl.* A passage of music or other sound when heard. **5.** Prevailing tone, style, or manner; mood. [? Var. of ME *strene*, OE *strēon* offspring]

strain·er (strā′nər) *n.* A utensil or device, containing meshes or porous parts, through which liquids are strained.

strait (strāt) *n.* **1.** *Often pl.* A narrow passage of water connecting two larger bodies of water. **2.** *Often pl.* A position of perplexity or distress. — *adj.* **1.** *Archaic* Narrow. **2.** *Archaic* Righteous; strict. **3.** Difficult. [< OF < L *stringere* to bind tight] — **strait′ly** *adv.* — **strait′ness** *n.*

strait·en (strāt′n) *v.t.* **1.** To make strait or narrow. **2.** To embarrass, as in finances; also, to distress.

strait-ened (strāt′nd) *adj.* **1.** Contracted; narrowed. **2.** Suffering privation or hardship, as from lack of money.

strait jacket A tight jacket of strong canvas, for confining the arms of violent patients.

strait-laced (strāt′lāst′) *adj.* Strict, esp. in morals.

strake (strāk) *n. Naut.* A breadth of planking or line of plating on a vessel's hull from stem to stern: also called *streak*. [Appar. akin to STRETCH; infl. in meaning by STREAK]

strand[1] (strand) *n.* A shore or beach, esp. that portion between high and low tides — *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To drive or run aground. **2.** To leave or be left in straits or difficulties: usu. in the passive. [OE *strand*]

strand[2] (strand) *n.* **1.** One of the principal twists or members of a rope. **2.** A fiber, hair, or the like. **3.** Anything plaited or twisted. **4.** A string of beads or pearls — *v.t.* **1.** To break a strand of (a rope). **2.** To make by twisting strands. [? < OF *estran* < Gmc.]

strange (strānj) *adj.* **strang·er, strang·est** **1.** Previously unknown, unseen, or unheard of; unfamiliar. **2.** Not according to the ordinary way; unaccountable; remarkable. **3.** Of a different class, character, or kind. **4.** Foreign; alien. **5.** Distant in manner; reserved; shy. **6.** Inexperienced; unaccustomed. — *adv.* In a strange manner. [< OF < L *extraneus* foreign] — **strange′ly** *adv.* — **strange′ness** *n.*

stran·ger (strān′jər) *n.* **1.** One who is not an acquaintance. **2.** An unfamiliar visitor; guest. **3.** A foreigner. **4.** One unversed in or unfamiliar with something specified: with *to*.

stran·gle (strang′gəl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To choke to death; throttle; suffocate. **2.** To repress; suppress. **3.** To inhibit the action or development of — *v.i.* **4.** To suffer or die from strangulation. [< F < L < Gk. *strangalē* halter < *strangos* twisted] — **stran′gler** *n.*

strangle hold **1.** In wrestling, a usu. illegal hold that chokes one's opponent. **2.** Any influence or power that chokes freedom or progress.

stran·gu·late (strang′gyə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To strangle. **2.** *Pathol.* To compress, contract, or obstruct, esp. so as to cut off flow of a fluid. — *adj.* Strangulated. [See STRANGLE.] — **stran′gu·la′tion** *n.*

strap (strap) *n.* **1.** A long, narrow, and flexible strip of leather, etc., usu. having a buckle or other fastener, for binding about objects. **2.** A razor strop. **3.** Something resembling a strap and used as a fastening or support. **4.** A thin metal band. — *v.t.* **strapped, strap·ping** **1.** To fasten or bind with a strap. **2.** To beat with a strap. **3.** To embarrass financially. **4.** To sharpen or strop. [Var. of STROP] — **strap′less** *adj.* — **strap′per** *n.*

strap·hang·er (strap′hang·ər) *n.* A standee on a bus, etc., esp. one who holds on to an overhead strap.

strap·ping (strap′ing) *adj. Informal* Large and robust.

stra·ta (strā′tə, strat′ə) Alternative plural of STRATUM.

strat·a·gem (strat′ə·jəm) *n.* **1.** A maneuver designed to deceive or outwit an enemy in war. **2.** A device for obtaining advantage; trick. [< F < L < Gk. < *stratos* army + *agein* to lead]

stra·te·gic (strə·tē′jik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to strategy. **2.** Characterized by, used in, or having relation to strategy. Also **stra·te′gi·cal, strat·e·get·ic** (strat′ə·jet′ik) or **·i·cal.** — **stra·te′gi·cal·ly, strat′e·get′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

stra·te·gics (strə·tē′jiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The art or science of strategy; generalship.

strat·e·gist (strat′ə·jist) *n.* One versed in strategy.

strat·e·gy (strat′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The science and art of conducting a military campaign on a broad scale: distinguished from *tactics*. **2.** The use of stratagem or artifice, as in business or politics. **3.** A plan or technique for achieving some end. [See STRATAGEM.]

strat·i·fy (strat′ə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To form or arrange in strata. **2.** To preserve (seeds) by spreading in alternating layers of earth and sand. — *v.i.* **3.** To form in strata. **4.** *Geol.* To be formed in strata, as rocks. **5.** *Sociol.* To form social groups at different levels as determined by class, caste, or status. [< F < Med.L < L *stratum* layer + *facere* to make] — **strat′i·fi·ca′tion** *n.*

stra·to·cu·mu·lus (strā′tō·kyōō′myə·ləs) *n. pl.* **·li** (-lī) *Meteorol.* Large globular masses of cloud (Symbol Sc), gray to black in color, disposed in waves, groups, or bands, and often covering the whole sky: also called *cumulostratus*. [< *strato-* (< STRATUS) + CUMULUS]

strat·o·pause (strat′ə·pôz) *n. Meteorol.* The zone of transition between the stratosphere and the mesosphere.

strat·o·sphere (strat′ə·sfir, strā′tə-) *n. Meteorol.* That portion of the atmosphere beginning at a height of about seven miles and characterized by a more or less uniform temperature. — **strat′o·spher′ic** (-sfir′ik, -sfer′-) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

stra·tum (strā′təm, strat′əm) *n. pl.* **·ta** (-tə) or **·tums** **1.** A natural or artificial layer, bed, or thickness. **2.** *Geol.* A more or less homogeneous layer of rock, serving to identify a geological group, system or series. **3.** Something corresponding to a layer, bed, or grade: a low *stratum* of society. [< L]

strat·us (strā′təs, strat′əs) *n. pl.* **·ti** (-tī) *Meteorol.* A cloud of foglike appearance, low-lying and arranged in a uniform layer. [< L, orig. pp. of *sternere* to spread]

straw (strô) *n.* **1.** A slender tube of paper, glass, etc., used to suck up a beverage. **2.** Stems or stalks of grain, collectively, after the grain has been thrashed out. **3.** A dry or ripened stalk. **4.** A mere trifle. — **the last straw** The final test of patience or endurance: from the phrase **the straw that broke the camel's back.** — **to clutch (grasp, catch,** etc.) **at a straw** To try in desperation any solution or expedient. — *adj.* **1.** Like or of straw. **2.** Of no value; worthless; sham. **3.** Made of straw. **4.** Yellowish. [OE *strēaw*]

straw·ber·ry (strô′ber′ē, -bər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The edible fruit of a stemless perennial herb of the rose family. **2.** The plant bearing this fruit. [ME *strauberi*]

strawberry blond A person having reddish blond hair.

straw color A pale yellow color, as of clean ripe straw. — **straw-col·ored** (strô′kul′ərd) *adj.*

straw vote An unofficial vote to test the strength of opposing candidates, determine group opinion, etc.

straw·y (strô′ē) *adj.* **straw·i·er, straw·i·est** **1.** Of or like straw. **2.** Covered or thatched with straw.

stray (strā) *v.i.* **1.** To wander from the proper course, an area, group, etc.; straggle; roam. **2.** To wander about; rove. **3.** To fail to concentrate; digress. **4.** To deviate from right or goodness; go astray. — *adj.* **1.** Having strayed; straying. **2.** Irregular; occasional; casual; unrelated. — *n.* **1.** A domestic animal that has strayed. **2.** A person who is lost or wanders aimlessly. **3.** The act of straying or wandering. [< OF *estraier* to wander about, ult. < L *extra vagare* to wander outside] — **stray′er** *n.*

streak (strēk) *n.* **1.** A long, narrow, somewhat irregularly shaped mark, line, or stripe: a *streak* of lightning. **2.** A vein or trace; dash: a *streak* of meanness; also, a transient mood; whim. **3.** A period of time; a spell. **4.** A strake. **5.** A layer or strip: meat with a *streak* of fat. — *v.t.* **1.** To mark with a streak; form streaks in or on; stripe. — *v.i.* **2.** To form a streak or streaks. **3.** To move at great speed. [OE *strica*] — **streaked** (strēkt) *adj.*

streak·y (strē′kē) *adj.* **streak·i·er, streak·i·est** **1.** Marked with or occurring in streaks. **2.** Of variable quality or character. — **streak′i·ly** *adv.* — **streak′i·ness** *n.*

stream (strēm) *n.* **1.** A current or flow of water or other fluid. **2.** Anything continuously flowing, moving, or passing, as people. **3.** A trend; drift. **4.** Anything issuing out or flowing from a source. — *v.i.* **1.** To pour forth or issue in a stream. **2.** To pour forth a stream: eyes *streaming* with tears. **3.** To move in continuous succession. **4.** To float with a waving movement, as a flag. **5.** To move with a trail of light, as a meteor. — *v.t.* **6.** To emit or exude. **7.** To cause (a flag, etc.) to stretch forth; display. [OE *strēam*] — **stream′y** *adj.*

stream·er (strē′mər) *n.* **1.** An object that streams forth, or hangs extended. **2.** A long, narrow flag or standard. **3.** A shaft of light, such as shoots up from the horizon. **4.** A newspaper headline that runs across the whole page.

stream·let (strēm′lit) *n.* A small stream; rivulet.
stream·line (strēm′lin′) *n.* **1.** *Physics* **a** The course of a fluid in which every particle maintains an identical speed and direction of flow; esp., a course free of turbulence or eddies. **b** The path traversed by one particle in such a course. **2.** Any shape or contour designed to offer minimum resistance to fluid flow. — *adj.* Designating an uninterrupted flow or drift. — *v.t.* **·lined, ·lin·ing** **1.** To design with a streamlined shape. **2.** To make more simple, efficient, or up to date. — **stream′lined′** *adj.*
stream of consciousness *Psychol.* The series of individual conscious states moving continuously on in time as though in a stream.
street (strēt) *n.* A public way in a city or town, with buildings on one or both sides; also, the roadway for vehicles, between sidewalks. [OE *strǣt* < LL *strata* (*via*) paved (road)]
street·car (strēt′kär′) *n.* A public passenger car of an electric railway that runs on tracks set into the streets: also called *trolley, trolley car, Brit., tramcar.*
street·walk·er (strēt′wô′kər) *n.* A prostitute who solicits in the streets. — **street′walk′ing** *n. & adj.*
strength (strengkth, strength) *n.* **1.** Muscular power; vigor. **2.** Durability; toughness. **3.** Power in general, or a source of power. **4.** Binding force or validity, as of a law. **5.** Vigor or force of intellect, moral power, style, etc. **6.** Available numerical force in a military unit or other organization. **7.** Degree of intensity; vehemence: *strength* of passion. **8.** The degree of intensity or concentration, as of a color, odor, etc. **9.** Potency, as of a drug, chemical, or liquor. — **on the strength of** Based on or in reliance or dependence on. [OE *strengthu* < *strang* strong]
strength·en (strengk′thən, streng′-) *v.t.* **1.** To make strong. **2.** To encourage; hearten; animate. — *v.i.* **3.** To become or grow strong or stronger. — **strength′en·er** *n.*
stren·u·ous (stren′yōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Necessitating or characterized by strong effort or exertion. **2.** Vigorously active or zealous. [< L *strenuus*] — **stren′u·ous·ly** *adv.* — **stren′u·os′i·ty** (-os′ə·tē), **stren′u·ous·ness** *n.*
strep·to·coc·cus (strep′tə·kok′əs) *n.* *pl.* **·coc·ci** (-kok′sī) Any of a genus of typically ovoid or spherical bacteria, grouped in long chains, including species causing many diseases. [< NL < Gk. *streptos* twisted + COCCUS] — **strep′·to·coc′cal** (-kok′əl), **strep′to·coc′cic** (-kok′sik) *adj.*
strep·to·my·cin (strep′tō·mī′sin) *n.* A potent antibiotic isolated from a moldlike organism. [< Gk. *streptos* twisted + *mykēs* fungus]
stress (stres) *n.* **1.** Special weight, importance, or significance: to lay *stress* on the classics. **2.** In prosody, an emphasis given to a specific word or syllable to indicate the metrical pattern. **3.** *Mech.* **a** Force exerted between contiguous portions of a body or bodies and generally expressed in pounds per square inch. **b** A force or system of forces that tends to produce deformation in a body. **4.** Influence exerted forcibly; pressure; compulsion. **5.** Emotional or intellectual strain or tension. **6.** *Phonet.* The relative force with which a sound, syllable, or word is uttered. — *v.t.* **1.** To subject to mechanical stress. **2.** To put stress or emphasis on; accent, as a syllable. **3.** To put into straits or difficulties; distress. [< OF < L *strictus*, pp. of *stringere* to draw tight] — **stress′ful** *adj.* — **stress′less** *adj.*
-stress *suffix of nouns* Feminine form of -STER: *songstress.*
stretch (strech) *v.t.* **1.** To extend or draw out, as to full length or width. **2.** To extend or draw out forcibly, esp. beyond normal or proper limits. **3.** To cause to reach, as from one place to another or over an area; extend. **4.** To put forth, hold out, or extend (the hand, an object, etc.): often with *out.* **5.** To tighten. **6.** To strain or exert to the utmost: to *stretch* every nerve. **7.** To make do with: to *stretch* one's salary with economies. — *v.i.* **8.** To reach or extend over an area or from one place to another. **9.** To become extended, esp. beyond normal or proper limits. **10.** To extend one's body or limbs, esp. to relieve stiffness. **11.** To lie down and extend one's limbs to full length: usu. with *out.* — *n.* **1.** The act of stretching, or the state of being stretched. **2.** Extent or reach of that which stretches. **3.** A continuous extent of space or time. **4.** In racing, the part of the track that, being straight, permits the greatest speed. **5.** A particular direction or course. **6.** *Slang* A term of imprisonment. — *adj.* Capable of stretching or of being stretched; elastic: *stretch* pants. [OE *streccan*] — **stretch′a·ble** *adj.* — **stretch′i·ness** *n.* — **stretch′y** *adj.*
stretch·er (strech′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which stretches. **2.** Any device for stretching, as for loosening the fit of gloves or shoes, for drying curtains, etc. **3.** A frame, as of stretched canvas, for carrying the wounded, sick, or dead; a litter. **4.** In masonry, a brick or stone lying lengthwise of a course. **5.** A tie beam in the frame of a building.
stretch-out (strech′out′) *n.* **1.** A system of industrial operation in which employees do more work without proportionate increase in pay. **2.** A slowdown practiced by employees so as to make the work last longer.
strew (strōō) *v.t.* **strewed, strewed** or **strewn, strew·ing** **1.** To spread about loosely or at random; scatter; sprinkle. **2.** To cover with something scattered or sprinkled. **3.** To be scattered over (a surface). [OE *strewian*]
stri·a (strī′ə) *n.* *pl.* **stri·ae** (strī′ē) **1.** A narrow streak, stripe, or band of distinctive color, structure, or texture, often parallel with others. **2.** *Geol.* A small groove, channel, or ridge on a rock surface, due to the action of glacier ice. [< L, groove]
stri·ate (strī′āt) *adj.* **1.** Having fine linear markings; striped or grooved. **2.** Constituting a stria or striae. Also **stri′at·ed.** — *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To mark with striae. [< L < *stria* groove] — **stri·a′tion** *n.*
strick·en (strik′ən) Alternative past participle of STRIKE. ◆ *Stricken* is current in American English in certain senses: *stricken* with grief; a remark *stricken* from the record. — *adj.* **1.** Strongly affected or afflicted; overcome, as by calamity or disease. **2.** Wounded, esp. by a missile. [OE *stricen*, pp. of *strīcan* to strike]
strict (strikt) *adj.* **1.** Observing or enforcing rules exactly; severe. **2.** Containing exact or severe rules or provisions; exacting. **3.** Rigorously enjoined, maintained, and observed. **4.** Exactly defined, distinguished, or applied. **5.** Complete; absolute: *strict* attention. [< L *strictus*, pp. of *stringere* to draw tight] — **strict′ly** *adv.* — **strict′ness** *n.*
stric·ture (strik′chər) *n.* **1.** Severe criticism. **2.** *Pathol.* An abnormal contraction of some duct or channel.
stride (strīd) *n.* **1.** A long and sweeping or measured step. **2.** The space passed over by such a step. **3.** A progressive movement by an animal, completed when all the feet are returned to the same relative positions they occupied at the beginning of the movement. **4.** A stage of progress. — **to hit one's stride** To attain one's normal speed. — **to make rapid strides** To make quick progress. — **to take (something) in one's stride** To do or react to (something) without undue effort or disturbance, as if part of one's normal activity. — *v.* **strode, strid·den, strid·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To walk with long steps, as from haste or pride. — *v.t.* **2.** To walk through, along, etc., with long steps. **3.** To pass over with a single stride. **4.** To straddle. [OE *strīdan*] — **strid′er** *n.*
stri·dent (strīd′nt) *adj.* Having or making a high, harsh sound; shrill; grating. [< L *stridens, -entis*, ppr. of *stridere* to creak] — **stri′dence, stri′den·cy** *n.* — **stri′dent·ly** *adv.*
strid·u·late (strij′ōō·lāt) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To make a shrill, creaking noise, as a cicada or cricket. [< NL *stridere* to rattle, rasp] — **strid′u·la′tion** *n.* — **strid′u·la·to′ry** (-lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* — **strid′u·lous** *adj.*
strife (strīf) *n.* **1.** Angry contention; fighting. **2.** Any contest for advantage or superiority. [< OF *estriver* to strive]
strike (strīk) *v.* **struck, struck** or, sometimes, **strick·en, strik·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To come into violent contact with; hit. **2.** To hit with a blow; smite. **3.** To deal (a blow, etc.). **4.** To cause to hit forcibly: He *struck* his hand on the table. **5.** To attack; assault. **6.** To remove, separate, or take off by or as by a blow or stroke: with *off, from,* etc.: *Strike* it from the record. **7.** To ignite (a match, etc.); also, to produce (a light, etc.) thus. **8.** To form by stamping, printing, etc. **9.** To indicate (a specified time) by the sound of a stroke, bell, etc. **10.** To fall upon; reach: A sound *struck* his ear. **11.** To arrive at; come upon: to *strike* a trail. **12.** To find: to *strike* oil. **13.** To affect suddenly or in a specified manner: He was *struck* speechless. **14.** To come to the mind of; occur to: An idea *strikes* me. **15.** To impress in a specified manner: He *strikes* me as an honest man. **16.** To attract the attention of; impress: The dress *struck* her fancy. **17.** To assume; take up: to *strike* an attitude. **18.** To cause to enter or penetrate deeply or suddenly: to *strike* dismay into one's heart. **19.** To lower or haul down, as a sail, or a flag in token of surrender. **20.** To cease working at in order to compel compliance to a demand, etc. **21.** In the theater, to dismantle (a set or scene). **22.** To make level (a measure of grain, etc.) **23.** To make and confirm, as a bargain. **24.** To harpoon (a whale). **25.** To hook (a fish that has taken the lure) by a sharp pull on the line. **26.** To arrive at by reckoning: to *strike* a balance. — *v.i.* **27.** To come into violent contact; hit. **28.** To deal or aim a blow or blows. **29.** To make an assault or attack. **30.** To make a sound by or as by means of a blow or blows. **31.** To be indicated by the sound of blows or strokes: Noon has just *struck.* **32.** To ignite. **33.** To run aground, as on a reef or shoal. **34.** To lower a flag in token of surrender or in salute. **35.** To come suddenly or unexpectedly; chance: with *on* or *upon.* **36.** To start and proceed: to *strike* for home. **37.** To move quickly; dart. **38.** To cease work in order to enforce demands, etc. **39.** To snatch at or swallow the lure: said of fish. ◆ See note un-

der STRICKEN. **— to strike camp** To take down the tents of a camp. **— to strike down** **1.** To fell with a blow. **2.** To affect disastrously; incapacitate completely. **— to strike dumb** To astonish; amaze. **— to strike home** **1.** To deal an effective blow. **2.** To have telling effect. **— to strike it rich** *Informal* **1.** To find a valuable vein or pocket of ore. **2.** To come into wealth or good fortune. **— to strike off** **1.** To remove or take off by or as by a blow or stroke. **2.** To cross out or erase by or as by a stroke of the pen. **3.** To deduct. **— to strike out** **1.** To strike off (def. 2). **2.** To aim a blow or blows. **3.** To make a start: *to strike out* on one's own. **4.** To originate; hit upon. **5.** In baseball: **a** To put out (the batter) by pitching three strikes. **b** To be put out because of having three strikes counted against one during a single turn at bat. **6.** In bowling, to complete a game by bowling three consecutive strikes. **— to strike up** **1.** To begin to play, sing, or sound, as a band or musical instrument. **2.** To start up; begin, as a friendship. **—** *n.* **1.** An act of striking or hitting; a blow. **2.** In baseball: **a** An unsuccessful attempt by the batter to hit the ball. **b** A pitched ball that passes over home plate not lower than the level of the batter's knees and not above that of his shoulders. **c** A foul bunt or any foul tip held by the catcher. **d** Any ball hit foul except when there have been two strikes. **3.** In bowling, the knocking down by a player of all the pins with the first bowl in any frame; also, the score so made: also called *ten-strike*: distinguished from *spare*. **4.** The quitting of work by a body of workers to enforce some demand. **5.** A new or unexpected discovery, as of oil or ore. **6.** Any unexpected or complete success. **7.** An air attack on a surface target. **8.** In fishing, a bite. [OE *strīcan* to stroke, move]

strike·bound (strīk′bound′) *adj.* Closed or immobilized by a strike: said of companies, equipment, workers, etc.

strike·break·er (strīk′brā′kər) *n.* One who takes the place of a workman on strike or who supplies workmen to take the place of strikers. **— strike′break′ing** *n.*

strike·out (strīk′out′) *n.* In baseball, an instance of striking out.

strik·er (strī′kər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which strikes. **2.** An employee who is on strike. **3.** The clapper of a bell, etc.

strik·ing (strī′king) *adj.* Notable; impressive. **— strik′ing·ly** *adv.* **— strik′ing·ness** *n.*

string (string) *n.* **1.** A slender line or strip, as of twine, cloth, leather, etc., thinner than a cord and thicker than a thread. **2.** The cord of a bow. **3.** Prepared wire or catgut for musical instruments. **4.** A stringlike organ or formation, as a vegetable fiber or fibers or an animal nerve or tendon. **5.** A thin cord upon which anything is strung; a row or series of things connected by a small cord: a *string* of pearls. **6.** A connected series or succession, as of things, acts, or events, sometimes implying unusual length: a *string* of lies. **7.** *U.S. Informal* A small collection of animals, esp. of racehorses. **8.** *pl.* Stringed instruments, esp. those of an orchestra; also, those who play on these. **9.** *Archit.* **a** A stringcourse. **b** A ramp or sidepiece supporting the steps of a stairway. **10.** In sports, a group of contestants ranked as to skill. **11.** *Usu. pl. Informal* A condition, limitation, or restriction attached to a proposition, gift, or donation. **— to pull strings** To manipulate or influence others to gain some advantage. **—** *v.* **strung, string·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To thread, as beads, on or as on a string. **2.** To fit with a string or strings, as a guitar. **3.** To cover, drape, or adorn with things attached to a string or strings. **4.** To tune the strings of (a musical instrument). **5.** To brace; strengthen. **6.** To make tense or nervous. **7.** To arrange or extend in a line or series. **8.** To remove the strings from (vegetables). **9.** *U.S. Informal* To hang: usu. with *up*. **10.** *Slang* To fool or deceive; hoax: often with *along*. **—** *v.i.* **11.** To extend, stretch, or proceed in a line or series. **12.** To form into strings. **— to string along (with)** *Informal* To follow with trust or confidence. [OE *streng*]

string bean **1.** Any of several varieties of beans cultivated for their edible pods. **2.** The pod itself.

string·board (string′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n. Archit.* A board serving as a support for the ends of steps in a staircase.

string·course (string′kôrs′, -kōrs′) *n. Archit.* A horizontal molding or ornamental course, as of brick or stone, usu. projecting along the face of a building.

stringed instrument (stringd) A musical instrument that produces its tones by means of one or more vibrating strings, as a violin, cello, etc. Also **string instrument.**

strin·gent (strin′jənt) *adj.* **1.** Requiring or compelling adherence to strict requirements; severe, as regulations. **2.** Hampered by obstructions or scarcity of money. **3.** Convincing; forcible. [< L *stringens, -entis*, ppr. of *stringere* to draw tight] **— strin′gen·cy** *n.* **— strin′gent·ly** *adv.*

string·er (string′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which strings. **2.** *Archit.* A heavy timber, generally horizontal, supporting other members of a structure. **3.** A lengthwise timber on which rails are laid, as distinguished from a crosstie. **4.** *Informal* One having a specified numerical rank or degree of proficiency, as on a team: a second *stringer*.

string·piece (string′pēs′) *n. Archit.* A heavy supporting timber forming the margin or edge of a framework.

string tie A very narrow necktie, often tied in a bow with the ends hanging loosely.

string·y (string′ē) *adj.* **string·i·er, string·i·est** **1.** Containing fibrous strings. **2.** Forming in strings; ropy. **3.** Having tough sinews. **— string′i·ly** *adv.* **— string′i·ness** *n.*

strip[1] (strip) *n.* **1.** A narrow piece, comparatively long, as of cloth, wood, etc. **2.** A number of stamps attached in a row. **3.** A narrow piece of land. **4.** An airstrip or landing strip. **—** *v.t.* **stripped, strip·ping** To cut or tear into strips. [? < MLG *strippe* strap]

strip[2] (strip) *v.* **stripped** (*Rare* **stript**), **strip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To pull the covering, clothing, etc., from; lay bare. **2.** To pull off (the covering or clothing). **3.** To rob or plunder. **4.** To make bare or empty. **5.** To remove; take away. **6.** To divest: He was *stripped* of his rank. **7.** *Mech.* To damage or break the teeth, thread, etc., of (a gear, bolt, or the like). **—** *v.i.* **8.** To remove one's clothing; undress. **9.** To undergo stripping. [ME < OE *-strīepan*, as in *bestrīepan* to despoil, plunder] **— strip′per** *n.*

stripe[1] (strīp) *n.* **1.** A line, band, or strip of different color, material, texture, etc., from the adjacent surface. **2.** Striped cloth. **3.** A piece of material or braid on the sleeve of a uniform to indicate rank, service, an award, etc.; a chevron. **4.** Distinctive quality or character; sort: a man of his *stripe*. **—** *v.t.* **striped, strip·ing** To mark with a stripe or stripes. [< MDu.] **— striped** *adj.*

stripe[2] (strīp) *n.* A blow struck with a whip or rod, as in flogging. [Prob. < LG]

strip·ling (strip′ling) *n.* A mere youth.

strip mining The mining of coal by stripping off soil, etc., to expose and dig out a vein.

strip·tease (strip′tēz′) *n.* In burlesque, etc., a gradual disrobing, interspersed with various movements of the torso. Also **strip tease.** **— strip′teas′er** *n.*

strip·y (strī′pē) *adj.* **strip·i·er, strip·i·est** Being in or suggesting stripes or streaks; having or marked with stripes.

strive (strīv) *v.i.* **strove** or (*less commonly*) **strived, striv·en** (striv′ən) or **strived, striv·ing** **1.** To make earnest effort. **2.** To engage in strife; contend; fight. **3.** To vie; emulate. [< OF *estriver*, prob. < Gmc.] **— striv′er** *n.*

strob·o·scope (strob′ə·skōp, strō′bə-) *n.* An instrument for observing the motion of a body or object by rendering it visible only at intervals or at certain points of its path. [< Gk. *strobos* twisting + -SCOPE] **— strob′o·scop′ic** (-skop′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* **— strob·os′co·py** (-os′kə·pē) *n.*

strode (strōd) Past tense of STRIDE.

stroke (strōk) *n.* **1.** The act or movement of striking; impact. **2.** A single movement, as of the hand, arm, or some instrument, by which something is made or done. **3.** A blow or any ill effect caused as if by a blow. **4.** An attack of paralysis or apoplexy. **5.** A blow or the sound of a blow of a striking mechanism, as of a clock. **6.** A sudden or brilliant act; coup: a *stroke* of wit. **7.** A pulsation, as of the heart. **8.** A mark or dash of a pen or tool. **9.** A light, caressing movement; a stroking. **10.** A manner or technique of swimming. **11.** *Informal* A portion or stint, as of work: usu. with the negative. **12.** *Mech.* **a** One of a series of alternating linear movements from one extreme position to another, as by the piston of an internal-combustion engine. **b** The distance covered by such a movement. **—** *v.* **stroked, strok·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pass the hand over gently or caressingly, or with light pressure. **2.** To set the pace for (a rowboat or its crew); act as stroke for. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To perform strokes, as in swimming. [ME < OE *strācian* to strike]

stroll (strōl) *v.i.* **1.** To walk in a leisurely or idle manner; saunter. **2.** To go from place to place; wander. **—** *v.t.* **3.** To walk idly or wander over or through. **—** *n.* An idle or leisurely walk. [Origin uncertain]

stroll·er (strō′lər) *n.* **1.** One who strolls. **2.** A light, often collapsible, carriage in which a baby or child may sit upright. **3.** A wandering showman or player. **4.** A tramp.

strong (strông, strong) *adj.* **1.** Powerful in physique; muscular; vigorous. **2.** Healthy; robust: a *strong* constitution. **3.** Morally powerful; firm; resolute; courageous. **4.** Mentally powerful or vigorous. **5.** Especially competent or able in a specified subject or field: *strong* in mathematics. **6.** Abundantly or richly supplied with something: often with *in*. **7.** Solidly made or constituted: *strong* walls. **8.** Powerful as a rival or combatant: a *strong* team. **9.** Easy to defend or difficult to capture: a *strong* military position. **10.** Having (a specified) numerical force: an army 20,000 *strong*. **11.** Capable of exerting influence, authority, etc.: a *strong* government. **12.** Financially sound: a *strong* bank. **13.** Powerful in effect: *strong* poison, medicine, etc. **14.** Concentrated; not diluted or weak: *strong* coffee. **15.** Containing much alcohol: *strong* drink. **16.** Powerful in flavor or odor; also, rank; unpleasant: a *strong* breath. **17.** Intense in degree or quality; not faint or mild: a *strong* pulse. **18.** Loud and firm: a *strong* voice. **19.** Firm; tenacious: a *strong* grip.

20. Deeply earnest; fervid: a *strong* desire. **21.** Cogent; convincing: *strong* evidence. **22.** Distinct; marked: a *strong* resemblance. **23.** Extreme; forceful: *strong* measures. **24.** Emphatic; not moderate: *strong* language. **25.** Moving with great force: said of a wind, stream, or tide. **26.** *Meteorol.* Designating a breeze or gale on the Beaufort scale. **27.** Characterized by steady or rising prices: a *strong* market. **28.** *Gram.* In Germanic languages, denoting a strong verb. — *adv.* In a strong manner; so as to be strong. [OE *strang, strong*] — **strong'ly** *adv.*

strong-arm (strông'ärm', strong'-) *Informal adj.* Violent; having and depending on physical power. — *v.t.* To use physical force upon; assault.

strong-box (strông'boks', strong'-) *n.* A strongly built chest or safe for keeping valuables.

strong-hold (strông'hōld', strong'-) *n.* **1.** A strongly fortified place; fortress. **2.** A place of security or refuge.

strong-man (strông'man', strong'-) *n. pl.* **-men** (-men') A political leader having considerable or preeminent power, often derived from extralegal means, as a coup d'état.

strong-mind·ed (strông'mīn'did, strong'-) *adj.* Having a determined, vigorous mind. — **strong'-mind'ed·ly** *adv.* — **strong'-mind'ed·ness** *n.*

strong verb A verb that forms its past tense and past participle by internal vowel change, as *swim, swam, swum.*

strong-willed (strông'wild', strong'-) *adj.* Having a strong will; decided; obstinate.

stron·ti·um (stron'shē·əm, -shəm, -tē·əm) *n.* A hard, yellowish, metallic element (symbol Sr) of the calcium group, known chiefly through its salts, which burn with a red flame and are used largely in pyrotechnics, but also in medicine and ceramics. See ELEMENT. [< NL, from *Strontian*, Argyll, Scotland, where first discovered] — **stron'tic** (-tik) *adj.*

strontium 90 *Physics* A radioactive isotope of strontium chemically resembling calcium and with a half life of about 28 years. Also called *radiostrontium.*

strop (strop) *n.* **1.** A strip of leather, canvas, etc., on which to sharpen a razor. **2.** A strap. — *v.t.* **stropped, strop·ping** To sharpen on a strop. [OE < L < Gk. *strophos* band]

stro·phe (strō'fē) *n.* **1.** In ancient Greek poetry, the verses sung by the chorus in a play while moving from right to left. **2.** In classical prosody, the lines of an ode constituting a stanza and alternating with the antistrophe. **3.** The first of two alternating metrical systems in a poem. [< Gk. *strephein* to turn] — **stroph·ic** (strof'ik, strō'fik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

strove (strōv) Past tense of STRIVE.

strow (strō) *v.t.* **strowed, strowed** or **strown, strow·ing** *Archaic* To strew.

struck (struk) Past tense and past participle of STRIKE. — *adj.* Closed down or affected by a strike, as a factory.

struck measure A measure having the contents level with the edge of the container, rather than heaping.

struc·tur·al (struk'chər·əl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, characterized, or caused by structure. — **struc'tur·al·ly** *adv.*

structural steel Rolled steel of considerable toughness and strength, esp. adapted for use in construction.

struc·ture (struk'chər) *n.* **1.** That which is constructed; a combination of related parts, as a building or machine. **2.** The position and arrangement of parts, as of tissues in an organism, atoms within a molecule, etc. **3.** The manner of construction or organization: the social *structure* of a primitive society. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing 1.** To form into an organized structure; build. **2.** To conceive as a structural whole; ideate. [< L < *structus*, pp. of *struere* to build]

stru·del (strōōd'l, *Ger.* shtrōō'dəl) *n.* A kind of pastry made of a thin sheet of dough, spread with fruit or cheese, nuts, etc., rolled, and baked. [< G, lit., eddy]

strug·gle (strug'əl) *n.* **1.** A violent effort or series of efforts; a labored contest. **2.** Conflict; strife; battle. — *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.i.* **1.** To contend with an adversary in physical combat; fight. **2.** To put forth violent efforts; strive: to *struggle* against odds. **3.** To make one's way by violent efforts. — *v.t.* **4.** To accomplish with a struggle. [ME *strogelen*] — **strug'gler** *n.* — **strug'gling·ly** *adv.*

strum (strum) *v.t. & v.i.* **strummed, strum·ming** To play (a stringed instrument, a tune, etc.) idly, monotonously, or without technical skill. — *n.* The act of strumming. [Prob. imit.] — **strum'mer** *n.*

strum·pet (strum'pit) *n.* A whore; harlot. [? Ult. < OF *strupe* concubinage < L *stuprum* dishonor]

strung (strung) Past tense and past participle of STRING.

strut (strut) *n.* **1.** A proud or pompous step or walk. **2.** A member in a framework, designed to relieve weight or pressure in the direction of its length. For illus. see ROOF. — *v.* **strut·ted, strut·ting** *v.i.* **1.** To walk pompously, conceitedly, and affectedly. — *v.t.* **2.** To brace or support, as a framing or structure, with or as with struts. [OE *strūtian* to be rigid, stand stiffly] — **strut'ter** *n.* — **strut'ting·ly** *adv.*

strych·nine (strik'nin, -nēn, -nīn) *n.* A white, crystalline, bitter, extremely poisonous alkaloid, $C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_2$, contained in certain plants. Its salts are used in medicine, chiefly as a neural stimulant. Also **strych'nin** (-nin). [< F < L *strychnos* < Gk., nightshade]

Stu·art (stōō'ərt, styōō'-) The royal family of Scotland, 1371–1603, and of England, 1603–1714.

stub (stub) *n.* **1.** Any short projecting part or piece. **2.** The part of a tree trunk, bush, etc., that remains when the main part is cut down. **3.** A short or broken remnant, as of a pencil, cigarette, or broken tooth. **4.** *U.S.* In a checkbook, one of the inner ends upon which a memorandum is entered, and which remains when the check is detached; also, the detachable portion of a theater ticket, etc. **5.** Anything blunt, short, or stumpy, as a pen with a broad point. — *v.t.* **stubbed, stub·bing 1.** To strike, as the toe, against a low obstruction or projection. **2.** To grub up, as roots. **3.** To clear or remove the stubs or roots from. [OE *stubb*]

stub·ble (stub'əl) *n.* **1.** The stubs of grain stalks, sugar cane, etc., covering a field after the crop has been cut. **2.** The field itself. **3.** Any surface or growth resembling stubble, as short bristly hair or beard. [< OF *stuble*, ult. < L *stipula* stalk] — **stub'bled** *adj.* — **stub'bly** *adj.*

stub·born (stub'ərn) *adj.* **1.** Inflexible in opinion or intention; unreasonably obstinate. **2.** Difficult to handle, manage, or work with; resistant. **3.** Characterized by perseverance or persistence: *stubborn* fighting. [ME, ? < OE *stubb* stump] — **stub'born·ly** *adv.* — **stub'born·ness** *n.*

stub·by (stub'ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est 1.** Short, stiff, and bristling: a *stubby* beard. **2.** Resembling or of the nature of a stub: a *stubby* pencil. **3.** Stocky; thickset. **4.** Full of stubs. — **stub'bi·ly** *adv.* — **stub'bi·ness** *n.*

stuc·co (stuk'ō) *n. pl.* **·coes** or **·cos 1.** A fine plaster for walls or their relief ornaments, usu. of Portland cement, sand, and a small amount of lime. **2.** Any plaster or cement used for the external coating of buildings. **3.** Ornamental work made from stucco: also **stuc'co·work'** (-wûrk'). — *v.t.* **·coed, ·co·ing** To apply stucco to; decorate with stucco. [< Ital. < Gmc.] — **stuc'co·er** *n.*

stuck (stuk) Past tense and past participle of STICK.

stuck-up (stuk'up') *adj. Informal* Conceited; snobbish.

stud[1] (stud) *n.* **1.** A short intermediate post, as in a building frame; a post to which laths are nailed. **2.** A knob, round-headed nail, or small protuberant ornament. **3.** A removable button used to fasten a shirt front, etc. **4.** A crosspiece in a link, as in a chain cable. **5.** A small pin such as is used in a watch. — *v.t.* **stud·ded, stud·ding 1.** To set thickly with small points, projections, or knobs. **2.** To be scattered or strewn over. **3.** To support or stiffen by means of studs or upright props. [OE *studu* post]

stud[2] (stud) *n.* **1.** A collection of horses and mares for breeding. **2.** The place where they are kept. **3.** A collection of horses for riding, hunting, or racing. **4.** A studhorse or other male animal used for breeding purposes. **5.** Stud poker. — **at stud** Of a male animal, used or available for breeding purposes. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a stud. **2.** Kept for breeding: a *stud* mare. [OE *stōd*]

stud·book (stud'bōōk') *n.* A record of the pedigree of thoroughbred stock.

stud·ding (stud'ing) *n.* **1.** Studs or joists collectively. **2.** The material from which they are made.

stud·ding·sail (stun'səl, stud'ing·sāl') *n. Naut.* A light auxiliary sail set out beyond one of the principal sails by extensible booms during a following wind.

stu·dent (stōōd'nt, styōōd'nt) *n.* **1.** One engaged in a course of study, esp. in a secondary school, college or university. **2.** One devoted to study. **3.** One who makes a thorough study of a particular subject. [< OF < L *studens, -entis*, ppr. of *studere* to be eager, study] — **stu'dent·ship** *n.*

— **Syn.** A *student* is one who studies, not necessarily under a teacher: this is the common term for one enrolled in a secondary school or college. A *pupil* is one under close supervision of a teacher; children in elementary schools are called *pupils*, but the term is not synonymous with beginner. A concert violinist may be called the *pupil* of some great master under whom he has studied.

student body All the students attending a school.

stud·horse (stud'hôrs') *n.* A stallion kept for breeding. Also **stud horse.**

stud·ied (stud'ēd) *adj.* **1.** Deliberately designed or undertaken: a *studied* insult. **2.** Lacking freshness, naturalness, or spontaneity. — **stud'ied·ly** *adv.* — **stud'ied·ness** *n.*

stu·di·o (stōō'dē·ō, styōō'-) *n. pl.* **·os 1.** The workroom of an artist, photographer, etc. **2.** A place where motion pictures are filmed. **3.** A room or rooms where radio or television programs are broadcast or recorded. [< Ital., a study]

studio couch A backless couch with a bed frame underneath that may be drawn out to form a double bed.

stu·di·ous (stōō'dē·əs, styōō'-) *adj.* **1.** Given to study; de-

voting oneself to the acquisition of knowledge. **2.** Earnest in effort. **3.** Done with deliberation; studied: *studious* politeness. **— stu/di·ous·ly** *adv.* **— stu/di·ous·ness** *n.*

stud poker A game of poker in which the cards of the first round are dealt face down and the rest face up, betting opening on the second round. [< STUD²]

stud·y (stud/ē) *v.* **stud·ied, stud·y·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To apply the mind in acquiring a knowledge of. **2.** To examine: to *study* a problem. **3.** To look at attentively; scrutinize. **4.** To endeavor to memorize, as a part in a play. **5.** To give thought and attention to, as something to be done or devised. **—** *v.i.* **6.** To apply the mind in acquiring knowledge. **7.** To follow a regular course of instruction. **8.** To meditate. **—** *n.* *pl.* **stud·ies** **1.** The act of studying; the process of acquiring information. **2.** A particular instance or form of mental work. **3.** Something to be studied; a branch of knowledge. **4.** A specific product of or work resulting from studious application. **5.** In art, a first sketch, exercise, etc. **6.** A carefully elaborated literary treatment of a subject. **7.** A room devoted to study, reading, etc. **8.** A state of deep thought or absent-mindedness. **9.** Earnest endeavor; thoughtful attention or care. **10.** Something worthy of close attention. **11.** *Music* An étude. [< OF < L < *studere* to apply oneself, be diligent]

stuff (stuf) *v.t.* **1.** To fill completely; pack; cram full. **2.** To fill (an opening, etc.) with something forced in; plug. **3.** To obstruct or stop up; choke. **4.** To fill or expand with padding, as a cushion. **5.** To fill (a fowl, roast, etc.) with stuffing. **6.** In taxidermy, to fill the skin of (a bird, animal, etc.) with a material preparatory to mounting. **7.** To fill too full; distend. **8.** To fill or cram with food. **9.** To fill with knowledge, ideas, or attitudes, esp. unsystematically. **10.** To force or cram, as into a small space. **11.** To put fraudulent votes into (a ballot box). **—** *v.i.* **12.** To eat to excess. **—** *n.* **1.** The material out of which something may be shaped or made; raw or unwrought material. **2.** The fundamental element or basic material of anything: the *stuff* of dreams. **3.** *Informal* Possessions generally, esp., household goods. **4.** A worthless collection of things; rubbish. **5.** Worthless ideas: often used as an interjection: *Stuff* and nonsense! **6.** Woven material, esp. of wool; also, any textile fabric. **7.** *Informal* Any unspecified or vaguely defined substance, activity, etc. [< OF *estoffe*, ? < L *stuppa* tow] **— stuff/er** *n.*

stuffed shirt (stuft) *Informal* A pompous person.

stuff·ing (stuf/ing) *n.* **1.** The material with which anything is stuffed. **2.** A mixture, as of bread or cracker crumbs with meat and seasoning, used in stuffing fowls, etc. **3.** The act or process of one who or that which stuffs.

stuff·y (stuf/ē) *adj.* **stuff·i·er, stuff·i·est** **1.** Badly ventilated. **2.** Impeding respiration. **3.** *Informal* Pompous; smugly self-important. **4.** *Informal* Old-fashioned; stodgy; straight-laced. **— stuff/i·ly** *adv.* **— stuff/i·ness** *n.*

stul·ti·fy (stul/tə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To cause to appear absurd; give an appearance of foolishness to. **2.** To make worthless or ineffectual. [< LL < L *stultus* foolish + *facere* to make] **— stul/ti·fi·ca/tion** *n.* **— stul/ti·fi/er** *n.*

stum·ble (stum/bəl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.i.* **1.** To miss one's step in walking or running; trip. **2.** To walk or proceed unsteadily. **3.** To speak, read, etc., falteringly. **4.** To happen upon something by chance: with *across*, *on*, *upon*, etc. **5.** To err. **—** *v.t.* **6.** To cause to stumble. **—** *n.* **1.** The act of stumbling. **2.** A blunder; false step. [Cf. Norw. *stumla* to stumble in the dark] **— stum/bler** *n.* **—stum/bling·ly** *adv.*

stumbling block Any obstacle, hindrance, or impediment, as to the achievement of some end.

stump (stump) *n.* **1.** That portion of the trunk of a tree left standing when the tree is felled. **2.** The part of anything, as of a limb, tooth, pencil, etc., that remains when the main part has been removed; a stub. **3.** *pl.* *Informal* The legs: chiefly in the phrase **to stir one's stumps.** **4.** A place or platform from which a political speech is made. **5.** In cricket, any one of the three posts forming the wicket. **6.** A pencil-like soft leather or rubber bar, with conical ends, used to shade drawings of crayon or charcoal or to apply powdered pigments. **7.** A short, thickset person or animal. **8.** A heavy step; a clump; also, the sound made by such a step. **— to take the stump** To electioneer in a political campaign. **—** *adj.* **1.** Being or resembling a stump; stumpy. **2.** Of or pertaining to political oratory or campaigning: a *stump* speaker. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To reduce to a stump. **2.** To remove stumps from (land). **3.** To canvass (a district) by making political speeches: The candidate *stumped* the State. **4.** *Informal* To bring to a halt by real or fancied obstacles; baffle. **5.** To strike against an obstacle; stub, as one's toe. **—** *v.i.* **6.** To go about on or as on stumps; also, to walk heavily, noisily, and stiffly. **7.** To go about making political speeches. [< MLG] **— stump/er** *n.*

stump·y (stum/pē) *adj.* **stump·i·er, stump·i·est** **1.** Full of stumps. **2.** Like a stump; short and thick. **— stump/i·ness** *n.*

stun (stun) *v.t.* **stunned, stun·ning** **1.** To render unconscious or incapable of action by a blow, fall, etc. **2.** To astonish; astound. **3.** To daze or overwhelm by loud or explosive noise. **—** *n.* A stupefying blow, shock, or concussion; also, the condition of being stunned. [< OF < L *ex-* thoroughly + *tonare* to thunder, crash]

stung (stung) Past tense and past participle of STING.

stunk (stungk) Past participle and alternative past tense of STINK.

stun·ner (stun/ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which stuns. **2.** *Informal* A person of extraordinary beauty, etc.

stun·ning (stun/ing) *adj.* **1.** Rendering unconscious. **2.** *Informal* Impressively beautiful, etc. **— stun/ning·ly** *adv.*

stunt¹ (stunt) *v.t.* To check the natural development of; dwarf; cramp. **—** *n.* **1.** A check in growth, progress, or development. **2.** A stunted animal or thing. [OE *stunt* dull, foolish] **— stunt/ed** *adj.* **— stunt/ed·ness** *n.*

stunt² (stunt) *U.S. Informal* *n.* **1.** A sensational feat, as of bodily skill. **2.** Any thrilling or unusual feat or undertaking. **—** *v.i.* **1.** To perform stunts. **—** *v.t.* **2.** To perform stunts with (an airplane, etc.). [? < G *stunde* lesson]

stunt man In motion pictures, a man employed to substitute for an actor in dangerous acts or situations.

stu·pe·fac·tion (stōō/pə·fak/shən, styōō/-) *n.* The act of stupefying or the state of being stupefied.

stu·pe·fy (stōō/pə·fī, styōō/-) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To dull the senses or faculties of; stun. **2.** To amaze; astound. [< F < L < *stupere* to be stunned + *facere* to make] **— stu/pe·fied** *adj.* **— stu/pe·fi/er** *n.*

stu·pen·dous (stōō·pen/dəs, styōō-) *adj.* **1.** Of or characterized by any highly impressive or astonishing feature. **2.** Of prodigious size or bulk. [< L *stupere* to be stunned] **— stu·pen/dous·ly** *adv.* **— stu·pen/dous·ness** *n.*

stu·pid (stōō/pid, styōō/-) *adj.* **1.** Very slow of apprehension or understanding. **2.** Affected with stupor; stupefied. **3.** Marked by, or resulting from, lack of understanding, reason, or wit; senseless. **4.** Tedious; dull. **—** *n.* *Informal* A stupid person. [< L < *stupere* to be stunned] **— stu·pid/i·ty** *n.* **— stu/pid·ly** *adv.* **— stu/pid·ness** *n.*

stu·por (stōō/pər, styōō/-) *n.* **1.** A condition in which the senses and faculties are suspended or greatly dulled, as by drugs or liquor. **2.** Mental or moral dullness; gross stupidity. [< L *stupere* to be stunned] **— stu/por·ous** *adj.*

—Syn. 1. lethargy, torpor.

stur·dy (stûr/dē) *adj.* **·di·er, ·di·est** **1.** Possessing rugged health and strength; hardy; vigorous. **2.** Firm and unyielding; resolute: a *sturdy* defense. [< OF *estourdir* to stun, amaze] **— stur/di·ly** *adv.* **— stur/di·ness** *n.*

stur·geon (stûr/jən) *n.* A large, fresh-water and marine fish of northern regions, with coarse, edible flesh. It is valued as a source of isinglass and caviar. [< OF < Med.L < OHG *sturjo*]

Sturm·ab·teil·ung (shtōōrm/äp·tī/lōōngk) *n.* *pl.* **·teil·ung·en** A Nazi political militia: also called *Brown Shirts*, *storm troopers*. [< G, storm detachment]

stut·ter (stut/ər) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To utter or speak with spasmodic repetition, blocking, and prolongation of sounds, esp. those in initial position in a word. **—** *n.* The act or habit of stuttering. [Freq. of ME *stutten* to stutter] **— stut/ter·er** *n.* **— stut/ter·ing** *adj.* & *n.* **— stut/ter·ing·ly** *adv.*

St. Vi·tus's dance (sānt vī/təs·iz) *Pathol.* Chorea. Also **St. Vi/tus' dance, St. Vi·tus dance** (vī/təs).

sty¹ (stī) *n.* *pl.* **sties** **1.** A pen for swine. **2.** Any filthy place of bestiality or debauchery. **—** *v.t.* & *v.i.* **stied, sty·ing** To keep or live in a sty or hovel. [ME < OE *sti*]

sty² (stī) *n.* *pl.* **sties** *Pathol.* A small, inflamed swelling of a sebaceous gland on the edge of the eyelid. Also **stye.** [< OE < *stigan* to rise + *ye* eye]

styg·i·an (stij/ē·ən) *adj.* *Often cap.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the river Styx. **2.** Infernal; dark and gloomy.

style (stīl) *n.* **1.** Manner of expressing thought, in writing or speaking. **2.** A distinctive, characteristic, or suitable mode of expression: His writing lacks *style*. **3.** A particular or characteristic mode of composition, construction, or appearance, as in art, music, etc.: the Gothic *style*. **4.** The manner in which some action or work is performed: The horse ran in fine *style*. **5.** A good or exemplary manner of performing: a team with *style*. **6.** A mode of conduct; a way of living: to live in makeshift *style*. **7.** A fashionable manner or appearance: to live in *style*. **8.** A particular fashion in clothing. **9.** A particular type or fashion suitable for a person. **10.** The conventions of typography, design, usage, punctuation, etc., observed by a given publishing house, printing office, or publication. **11.** The legal or official title or appellation of a person, organization, etc. **12.** A stylus. **13.** The gnomon of a sundial. **14.** *Surg.* A slender probe with a blunt point. **15.** *Bot.* The prolongation of a carpel or ovary, bearing the stigma. For illus. see FLOWER. **16.** A system of arranging the length of the calendar years so as to average that of the true solar year. See OLD STYLE, NEW STYLE under CALENDAR. **—** *v.* **styled, styl·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To

name; give a title to. **2.** To make consistent in typography, spelling, punctuation, etc. **3.** To give form, fashion, or style to. [< OF < L *stilus* writing instrument] — **styl'er** *n.*

style book A book containing rules of spelling, punctuation, typography, etc., used by printers, editors, etc.

styl·ish (stī'lish) *adj.* Having style or fashionableness in clothes, etc. — **styl'ish·ly** *adv.* — **styl'ish·ness** *n.*

styl·ist (stī'list) *n.* **1.** One who is a master of literary or rhetorical style. **2.** A designer or adviser of style in clothes, interior decoration, etc. — **sty·lis'tic** *adj.* — **sty·lis'ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

styl·ize (stī'līz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make conform to a distinctive mode or style; conventionalize. — **styl'i·za'tion** *n.* — **styl'iz·er** *n.*

stylo- *combining form* **1.** A pillar. **2.** *Bot.* A style; of or related to a style. Also, before vowels, **styl-**. [< Gk. *stylos* column, pillar]

sty·lus (stī'ləs) *n.* *pl.* **·lus·es** (-iz) or **·li** (-lī) **1.** An ancient writing instrument, having one end pointed for writing on wax tablets. **2.** A pointed instrument for marking or engraving. **3.** The needle of a record player or of a recording instrument. Also called *style*. [< L] — **sty'lar** *adj.*

sty·mie (stī'mē) *n.* A condition in golf when an opponent's ball lies directly between the player's ball and the hole. — *v.t.* **·mied, ·my·ing** **1.** To block or hinder by or as by a stymie. **2.** To baffle or perplex. Also spelled *stimy*. Also **sty'my**. [Prob. use of earlier Scot. *styme*, to be unable to see]

styp·tic (stip'tik) *adj.* **1.** Causing contraction of tissues, as blood vessels. **2.** Stopping hemorrhage or bleeding. Also **styp'ti·cal.** — *n.* A styptic substance or agent. [< L < Gk. *styphein* to contract] — **styp·tic·i·ty** (stip·tis'ə·tē) *n.*

Styx (stiks) *n.* In Greek mythology, the river of hate, one of the five rivers surrounding Hades.

sua·sion (swā'zhən) *n.* Persuasion: archaic except in the phrase **moral suasion.** [< L *suadere* to persuade] — **sua·sive** (swā'siv), **sua·so·ry** (swā'sər·ē) *adj.*

suave (swāv, swäv) *adj.* Smoothly pleasant and ingratiating in manner; blandly polite; urbane. [< F < L *suavis* sweet] — **suave'ly** *adv.* — **suave'ness, suav·i·ty** (swä'və·tē) *n.*

sub (sub) *n.* *Informal* Short for any of various words beginning with *sub-*, as: **a** A substitute. **b** A subordinate or subaltern. **c** A submarine.

sub- *prefix* Used to form words meaning: **a** Under; beneath; below: *substratum*. **b** *Anat.* Situated under or beneath: *subcutaneous*. **c** Almost; nearly; slightly; imperfectly: chiefly in scientific terms: *subconical*. **d** Lower in rank or grade; secondary; subordinate: *subaltern, subcontract*. **e** Forming a subdivision: *subsection*. **f** *Chem.* Present (in a compound) in less than normal amount: *subchloride, suboxide*. Also: *suc-* before *c*, as in *succumb*; *suf-* before *f*, as in *suffer*; *sug-* before *g*, as in *suggest*; *sum-* before *m*, as in *summon*; *sup-* before *p*, as in *support*; *sur-* before *r*, as in *surrogate*; *sus-* before *c*, *p*, *t*, as in *susceptible, suspect, sustain*. [< L *sub* under]

sub·ac·id (sub·as'id) *adj.* Slightly sour or acid. — **sub'a·cid'i·ty** (-ə·sid'ə·tē) *n.*

sub·al·tern (sub·ôl'tərn) *adj.* **1.** *Brit. Mil.* Ranking below a captain. **2.** Of inferior rank or position; subordinate. — *n.* **1.** A person of subordinate rank or position. **2.** *Brit. Mil.* An officer ranking below a captain. [< LL < L *sub-* under + *alternus* alternate]

sub·ant·arc·tic (sub'ant·ärk'tik, -är'tik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the region surrounding the Antarctic Circle.

sub·arc·tic (sub·ärk'tik, -är'tik) *adj.* Denoting or pertaining to the region surrounding the Arctic Circle.

sub·a·tom·ic (sub'ə·tom'ik) *adj.* Within the atom: *subatomic* particle.

sub·base·ment (sub'bās'mənt) *n.* An underground story, or any one of several below the first or true basement.

sub·clin·i·cal (sub·klin'i·kəl) *adj.* Having no symptoms apparent in clinical tests, as in the early stages of a disease.

sub·com·mit·tee (sub'kə·mit'ē) *n.* A subordinate committee appointed from the members of the original committee for special work.

sub·con·scious (sub·kon'shəs) *adj.* **1.** Not clearly or wholly conscious. **2.** *Psychol.* Denoting such phenomena of mental life as are not attended by full consciousness. — *n.* *Psychol.* That portion of mental activity not directly in the focus of consciousness but sometimes susceptible to recall by the proper stimulus. — **sub·con'scious·ly** *adv.* — **sub·con'scious·ness** *n.*

sub·con·ti·nent (sub·kon'tə·nənt) *n.* *Geog.* A great land mass forming part of a continent but having considerable geographical independence, as India.

sub·con·tract (*n.* sub·kon'trakt; *v.* sub'kən·trakt') *n.* A contract subordinate to another contract and assigning part or all of the work to another party. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make a subcontract (for). — **sub'con·trac'tor** (-kən·trak'tər, -kon'trak-) *n.*

sub·crit·i·cal (sub'krit'i·kəl) *adj.* *Physics* Of, pertaining to, or containing fissionable material in a quantity not sufficient to start or sustain a chain reaction: *subcritical* mass.

sub·cu·ta·ne·ous (sub'kyōō·tā'nē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Situated, found, or lying beneath the skin. **2.** Introduced or applied beneath the skin, as an injection. [< LL < L *sub-* under + *cutis* skin] — **sub'cu·ta'ne·ous·ly** *adv.*

sub·deb (sub'deb') *n.* *Informal* **1.** A subdebutante. **2.** Any girl of this age. — *adj.* In a style suitable for girls of this age.

sub·deb·u·tante (sub'deb·ōō·tänt', -deb'yōō·tant) *n.* A young girl the year before she becomes a debutante.

sub·di·vide (sub'di·vīd') *v.t. & v.i.* **·vid·ed, ·vid·ing** **1.** To divide (a part) resulting from a previous division; divide again. **2.** To divide (land) into lots for sale or improvement. [< LL < L *sub-* under + *dividere* to separate]

sub·di·vi·sion (sub'di·vizh'ən) *n.* **1.** Division following upon division. **2.** A part, as of land, resulting from subdividing. **3.** An area of land composed of subdivided lots.

sub·dom·i·nant (sub·dom'ə·nənt) *n.* *Music* The fourth tone or degree of a major or minor scale.

sub·due (sub·dōō', -dyōō') *v.t.* **·dued, ·du·ing** **1.** To gain dominion over: subjugate; vanquish. **2.** To overcome by training, influence, or persuasion; tame. **3.** To repress (emotions, impulses, etc.). **4.** To reduce the intensity of; soften, as a color or sound. [< OF < L *subducere* to withdraw] — **sub·du'a·ble** *adj.* — **sub·du'al** *n.* — **sub·du'er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** conquer. **2.** master, control, bridle. **3.** check, restrain. **4.** moderate, temper.

sub·fam·i·ly (sub'fam'ə·lē, -fam'lē) *n.* *pl.* **·lies** **1.** *Biol.* A division of plants or animals next below a family but above the genus. **2.** *Ling.* A division of languages below a family and above a branch.

sub·ge·nus (sub·jē'nəs) *n.* *pl.* **·gen·e·ra** (-jen'ər·ə) or, less commonly, **·ge·nus·es** *Biol.* A primary subdivision of a genus including one or more species with common characters. — **sub'ge·ner'ic** (-ji·ner'ik) *adj.*

sub·head (sub'hed') *n.* A heading or title of a subdivision. Also **sub'head'ing.**

sub·hu·man (sub·hyōō'mən) *adj.* **1.** Less than or imperfectly human. **2.** Below the level of *Homo sapiens*.

sub·ja·cent (sub·jā'sənt) *adj.* **1.** Situated directly underneath. **2.** Lower than but not directly below. [< L < *sub-* under + *jacere* to lie] — **sub·ja'cen·cy** *n.*

sub·ject (*adj.* sub'jikt; *v.* səb·jekt') *adj.* **1.** Being under the power of another; owing or yielding obedience to sovereign authority. **2.** Liable to be affected by: with *to*: *subject to* disease. **3.** Likely to bring about or incur: with *to*: *subject to* severe criticism. **4.** Dependent on; contingent on: with *to*: a treaty *subject* to ratification. — *n.* **1.** One who is under the governing power of another, as of a ruler or government, esp. of a monarch. **2.** One who or that which is employed or treated in a specified way, as a body for dissection, or a person used in psychological experiments. **3.** A topic or main theme, as of a discussion, written work, etc. **4.** Something represented by or serving as the basic idea for an artistic work. **5.** A branch of learning or course of study. **6.** An originating cause; motive. **7.** *Gram.* The word, phrase, or clause of a sentence about which something is stated or asked in the predicate. **8.** *Music* A melody on which a composition or a part of it is based. **9.** *Philos.* The ego or self. **10.** *Logic* In a proposition, that term about which something is affirmed or denied. See PROPOSITION. — *v.t.* **1.** To bring under dominion or control. **2.** To cause to undergo some experience or action. **3.** To offer for consideration or approval. **4.** To make liable; expose: His inheritance was *subjected* to heavy taxation. [< OF < L < *sub-* under + *jacere* to throw] — **sub·jec'tion** *n.*

sub·jec·tive (səb·jek'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Relating to, proceeding from, or taking place within an individual's mind, emotions, etc.: opposed to *objective*. **2.** Originating from or influenced by one's personal interests, prejudices, etc. **3.** Introspective. **4.** Of the mind or emotions only; illusory. **5.** In literature and art, giving prominence to the subject or author as treating of his inner experience and emotion. **6.** *Gram.* Designating the nominative case. — **sub·jec'tive·ly** *adv.* — **sub·jec'tive·ness, sub·jec·tiv·i·ty** (sub'jek·tiv'ə·tē) *n.*

sub·join (sub·join') *v.t.* To add at the end; attach; affix. [< MF < L < *sub-* in addition + *jungere* to join]

sub·join·der (sub·join'dər) *n.* Something subjoined.

sub·ju·gate (sub'jōō·gāt) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** **1.** To bring under dominion; conquer; subdue. **2.** To make subservient in any way. [< L < *sub-* under + *jugum* yoke] — **sub'ju·ga'tion** *n.* — **sub'ju·ga'tor** *n.*

sub·junc·tive (səb·jungk'tiv) *Gram.* *adj.* Of or pertaining to that mood of the finite verb that is used to express a future contingency, a supposition implying the contrary, a mere supposition with indefinite time, or a wish or desire. ◆ In

English the forms of the subjunctive mood are usu. introduced by conjunctions of condition, doubt, contingency, possibility, etc., as *if, though, lest, unless, that, till,* or *whether,* but verbs in conditional clauses are not always in the subjunctive mood, for the use of these conjunctions with the indicative is very common. — *n.* **1.** The subjunctive mood. **2.** A verb form or construction in this mood. [See SUBJOIN.]

sub·lease (*v.* sub·lēs′; *n.* sub′lēs′) *v.t.* **·leased, ·leas·ing** To obtain or let (property) on a sublease. — *n.* A lease of property from a tenant or lessee. — **sub/les·see′** (-les·ē′), **sub·les·sor** (sub·les′ôr, sub′les·ôr′) *n.*

sub·let (sub·let′, sub′let′) *v.t* **·let, ·let·ting** **1.** To let (property one holds on a lease) to another. **2.** To let (work that one has contracted to do) to a subordinate contractor.

sub·li·mate (sub′lə·māt) *v.* **·mat·ed, ·mat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** *Chem.* To cause (a substance) to convert from the solid to the gaseous state by the application of heat or pressure, and then to solidify again. **2.** To refine; purify. **3.** *Psychol.* To convert the energy of (instinctual drives) into acceptable social manifestations. — *v.i.* **4.** To undergo sublimation. — *adj.* Sublimated; refined. — *n. Chem.* The product of sublimation, esp., when regarded as purified. [See SUBLIME.] — **sub/li·ma′tion** *n.*

sub·lime (sə·blīm′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by elevation, nobility, etc.; grand; solemn. **2.** Inspiring awe, deep emotion, etc.; moving. **3.** Being of the highest degree; utmost. — *n.* That which is sublime; height, as of emotion, grandeur, etc.: often with *the.* — *v.* **·limed, ·lim·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make sublime; ennoble. **2.** *Chem.* To sublimate. — *v.i.* **3.** To become sublimated. [< L *sublimis* lofty, prob. < *sub-* up to, under + *limen* lintel] — **sub·lime′ly** *adv.* — **sub·lim′er** *n.* — **sub·lim·i·ty** (sə·blim′ə·tē), **sub·lime′ness** *n.*

sub·lim·i·nal (sub·lim′ə·nəl) *adj. Psychol.* Perceived below the threshold of consciousness, as images, etc., of too low an intensity to produce a clear awareness. [< SUB- + L *limen, liminis* threshold] — **sub·lim′i·nal·ly** *adv.*

sub·ma·chine gun (sub′mə·shēn′) A lightweight automatic weapon using pistol ammunition, designed to be fired from the shoulder or hip.

sub·mar·gi·nal (sub·mär′jən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Below the margin. **2.** Of low fertility; unproductive: *submarginal* land.

sub·ma·rine (*adj.* sub′mə·rēn′; *n.* sub′mə·rēn) *adj.* Existing, done, or operating beneath the surface of the sea: a *submarine* mine. — *n.* A ship designed to operate below the surface of the sea. — **sub·mar·i·ner** (sub·mar′ə·nər) *n.*

sub·max·il·lar·y (sub·mak′sə·ler′ē) *Anat. adj.* **1.** Of or situated beneath the lower jaw. **2.** Of one of the salivary glands on either side of the lower jaw. — *n. pl.* **·lar·ies** The lower jaw bone: also **sub·max·il·la** (sub′mak·sil′ə).

sub·merge (səb·mûrj′) *v.* **·merged, ·merg·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To place under or plunge into water or other liquid. **2.** To cover; hide. — *v.i.* **3.** To sink or dive beneath the surface of water, etc. Also **sub·merse′** (-mûrs′). [< L < *sub-* under + *mergere* to plunge] — **sub·mer′gi·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **sub·mer′gi·ble** *adj.*

sub·mersed (səb·mûrst′) *adj.* **1.** *Bot.* Growing under water. **2.** Submerged. [See SUBMERGE.]

sub·mer·sion (səb·mûr′shən, -zhən) *n.* The act of submerging something in a liquid or the state of being submerged. Also **sub·mer′gence** (-jəns).

sub·mis·sion (səb·mish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of submitting or yielding to the power or authority of another. **2.** The state or quality of being submissive. **3.** The act of presenting something for consideration, approval, decision, etc.

sub·mis·sive (səb·mis′iv) *adj.* Willing or inclined to submit; yielding; obedient; docile. — **sub·mis′sive·ly** *adv.* — **sub·mis′sive·ness** *n.*

sub·mit (səb·mit′) *v.* **·mit·ted, ·mit·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To place under or yield to the authority, or power of another; surrender. **2.** To present for the consideration, decision, or approval of others; refer. **3.** To present as one's opinion; suggest. — *v.i.* **4.** To give up; surrender. **5.** To be obedient, submissive or acquiescent. [< L < *sub-* underneath + *mittere* to send] — **sub·mit′tal** *n.* — **sub·mit′ter** *n.*

sub·nor·mal (sub·nôr′məl) *adj.* **1.** Below the normal. **2.** *Psychol.* Less than normal in intelligence. — *n.* A subnormal individual. — **sub·nor·mal·i·ty** (sub′nôr·mal′ə·tē) *n.*

sub·or·di·nate (*adj. & n.* sə·bôr′də·nit; *v.* sə·bôr′də·nāt) *adj.* **1.** Belonging to an inferior or lower order in a classification; secondary; minor. **2.** Subject or subservient to another; inferior. **3.** *Gram.* **a** Of or designating a clause connected with and dependent upon another clause and functioning as a subject, object, or modifier. **b** Serving to introduce such a clause. — *n.* One who or that which is subordinate. — *v.t.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** **1.** To make subordinate; also, to hold as of less importance. **2.** To make subject or subservient. [< L < *sub-* under + *ordinare* to order] — **sub·or′di·nate·ly** *adv.* — **sub·or′di·nate·ness** *n.* — **sub·or′di·na′tion** *n.* — **sub·or′di·na′tive** *adj.*

subordinate clause *Gram.* A dependent clause. See under CLAUSE.

sub·orn (sə·bôrn′) *v.t.* **1.** To bribe or procure (someone) to commit perjury. **2.** To incite to an evil act, esp. a criminal act. [< L < *sub-* secretly + *ornare* to equip] — **sub·or·na·tion** (sub′ôr·nā′shən) *n.* — **sub·orn′er** *n.*

sub·plot (sub′plot′) *n.* A plot subordinate to the principal one in a novel, play, etc.

sub·poe·na (sə·pē′nə, səb-) *n.* A judicial writ requiring a person to appear in court to give testimony. — *v.t.* To notify or summon by writ or subpoena. Also **sub·pe′na.** [< Med.L < L < *sub* under + *poena* penalty]

sub·ro·gate (sub′rō·gāt) *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** **1.** To substitute (one thing) for another. **2.** To substitute (one person) for another when assigning rights or appointing to an office. [< L < *sub-* in place of + *rogare* to ask]

sub·ro·ga·tion (sub′rō·gā′shən) *n.* The substitution of one person, esp. a creditor, or thing for another.

sub ro·sa (sub rō′zə) *Latin* Confidentially; in secret: literally, under the rose, the emblem of an Egyptian god, mistakenly regarded by the Romans as the god of silence.

sub·scribe (səb·skrīb′) *v.* **·scribed, ·scrib·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To write, as one's name, at the end of a document; sign. **2.** To sign one's name to as an expression of assent, etc.; attest to by signing. **3.** To promise, esp., in writing, to pay (a sum of money). — *v.i.* **4.** To write one's name at the end of a document. **5.** To give sanction, support, or approval; agree. **6.** To promise to pay or contribute money. **7.** To agree to receive and pay for issues of a newspaper, periodical, etc.: with *to.* [< L < *sub-* underneath + *scribere* to write] — **sub·scrib′er** *n.*

sub·script (sub′skript) *adj.* Written below or lower and to the right or left. — *n.* A subscript character. [See SUBSCRIBE.]

sub·scrip·tion (səb·skrip′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of subscribing; signature. **2.** Consent, confirmation, or agreement. **3.** That which is subscribed; a signed paper or statement. **4.** A signature written at the end of a document. **5.** The individual or total sum or number subscribed for any purpose. **6.** A formal signed undertaking to pay for the receipt of a magazine, book, ticket, etc. — **to take up a subscription** To collect money (for some special cause) from a large number of people. — **sub·scrip′tive** *adj.* — **sub·scrip′tive·ly** *adv.*

sub·se·quent (sub′sə·kwənt) *adj.* Following in time, place, or order, or as a result. [< L < *sub-* next below + *sequi* to follow] — **sub′se·quence, sub′se·quen·cy** *n.* — **sub′se·quent·ly** *adv.* — **sub′se·quent·ness** *n.*

sub·serve (səb·sûrv′) *v.t.* **·served, ·serv·ing** **1.** To be of use or help in furthering (a process, cause, etc.); serve; promote. **2.** To serve as a subordinate to (a person). [< L < *sub-* under + *servire* < *servus* slave]

sub·ser·vi·ent (səb·sûr′vē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Adapted to promote some end or purpose; being of service; useful as a subordinate. **2.** Servile; obsequious. — *n.* One who or that which subserves. — **sub·ser′vi·ent·ly** *adv.* — **sub·ser′vi·ence, sub·ser′vi·en·cy** *n.*

sub·side (səb·sīd′) *v.i.* **·sid·ed, ·sid·ing** **1.** To become less violent or agitated; become calm or quiet; abate. **2.** To sink to a lower level. **3.** To sink to the bottom; settle. [< L < *sub-* under + *sidere* to settle < *sedere* to sit] — **sub·sid·ence** (səb·sīd′ns, sub′sə·dəns) *n.*

sub·sid·i·ar·y (səb·sid′ē·er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Assisting or functioning in a lesser capacity; supplementary; secondary. **2.** Of or in the nature of a subsidy; helping by a subsidy. — *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** **1.** One who or that which furnishes aid or support; an auxiliary. **2.** A subsidiary company. [See SUBSIDE.]

subsidiary company A company controlled by another company that owns the greater part of its shares.

sub·si·dize (sub′sə·dīz) *v.t.* **·dized, ·diz·ing** **1.** To furnish with a subsidy; grant a regular allowance or pecuniary aid to. **2.** To obtain the assistance of by a subsidy: often implying bribery. — **sub′si·di·za′tion** *n.* — **sub′si·diz′er** *n.*

sub·si·dy (sub′sə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** Pecuniary aid directly granted by government to a private commercial enterprise deemed beneficial to the public. **2.** Any financial assistance afforded by one individual or government to another. [< AF < L *subsidium* auxiliary forces, aid]

— **Syn. 1.** A government *subsidy* supports a public service, as an airline. The word *subvention* is sometimes applied to a *subsidy* to an artistic enterprise. A *grant* is given by a government or a private institution to be spent for a specified purpose.

sub·sist (səb·sist′) *v.i.* **1.** To have existence or reality; continue to exist. **2.** To manage to live, often with *on* or *by*: to *subsist* on vegetables. **3.** To continue unchanged; abide. **4.** To have existence in or by virtue of something; inhere. [< L < *sub-* under + *sistere* to cause to stand]

sub·sis·tence (səb·sis′təns) *n.* **1.** The act of subsisting. **2.** That on which one subsists; sustenance; livelihood. **3.** The state of being subsistent; inherent quality. **4.** That which subsists; real being. Also **sub·sis′ten·cy.** — **sub·sis′tent** *adj.*

sub·soil (sub′soil′) *n.* The stratum of earth next beneath the surface soil: also called *undersoil.* — *v.t.* To plow so as to turn up the subsoil. — **sub′soil′er** *n.*

sub·son·ic (sub·son′ik) *adj.* **1.** Designating those sound waves beyond the lower limits of human audibility. **2.** *Aeron.* Having a speed less than that of sound.

sub·stance (sub′stəns) *n.* **1.** The material of which anything consists; also, a material object as contrasted with something intangible. **2.** Any type of matter of a specific chemical composition. **3.** Density; body. **4.** A substantial quality; solidity. **5.** The essential part of anything said or written; the gist. **6.** Material wealth; property. [< OF < L < *sub-* under + *stare* to stand]

sub·stan·dard (sub′stan′dərd) *adj.* **1.** Below the standard. **2.** Lower than the established rate or authorized requirements. **3.** *Ling.* Nonstandard.

sub·stan·tial (səb·stan′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Solid; strong; firm. **2.** Of real worth and importance; of considerable value. **3.** Considerable and real: *substantial* progress. **4.** Possessed of wealth and influence. **5.** Of or pertaining to substance; material. **6.** Containing or conforming to the essence of a thing; giving the correct idea; fundamental. **7.** Ample and nourishing. — *n.* **1.** That which has substance; a reality. **2.** The more important part. — **sub·stan′ti·al′i·ty** (-shē·al′ə·tē), **sub·stan′tial·ness** *n.* — **sub·stan′tial·ly** *adv.*

sub·stan·ti·ate (səb·stan′shē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To establish, as a position or a truth, by substantial evidence; verify. **2.** To give form to; embody. **3.** To make substantial, existent, or real; give substance to. [See SUBSTANCE.] — **sub·stan′ti·a′tion** *n.* — **sub·stan′ti·a′tive** *adj.*

sub·stan·tive (sub′stən·tiv) *n.* **1.** A noun or anything that functions as a noun, as a verbal form, phrase, or clause. **2.** One who or that which is independent. — *adj.* **1.** Capable of being used as a noun. **2.** Expressive of or denoting existence. The verb "to be" is called the *substantive* verb. **3.** Having substance or reality; lasting. **4.** Essential. **5.** Individual. **6.** Independent; self-supporting. **7.** Of considerable amount; substantial. [< OF < LL < L. See SUBSTANCE.] — **sub′stan·ti′val** (-tī′vəl) *adj.* — **sub′stan·tive·ly** *adv.* — **sub′stan·tive·ness** *n.*

sub·sta·tion (sub′stā′shən) *n.* A subsidiary station, a branch post office, etc.

sub·sti·tute (sub′stə·tōōt, -tyōōt) *v.* **·tut·ed, ·tut·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To put in the place of another person, constituent, or thing. — *v.i.* **2.** To act as a substitute. — *n.* One who or that which takes the place of or serves in lieu of another. [< L < *sub-* in place of + *statuere* to set up]

sub·sti·tu·tion (sub′stə·tōō′shən, -tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The act or process of substituting, or the state of being substituted. **2.** Something substituted. — **sub′sti·tu′tion·al** *adj.* — **sub′sti·tu′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

sub·strate (sub′strāt) *n.* *Biochem.* The material or substance acted upon by an enzyme or ferment.

sub·stra·tum (sub·strā′təm, -strat′əm) *n.* *pl.* **·ta** (-tə) or **·tums** **1.** An underlying stratum or layer, as of earth or rock; also, subsoil. **2.** That which forms the foundation, groundwork, or basis. [< NL < L < *sub-* underneath + *sternere* to strew] — **sub·stra′tive** *adj.*

sub·struc·ture (sub′struk′chər, sub·struk′-) *n.* A structure serving as a foundation of a building, etc.

sub·ten·ant (sub′ten′ənt) *n.* A person who rents or leases from a tenant: also called *undertenant.* — **sub·ten′an·cy** *n.*

sub·tend (sub·tend′) *v.t.* **1.** *Geom.* To extend under or opposite to, as the side of a triangle opposite to an angle. **2.** *Bot.* To enclose in its axil: A leaf *subtends* a bud. [< L < *sub-* underneath + *tendere* to stretch]

subter- *prefix* Under; less than. [< L *subter* below]

sub·ter·fuge (sub′tər·fyōōj) *n.* Any stratagem to avoid unpleasantness or difficulty. [< L < *subter-* below, in secret + *fugere* to flee]

sub·ter·ra·ne·an (sub′tə·rā′nē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Situated or occurring below the surface of the earth; underground. **2.** Hidden or secret. Also **sub′ter·ra′ne·al, sub′ter·ra′ne·ous.**

sub·tile (sut′l, sub′til) *adj.* **1.** Delicate or tenuous in form, character, etc.; ethereal. **2.** Penetrating; pervasive. **3.** Subtle; wily. [< OF *subtil*, alter. of *soutil* subtle] — **sub′tile·ly** *adv.* — **sub·til·i·ty** (sub·til′ə·tē), **sub′tile·ness** *n.*

sub·til·ize (sut′l·īz, sub′tə·līz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make subtle or subtile; refine. **2.** To make acute; sharpen, as the senses. **3.** To argue subtly. — *v.i.* **4.** To make subtle distinctions; use subtlety. — **sub′til·i·za′tion** *n.*

sub·ti·tle (sub′tīt′l) *n.* **1.** A subordinate or explanatory title, as in a book, play, or document. **2.** In motion pictures: **a** A running written translation of original dialogue usu. appearing at the bottom of the screen. **b** A written comment or record of dialogue, as in a silent film.

sub·tle (sut′l) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by cunning, or artifice; crafty. **2.** Keen; discriminating. **3.** Apt; skillful. **4.** Ingenious; clever; refined. **5.** Insidious; secretly active. **6.** Abstruse. **7.** Of delicate texture. [< OF < L *subtilis* orig., closely woven] — **sub′tle·ness** *n.* — **sub′tly** *adv.*

sub·tle·ty (sut′l·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being subtle. **2.** Something subtle, as a nice distinction.

sub·ton·ic (sub′ton′ik) *n.* *Music* The tone below the tonic; the seventh tone of a major or minor scale.

sub·tract (səb·trakt′) *v.t. & v.i.* To take away or deduct, as a portion from the whole, or one quantity from another. [< L < *sub-* away + *trahere* to draw] — **sub·tract′er** *n.*

sub·trac·tion (səb·trak′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of subtracting; a deducting. **2.** Something deducted. **3.** *Math.* The operation, indicated by the minus sign (−), of finding the difference between two quantities.

sub·tra·hend (sub′trə·hend) *n.* *Math.* The number to be subtracted from another. [See SUBTRACT.]

sub·treas·ur·y (sub′trezh′ər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ur·ies** A branch of a treasury.

sub·trop·i·cal (sub′trop′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or designating regions adjacent to the Torrid Zone. **2.** Having characteristics intermediate between or common to both Torrid and Temperate Zones. Also **sub′trop′ic.**

sub·trop·ics (sub′trop′iks) *n.pl.* Subtropical regions.

sub·urb (sub′ûrb′) *n.* **1.** A place adjacent to a city, esp., a residential area. **2.** *pl.* Outlying residential districts; outskirts. [< OF < L < *sub-* near to + *urbs, urbis* city]

sub·ur·ban (sə·bûr′bən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a suburb. **2.** Dwelling or located in a suburb. — *n.* One who lives in a suburb; suburbanite.

sub·ur·ban·ite (sə·bûr′bən·īt) *n.* A resident of a suburb.

sub·ur·bi·a (sə·bûr′bē·ə) *n.* Suburbs or suburbanites collectively and their social and cultural world.

sub·ven·tion (səb·ven′shən) *n.* **1.** Giving of succor; aid. **2.** A grant, as of money; subsidy. — **Syn.** See SUBSIDY. [< OF < LL < L < *sub-* up from under + *venire* to come] — **sub·ven′tion·ar′y** (-er′ē) *adj.*

sub·ver·sion (səb·vûr′shən, -zhən) *n.* **1.** The act of subverting, or the state of being subverted; a demolition; overthrow. **2.** A cause of ruin. Also **sub·ver′sal** (-səl). [< OF < LL < L. See SUBVERT.]

sub·ver·sive (səb·vûr′siv) *adj.* Tending to subvert or overthrow, as a government. — *n.* One who acts in accordance with subversive principles. — **sub·ver′sive·ly** *adv.*

sub·vert (səb·vûrt′) *v.t.* **1.** To overthrow; destroy utterly. **2.** To undermine the morals, character, or faith of; corrupt. [< OF < L < *sub-* up from under + *vertere* to turn] — **sub·vert′er** *n.* — **sub·vert′i·ble** *adj.*

— **Syn. 1.** uproot, upset, overturn.

sub·way (sub′wā) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* An underground railroad, usu. electrically operated; also, a tunnel for such a railroad. **2.** An underground passage, as for cables, etc.

suc- Assimilated var. of SUB-.

suc·ceed (sək·sēd′) *v.i.* **1.** To accomplish what is attempted or intended; be successful. **2.** To come next in order or sequence; follow; ensue. **3.** To come after another into office, etc.; be the successor: often with *to*. — *v.t.* **4.** To come after; follow. **5.** To be the successor or heir of. [< OF < L *succedere* to follow after] — **suc·ceed′er** *n.*

suc·cess (sək·ses′) *n.* **1.** A favorable or desired outcome of something attempted. **2.** A successful person, enterprise, etc. **3.** Attainment of wealth, etc. [< L. See SUCCEED.]

suc·cess·ful (sək·ses′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Obtaining what one desires or intends. **2.** Having reached a high degree of worldly prosperity. **3.** Terminating in success; resulting favorably. — **suc·cess′ful·ly** *adv.* — **suc·cess′ful·ness** *n.*

suc·ces·sion (sək·sesh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of following in order, or the state of being successive; a following consecutively. **2.** A series; sequence. **3.** The act or right of legally or officially coming into a predecessor's office, possessions, etc.; also, that which is so acquired. **4.** The order by which an office, etc., changes hands. **5.** Descendants collectively; issue. — **suc·ces′sion·al** *adj.* — **suc·ces′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

suc·ces·sive (sək·ses′iv) *adj.* Following in sequence; consecutive. — **suc·ces′sive·ly** *adv.* — **suc·ces′sive·ness** *n.*

suc·ces·sor (sək·ses′ər) *n.* One who or that which succeeds or comes after; esp., a person who succeeds to a throne, property, or office.

suc·cinct (sək·singkt′) *adj.* Consisting of or characterized by brief and meaningful language; terse; concise. — **Syn.** See TERSE. [< L < *sub-* underneath + *cingere* to gird] — **suc·cinct′ly** *adv.* — **suc·cinct′ness** *n.*

suc·cor (suk′ər) *n.* **1.** Help or relief rendered in danger, difficulty, or distress. **2.** One who or that which affords relief. — *v.t.* To go to the aid of; help; rescue. Also *Brit.* **suc′cour** [< OF < Med.L < L < *sub-* up from under + *currere* to run] — **suc′cor·a·ble** *adj.* — **suc′cor·er** *n.*

suc·co·tash (suk′ə·tash) *n.* A dish of corn kernels and beans, usu. lima beans, boiled together. [< Algonquian (Narraganset) *misickquatash* ear of corn]

Suc·coth (sōōk′ōth, -ōs, -əs) See SUKKOTH.

suc·cu·bus (suk′yə·bəs) *n.* *pl.* **·bus·es** or **·bi** (bī) **1.** In

folklore, a female demon that has sexual intercourse with sleeping men. Compare INCUBUS. **2.** Any evil spirit. [< Med.L < L < *sub-* underneath + *cubare* to lie]

suc·cu·lent (suk′yə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Full of juice; juicy. **2.** *Bot.* Juicy; fleshy, as the tissues of certain plants. **3.** Rich or vigorous; a *succulent* theme. [< L < *succus* juice] — **suc′·cu·lence, suc′cu·len·cy** *n.* — **suc′cu·lent·ly** *adv.*

suc·cumb (sə·kum′) *v.i.* **1.** To give way; yield, as to force or persuasion. **2.** To die. [< OF < L < *sub-* underneath + *cumbere* to lie]

such (such) *adj.* **1.** Of that kind; of the same or like kind: often with *as* or *that* completing a comparison: *Such* wit as this is rare. **2.** Being the same as what has been mentioned or indicated: *Such* was the king's command. **3.** Being the same in quality: Let the truthful continue *such*. **4.** Being the same as something understood by the speaker or the hearer, or purposely left indefinite: the chief of *such* a clan. **5.** So extreme, unpleasant, or the like: We have come to *such* a pass. — **as such** **1.** As being what is indicated or implied: An executive, *as such*, must take responsibility. **2.** In or by itself: Clothes, *as such*, do not make the man. — **such as** **1.** For example. **2.** Of a particular kind or degree: The outcome of the trial was *such as* might be expected. — *pron.* **1.** Such a person or thing, or such persons or things: The friend of *such* as are in trouble. **2.** The same; the aforesaid: I bring good tidings, for *such* the general sent. — *adv. Informal* So: *such* awful manners. ◆ *Such* and *such a* are widely used in informal contexts to intensify the adjective or noun they precede: He was *such a* kind man; He had *such* wisdom. [OE *swelc, swilc, swylc*]

such and such Being a condition, person, thing, or time, not specifically named.

such·like (such′lik′) *adj.* Of a like or similar kind. — *pron.* Persons or things of that kind.

suck (suk) *v.t.* **1.** To draw into the mouth by means of a partial vacuum created by action of the lips and tongue. **2.** To draw in or take up in a manner resembling this; absorb. **3.** To draw liquid or nourishment from with the mouth. **4.** To take into and hold in the mouth. **5.** To consume by licking, or by holding in the mouth: to *suck* candy. **6.** To bring to a specified state or condition by sucking: He *sucked* the lemon dry. — *v.i.* **7.** To draw in liquid, air, etc., by suction. **8.** To suckle. **9.** To draw in air instead of water, as a defective pump does. **10.** To make the sound of sucking — **to suck in** *Slang* To take advantage of. — *n.* **1.** The act of sucking; suction. **2.** That which is sucked or comes by sucking. **3.** A slight draft or drink. [OE *sūcan*]

suck·er (suk′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which sucks. **2.** A North American fresh-water fish, having the mouth usu. protractile with thick and fleshy lips adapted for sucking in food. **3.** *Zool.* An organ by which an animal adheres to other bodies by suction. **4.** *U.S. Slang* One who is easily deceived; a foolish or gullible person. **5.** A lollipop. **6.** *Bot.* A shoot or sprout arising from the root near or remote from the trunk of certain trees. — *v.t.* **1.** To strip of suckers or shoots. — *v.i.* **2.** To form or send out suckers or shoots. [< SUCK]

suck·le (suk′əl) *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To allow or cause to take nourishment from the breast by sucking; nurse. **2.** To bring up; nourish. — *v.i.* **3.** To take nourishment at the breast: also *suck*. [ME *sucklen*, prob. back formation < SUCKLING] — **suck′ler** *n.*

suck·ling (suk′ling) *n.* **1.** An unweaned mammal. **2.** An infant. [ME < *soken* to suck + *-ling* -ling¹]

su·crose (sōō′krōs) *n.* *Biochem.* A crystalline disaccharide, $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$, forming the greater part of the sugar as obtained from the sugar cane, maple, beet, etc. Also called *saccharose*. [< F *sucre* sugar + *-ose* -ose²]

suc·tion (suk′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of sucking. **2.** The production of a partial vacuum in a space connected with a liquid or gas under pressure. **3.** The tendency of a fluid to occupy all or part of a vaccuum contiguous with it. [< OF < L *sugere* to suck]

suction pump A pump operating by suction, consisting of a piston working in a cylinder, both equipped with valves.

suc·to·ri·al (suk·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Adapted for sucking or for adhesion. **2.** *Zool.* Having organs for sucking.

Su·da·nese (sōō′də·nēz′, -nēs′) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Sudan or its people. — *n. pl.* **·nese** A native or inhabitant of the Sudan.

sud·den (sud′n) *adj.* **1.** Happening quickly and without warning. **2.** Hurriedly or quickly contrived, used, or done; hasty. **3.** Come upon unexpectedly; causing surprise. **4.** Quick-tempered; precipitate. — **all of a sudden** Without warning; suddenly. [< AF < OF < L < *sub-* secretly + *ire* to go] — **sud′den·ly** *adv.* — **sud′den·ness** *n.*

sudden infant death syndrome See CRIB DEATH.

su·dor·if·ic (sōō′də·rif′ik) *Med. adj.* Causing perspiration. — *n.* A medicine that produces or promotes sweating. [< NL < L *sudor, -oris* sweat + *facere* to make]

suds (sudz) *n.pl.* **1.** Soapy water, or bubbles and froth on its surface. **2.** Foam; lather. **3.** *Slang* Beer. [Prob. < MDu. *sudde, sudse* marsh water] — **suds′y** *adj.*

sue (sōō) *v.* **sued, su·ing** *v.t.* **1.** *Law* **a** To institute proceedings against for the recovery of some right or the redress of some wrong. **b** To prosecute (an action). **c** To seek a grant from (a court). **2.** To endeavor to persuade by entreaty; petition — *v.i.* **3.** To institute legal proceedings. **4.** To make entreaty. [< AF *suer*, OF *sivre*, ult. < L *sequi* to follow] — **su′a·ble** *adj.* — **su′er** *n.*

suede (swād) *n.* **1.** A leather having a soft napped finish, usu. on the flesh side. **2.** A woven or knitted fabric finished to resemble this. Also **suede.** [< F *Suède* Sweden, in phrase *gants de Suède* Swedish gloves]

su·et (sōō′it) *n.* The fatty tissues about the loins and kidneys of sheep, oxen, etc., used in cookery and to make tallow. [Dim. of AF *sue*, OF *seu* < L *sebum* fat] — **su′et·y** *adj.*

suf- Assimilated var. of SUB-.

suf·fer (suf′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To feel pain or distress. **2.** To be affected injuriously; experience loss or injury. **3.** To undergo punishment; esp., to be put to death. — *v.t.* **4.** To have inflicted on one; sustain, as an injury or loss. **5.** To undergo; pass through, as change. **6.** To bear; endure: to *suffer* more pain. **7.** To allow; permit: Will he *suffer* us to leave? [< AF *suffrir*, OF *sofrir*, ult. < L < *sub-* up from under + *ferre* to bear] — **suf′fer·er** *n.*

suf·fer·a·ble (suf′ər·ə·bəl, suf′rə-) *adj.* Such as can be suffered or endured; tolerable. — **suf′fer·a·bly** *adv.*

suf·fer·ance (suf′ər·əns, suf′rəns) *n.* **1.** Permission given or implied by failure to prohibit; passive consent. **2.** The act or state of suffering. **3.** Power to endure pain or evil. **4.** Patience or endurance under suffering; submissiveness.

suf·fer·ing (suf′ər·ing, suf′ring) *n.* **1.** The state of anguish or pain of one who suffers. **2.** The bearing of pain, injury, or loss. **3.** Pain or distress borne or endured; injury. — *adj.* Inured to pain and loss; submissive. — **suf′fer·ing·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** **1.** *Suffering* is acute bodily or mental pain. *Distress* may be physical, but is more often mental, referring to any deep anxiety, or the external circumstances that may produce it. *Misery* is extreme *suffering* or abject hopelessness, as from sorrow, great loss, poverty, or the like.

suf·fice (sə·fīs′) *v.* **·ficed, ·fic·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To be sufficient or adequate; meet the requirements or answer the purpose. — *v.t.* **2.** To be satisfactory or adequate for; satisfy. [< OF < L < *sub-* under + *facere* to make] — **suf·fic′er** *n.*

suf·fi·cien·cy (sə·fish′ən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The state of being sufficient. **2.** That which is sufficient; esp., adequate pecuniary means or income. **3.** Full capability or qualification; efficiency. **4.** Conceit; self-sufficiency.

suf·fi·cient (sə·fish′ənt) *adj.* Being all that is needful; adequate; enough. — **Syn.** See ADEQUATE. [See SUFFICE.] — **suf·fi′cient·ly** *adv.*

suf·fix (suf′iks) *n.* **1.** *Gram.* A bound form affixed to the end of a base, stem, or root, functioning as a derivative or inflectional element. Compare COMBINING FORM, PREFIX. **2.** Any added title or the like. — *v.t.* To add as a suffix. [< NL < L < *sub-* underneath + *figere* to fix.] — **suf′fix·al** *adj.* — **suf·fix·ion** (sə·fik′shən) *n.*

suf·fo·cate (suf′ə·kāt) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To kill by obstructing respiration in any manner. **2.** To obstruct or oppress, as by an inadequate supply of air. **3.** To stifle; smother, as a fire. — *v.i.* **4.** To become choked or stifled; die from suffocation. [< L < *sub-* under + *fauces* throat] — **suf′fo·cat·ing·ly** *adv.* — **suf′fo·ca′tion** *n.* — **suf′fo·ca′·tive** *adj.*

Suf·folk (suf′ək) *n.* **1.** A hardy English breed of working horses, with a heavy body and rather short legs. Also **Suffolk punch.** **2.** A breed of hornless sheep producing mutton of high quality. [after *Suffolk*, England]

suf·frage (suf′rij) *n.* **1.** The right or privilege of voting; franchise. **2.** The act or process of voting. **3.** A vote in support of some measure or candidate. **4.** Approbation; assent. [< OF < L *suffragium* voting tablet, vote]

suf·fra·gette (suf′rə·jet′) *n.* Formerly, a woman who advocated or agitated for female suffrage. — **suf′fra·get′tism** *n.*

suf·fra·gist (suf′rə·jist) *n.* An advocate of some particular form of suffrage, esp. of female suffrage.

suf·fuse (sə·fyōōz′) *v.t.* **·fused, ·fus·ing** To overspread, as with a vapor, fluid, or color. [< L < *sub-* underneath, up from under + *fundere* to pour] — **suf·fu·sive** (sə·fyōō′siv) *adj.*

suf·fu·sion (sə·fyōō′zhən) *n.* **1.** The act of suffusing, or the state of being suffused. **2.** That which suffuses, as a blush.

sug- Assimilated var. of SUB-.

sug·ar (shōōg′ər) *n.* **1.** *Biochem.* **a** A sweet, crystalline carbohydrate, $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$, obtained from the juice of various plants, as from the sugar cane, the sugar beet, and the sugar maple. ◆ Collateral adjective: *saccharine*. **b** Any of a large class of similar carbohydrates, widely distributed in plants and animals. **2.** Flattering or honeyed words. **3.** *Slang* Sweet one: a pet name. — *v.t.* **1.** To sweeten, cover, or coat with sugar. **2.** To make agreeable or less distasteful, as by

flattery. — *v.i.* **3.** *Chiefly U.S.* To make maple sugar. **4.** To form or produce sugar; granulate. [< OF < Med.L, ult. < Arabic *sukkar*]

sugar beet A sugar-producing species of beet.

sugar·bush (shŏŏg′ər·bŏŏsh′) *n.* A grove of sugar maples.

sugar cane A tall, stout, perennial grass of tropical regions, having a solid jointed stalk constituting a major source of commercial sugar.

sug·ar-coat (shŏŏg′ər·kōt′) *v.t.* **1.** To cover with sugar. **2.** To cause to appear attractive or less distasteful, as with euphemisms or flattery.

sug·ar-cured (shŏŏg′ər·kyŏŏrd′) *adj.* Cured by using sugar in the curing process, as ham and pork.

sug·ared (shŏŏg′ərd) *adj.* **1.** Sweetened with sugar; sugar-coated. **2.** Honeyed; pleasant; sweetened.

sugar loaf **1.** A conical mass of hard refined sugar. **2.** A conical hat or hill. — **sug·ar-loaf** (shŏŏg′ər·lōf′) *adj.*

sugar maple A maple of eastern North America, yielding a sap from which maple sugar is made.

sug·ar·plum (shŏŏg′ər·plum′) *n.* A small ball or disk of candy; a bonbon.

sug·ar·y (shŏŏg′ər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Composed of or as of sugar; sweet. **2.** Fond of sugar. **3.** Insincerely or cloyingly sweet. **4.** Consisting of grains; granular. — **sug′ar·i·ness** *n.*

sug·gest (səg·jest′, sə·jest′) *v.t.* **1.** To bring or put forward for consideration, action, or approval; propose. **2.** To bring to mind by association or connection; connote. **3.** To give a hint or indirect indication of; intimate: The simple house *suggested* a modest income. **4.** To act as or provide a motive for; prompt: these events *suggest* a sequel. [< L < *sub-* underneath + *gerere* to carry] — **sug·gest′er** *n.*

sug·gest·i·bil·i·ty (səg·jes′tə·bil′ə·tē, sə-) *n.* **1.** *Psychol.* Responsiveness to suggestion, esp. when heightened or abnormal, as in hypnosis and certain nervous conditions. **2.** Readiness to believe and agree without reflection.

sug·gest·i·ble (səg·jes′tə·bəl, sə-) *adj.* **1.** That can be suggested. **2.** Easily led; yielding: a *suggestible* patient.

sug·ges·tion (səg·jes′chən, sə·jes′-) *n.* **1.** The act of suggesting. **2.** Something suggested. **3.** A hint; insinuation. **4.** The spontaneous calling up of an idea in the mind by a connected idea.

sug·ges·tive (səg·jes′tiv, sə-) *adj.* **1.** Fitted or tending to suggest; stimulating to thought or reflection. **2.** Hinting at or arousing indecent thoughts; suggesting the improper. — **sug·ges′tive·ly** *adv.* — **sug·ges′tive·ness** *n.*

su·i·cide (sōō′ə·sīd) *n.* **1.** The intentional taking of one's own life. **2.** Self-inflicted political, social, or commercial ruin. **3.** One who has taken his own life. — *v.i.* **·cid·ed, ·cid·ing** *Informal* To commit suicide. [< NL < L < *sui* of oneself + *caedere* to kill] — **su′i·ci′dal** *adj.*

su·i gen·e·ris (sōō′ī jen′ər·is) *Latin* Forming a kind by itself; unique; literally, of its (his, or her) particular kind.

suit (sōōt) *n.* **1.** A set of garments consisting of a coat and trousers or skirt, made of the same fabric. **2.** A group of things of like kind or pattern composing a series or set. **3.** In cardplaying, one of the four sets of thirteen cards each that make up a pack, as spades, hearts, diamonds, or clubs. **4.** *Law* A proceeding in a court of law or chancery in which a plaintiff demands the recovery of a right or the redress of a wrong. **5.** The courting or courtship of a woman. **6.** *Archaic* Entreaty; petition. — **to follow suit** **1.** To play a card identical in suit to the card led. **2.** To do as somebody or something else has done. — *v.t.* **1.** To meet the requirements of, or be appropriate to. **2.** To please; satisfy. **3.** To render appropriate or accordant; accommodate; adapt. — *v.i.* **4.** To be befitting; agree. **5.** To be or prove satisfactory. [< AF < OF *sieute*, ult. < L *sequi* to follow]

suit·a·ble (sōō′tə·bəl) *adj.* Appropriate to a particular occasion, condition, etc.; proper. — **suit′a·bil′i·ty, suit′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **suit′a·bly** *adv.*

suit·case (sōōt′kās′) *n.* A flat, rectangular valise.

suite (swēt) *n.* **1.** A succession of things forming a series and usu. intended to go or be used together; a set. **2.** A number of connected rooms. **3.** A set of furniture designed to be used together in the same room. **4.** A company of attendants or followers; retinue. **5.** *Music* A form of instrumental composition formerly consisting of a series of dances, but now often varying freely in its construction. **6.** *Canadian* In the West, an apartment. [< F < OF *sieute*]

suit·ing (sōō′ting) *n.* Cloth from which to make suits.

suit·or (sōō′tər) *n.* **1.** A man who courts a woman; a wooer. **2.** One who institutes a suit in court. **3.** A petitioner. [< AF < LL < L *secutus*, pp. of *sequi* to follow]

su·ki·ya·ki (sōō′kē·yä′kē, -yak′ē; skē-) *n.* A Japanese dish made of meat in thin slices, vegetables, and condiments. [< Japanese *suki* spade + *yaki* roast]

Suk·koth (sōōk′ōth, -ōs, -əs) *n.* The feast of Tabernacles, a Jewish holiday beginning on the 15th of Tishri (late September–October), originally a harvest festival: also spelled *Succoth*. Also **Suk′kos, Suk′kot.** [< Hebrew *sūkōth* tabernacles]

sulfa- *combining form Chem.* Sulfur; related to or containing sulfur: also spelled *sulpha-*. Also, before vowels, **sulf-**. See also SULFO-. [< SULFUR]

sul·fa drug (sul′fə) *Chem.* Any of a large group of organic compounds consisting mainly of substituted sulfanilamide derivatives, some of which are effective in the treatment of certain bacterial infections.

sul·fa·nil·a·mide (sul′fə·nil′ə·mīd, -mid) *n. Chem.* A colorless, crystalline sulfonamide, $C_6H_8N_2O_2S$, used in the treatment of various bacterial infections.

sul·fate (sul′fāt) *n. Chem.* A salt of sulfuric acid. — *v.* **·fat·ed, ·fat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To form a sulfate of; treat with a sulfate or sulfuric acid. **2.** *Electr.* To form a coating of lead sulfate on (the plate of a secondary battery). — *v.i.* **3.** To become sulfated. Also spelled *sulphate*.

sul·fide (sul′fīd) *n. Chem.* A compound of sulfur with an element or radical: also *sulphide, sulphid*. Also **sul′fid** (-fid).

sul·fite (sul′fīt) *n. Chem.* A salt or ester of sulfurous acid: also spelled *sulphite*. — **sul·fit′ic** (-fit′ik) *adj.*

sulfo- *combining form Chem.* Sulfur; containing sulfur. Also spelled *sulpho-*. [< SULFUR]

sul·fon·a·mide (sul·fon′ə·mīd, sul′fən·am′īd, -id) *n. Chem.* Any of a class of chemotherapeutic compounds containing the univalent radical SO_2N, esp. those derived from sulfanilamide: also spelled *sulphonamide*.

sul·fur (sul′fər) *n.* A pale yellow, nonmetallic element (symbol S), found both free and combined in the native state, and existing in several forms, of which the best known is a crystalline solid that burns with a blue flame and a suffocating odor. It is used for making matches, gunpowder, vulcanized rubber, and medicines. See ELEMENT. Also spelled *sulphur*. [< AF *sulfre*, OF *soufre* < L *sulfur, -uris*]

sulfur dioxide *Chem.* A colorless, water-soluble, suffocating gas, SO_2, formed by the burning of sulfur and used in the manufacture of sulfuric acid.

sul·fu·re·ous (sul·fyŏŏr′ē·əs) *adj.* Of or like sulfur: also spelled *sulphureous*.

sul·fu·ret (sul′fyə·ret) *v.t.* **·fu·ret·ed** or **·ret·ted, ·fu·ret·ing** or **·ret·ting** To sulfurize.

sul·fu·ric (sul·fyŏŏr′ik) *adj. Chem.* Pertaining to or derived from sulfur, esp. in its higher valence: also *sulphuric*.

sulfuric acid *Chem.* A colorless, exceedingly corrosive, oily liquid, H_2SO_4, extensively employed in the manufacture of soda, batteries, guncotton, and in a great variety of industrial operations: formerly called *oil of vitriol, vitriol*.

sul·fur·ize (sul′fyə·rīz, -fə-) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To impregnate, treat with, or subject to the action of sulfur. **2.** To bleach or fumigate with sulfur. Also spelled *sulphurize*. Also **sul′fu·rate** (-rāt). — **sul′fur·i·za′tion** *n.*

sul·fur·ous (sul′fər·əs, sul·fyŏŏr′əs) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, derived from, or containing sulfur, esp. in its lower valence. **2.** Fiery; hellish. Also spelled *sulphurous*.

sulfurous acid *Chem.* A compound corresponding to the formula H_2SO_3, and known only in solution and by its salts.

sul·fur·y (sul′fər·ē) *adj.* Resembling or suggesting sulfur; sulfureous: also spelled *sulphury*.

sulk (sulk) *v.i.* To be sulky or morose. — *n.* **1.** *Often pl.* A sulky mood or humor. **2.** One who sulks. [Back formation < SULKY]

sulk·y[1] (sul′kē) *adj.* **sulk·i·er, sulk·i·est** **1.** Sullenly cross; doggedly or resentfully ill-humored. **2.** Dismal; gloomy: said of weather. [? OE (*ā*)*solcen*, orig. pp. of (*ā*)*seolcan* to be weak, slothful] — **sulk′i·ly** *adv.* — **sulk′i·ness** *n.*

sulk·y[2] (sul′kē) *n. pl.* **sulk·ies** A light, two-wheeled, one-horse vehicle for one person. [< SULKY[1]]

sul·len (sul′ən) *adj.* **1.** Obstinately and gloomily ill-humored; morose; glum; melancholy. **2.** Depressing; somber: *sullen* clouds. **3.** Slow; sluggish: a *sullen* tread. **4.** Ill-omened; threatening. [Earlier *solein*, appar. < AF < L *solus* alone] — **sul′len·ly** *adv.* — **sul′len·ness** *n.*

sul·ly (sul′ē) *v.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To mar the brightness or purity of; soil; defile; tarnish. — *v.i.* **2.** To become soiled or tarnished. — *n. pl.* **·lies** Anything that tarnishes; a stain; spot; blemish. [< MF *souiller* to soil]

sulpha- Var. of SULFA-.

sul·phur (sul′fər), **sul·phu·re·ous** (sul·fyŏŏr′ē·əs), etc. See SULFUR, etc.

sulpho- Var. of SULFO-.

sul·tan (sul′tən) *n.* The ruler of a Moslem country. — **the Sultan** Formerly, the title of the sovereign of Turkey. [< F < Med.L *sultanus* < Arabic *sultān*]

sul·tan·a (sul·tan′ə, -tä′nə) *n.* **1.** A sultan's wife, daughter, sister, or mother. Also **sul·tan·ess** (sul′tən·is). **2.** A variety of raisin from around Smyrna, Asia Minor.

sul·tan·ate (sul′tən·āt, -it) *n.* The authority or territorial jurisdiction of a sultan. Also **sul′tan·ship.**

sul·try (sul′trē) *adj.* **·tri·er, ·tri·est** **1.** Hot, moist, and still; close: said of weather. **2.** Emitting an oppressive heat. **3.** Showing or suggesting passion; sensual. [< obs. *sulter*, var. of SWELTER] — **sul′tri·ly** *adv.* — **sul′tri·ness** *n.*

sum (sum) *n.* **1.** The result obtained by addition. **2.** The entire quantity, number, or substance. **3.** An indefinite amount, as of money. **4.** A problem in arithmetic propounded for solution. **5.** The topmost or highest point; also, the maximum. **6.** The pith or essence; summary. — *v.* **summed, sum·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To present in brief; recapitulate succinctly: usu. with *up*. **2.** To add into one total: often with *up*. **3.** To ascertain the sum of (the terms of a series). — *v.i.* **4.** To make a summation or recapitulation: usu. with *up*. [< AF, OF < L *summa* (*res*) highest (thing)]

sum- Var. of SUB-.

su·mac (sōō′mak, shōō′-) *n.* **1.** Any of various woody, erect, or root-climbing plants, with panicles of small drupaceous fruits, and yielding a resinous or milky juice. **2.** The poison sumac. **3.** The dried and powdered leaves of certain species of sumac, used for tanning and dyeing. Also **su′mach.** [< OF < Med.L < Arabic *summāq*]

Su·mer (sōō′mər) A region and ancient country of Mesopotamia, later the southern division of Babylonia.

Su·me·ri·an (sōō·mir′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to ancient Sumer, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** One of an ancient non-Semitic people formerly occupying a part of lower Babylonia. **2.** The unclassified language of these people, written in cuneiform characters and preserved on rocks and clay tablets that date from as early as 4000 B.C. Also **Su·mir′i·an.**

sum·mand (sum′and) *n.* That which is added; any of the numbers forming part of a sum.

sum·ma·rize (sum′ə·rīz) *v.t.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** To make a summary of; sum up. Also *Brit.* **sum′ma·rise.** — **sum′ma·rist** (-ə·rist), **sum′ma·riz′er** *n.* — **sum′ma·ri·za′tion** *n.*

sum·ma·ry (sum′ər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Giving the substance or sum; concise. **2.** Performed without ceremony or delay; offhand. — *n. pl.* **·ries** An abridgment or abstract. [< Med.L < L *summa* sum] — **sum·ma·ri·ly** (sum′ər·ə·lē, *emphatic* sə·mer′ə·lē) *adv.* — **sum′ma·ri·ness** *n.*

sum·ma·tion (sum·ā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or operation of obtaining a sum; the computation of an aggregate sum; addition. **2.** A speech or a portion of a speech summing up the principal points.

sum·mer (sum′ər) *n.* **1.** The warmest season of the year, occurring between spring and autumn. ◆ Collateral adjective: *estival*. **2.** A year of life, esp. of early or happy life. **3.** A bright and prosperous period. — *v.t.* **1.** To keep or care for through the summer. — *v.i.* **2.** To pass the summer. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or occurring in summer. [OE *sumor*] — **sum′mer·ly** *adj. & adv.* — **sum′mer·y** *adj.*

sum·mer·house (sum′ər·hous′) *n.* A rustic structure, as in a garden, for rest or shade.

sum·mer·sault (sum′ər·sôlt) See SOMERSAULT.

summer school A school, college, or university offering courses during the summer vacation period.

sum·mer·time (sum′ər·tīm′) *n.* Summer; the summer season. Also **sum′mer·tide′.**

sum·mit (sum′it) *n.* **1.** The highest part; the top; vertex. **2.** The highest degree; maximum. **3.** The highest level or rank, as of government officials: a meeting at the *summit*. **4.** A meeting or discussion among the highest executives of government, esp. chiefs of state; also, the place where such a meeting is held. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characterized by diplomacy at the highest level. [< OF < L *summum*, neut. of *summus* highest] — **sum′mit·al** *adj.*

— **Syn. 1.** acme, climax, peak, pinnacle, apex, zenith.

sum·mit·ry (sum′ə·trē) *n.* The practice of conducting diplomacy by means of conferences between the highest executives of government, esp. chiefs of state.

sum·mon (sum′ən) *v.t.* **1.** To order to come; send for. **2.** To call together; cause to convene, as a legislative assembly. **3.** To order (a person) to appear in court by a summons. **4.** To call forth or into action; arouse: usu. with *up*: to *summon* up courage. **5.** To bid or call on for a specific act: The garrison was *summoned* to surrender. [< AF, OF < L < *sub-* secretly + *monere* to warn]

sum·mon·er (sum′ən·ər) *n.* **1.** One who summons. **2.** *Archaic* An officer who summons persons to appear in court.

sum·mons (sum′ənz) *n. pl.* **sum·mon·ses** (sum′ən·zəz) **1.** A call to attend or act at a particular place or time. **2.** *Law* A notice to a defendant summoning him to appear in court; any citation issued to a party to an action to appear before a court or judge at chambers. **3.** A notice to a person requiring him to appear in court as a witness or as a juror. **4.** A military demand to surrender. **5.** Any signal or sound that is a peremptory call.

sum·mum bo·num (sum′əm bō′nəm) *Latin* The chief, supreme, or highest good.

sump (sump) *n.* **1.** A small well, pit, or cavity to receive liquid wastes or serve as a reservoir for lubricating oil. **2.** A cesspool or other reservoir for drainage. [< MDu. *somp*, *sump* marsh]

sump·ter (sump′tər) *n.* A pack animal; beast of burden. [< OF *sometier* driver of a pack horse]

sump·tu·ar·y (sump′chōō·er′ē) *adj.* Pertaining to expense; limiting or regulating expenditure, as some laws. [< L < *sumptus* expenditure]

sump·tu·ous (sump′chōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Involving or showing lavish expenditure. **2.** Luxurious; magnificent. [See SUMPTUARY.] — **sump′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **sump′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

sun (sun) *n.* **1.** The star that is the center of attraction and the main source of radiant energy in the solar system, with a mean distance from the earth of about 93 million miles, a diameter of 864,000 miles, and a mass 332,000 times that of the earth. ◆ Collateral adjectives: *heliacal, solar*. **2.** Any star, esp. one that is the center of a system revolving around it. **3.** Sunshine. **4.** Anything brilliant and magnificent. **5.** The time of the earth's revolution around the sun; a year. **6.** The daily appearance of the sun; a day; also, the time of its appearance or shining; sunrise. — **a place in the sun** **1.** A dominant position in international affairs. **2.** A position in the spotlight; publicity. — *v.* **sunned, sun·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To expose to the light or heat of the sun. **2.** To warm or dry (something) in the sun. — *v.i.* **3.** To bask in the sun. [OE *sunne*]

Sun may appear as a combining form or as the first element in two-word phrases, with the following meanings:

1. Of the sun: of sunshine:

sun blaze	**sunland**	**sun worship**
sun-eclipsing	**sun lover**	**sun worshiper**
sun glare	**sun-loving**	**sun-worshiping**

2. By or with the sun:

sun-arrayed	**sun-browned**	**sun-heated**
sun-bake	**sun-cracked**	**sun-kissed**
sun-baked	**sun-dappled**	**sunlit**
sun-blanched	**sun-dried**	**sun-scorched**
sun-blind	**sun-dry**	**sun-scorching**
sun-blinded	**sun-filled**	**sun-streaked**
sun-blistered	**sun-flooded**	**sun-warmed**
sun-brown	**sun-gilt**	**sun-withered**

sun bath Exposure of the body to the direct rays of the sun.

sun-bathe (sun′bāth′) *v.i.* **-bathed, -bath·ing** To bask in the sun, esp., as a method of tanning the skin. — **sun′-bath′er** *n.* — **sun′bath′ing** *n.*

sun·beam (sun′bēm′) *n.* A ray or beam of the sun; light from the sun in a visible path.

Sun·belt (sun′belt′) *n.* The southern part of the U.S. from Virginia to southern California: also **sun′belt′.**

sun·bon·net (sun′bon′it) *n.* A bonnet of light material with projecting brim and sometimes a cape over the neck.

sun·burn (sun′bûrn′) *n.* Discoloration or inflammation of the skin from exposure to the sun. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·burned** or **·burnt, ·burn·ing** To affect or be affected with sunburn.

sun·burst (sun′bûrst′) *n.* **1.** A strong burst of sunlight, as through rifted clouds. **2.** A jewelled brooch, etc., with rays shooting forth in all directions from a central disk.

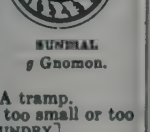
sun·dae (sun′dē, -dā) *n.* A refreshment made of ice cream, crushed fruit, syrup, nuts, etc. [Prob. < SUNDAY]

Sun·day (sun′dē, -dā) *n.* The first day of the week; the Christian Sabbath. [OE < *sunnan* of the sun + *dæg* day]

Sunday school A school in which religious instruction is given on Sunday, esp., to the young; also, the teachers and pupils collectively.

sun deck An exposed surface or platform suitable for sunbathing, as on a ship or building; sun roof.

sun·der (sun′dər) *v.t.* **1.** To break apart; disunite; sever. — *v.i.* **2.** To be parted or severed. — *n.* Division into parts; separation. — **in sunder** Separate from other parts; apart. [OE *syndrian sundrian*] — **sun′der·ance** *n.*


SUNDIAL
g Gnomon.

sun·di·al (sun′dī′əl) *n.* A device that shows the time of day by the shadow of a gnomon thrown on a dial.

sun·down (sun′doun′) *n. Chiefly U.S.* Sunset.

sun·down·er (sun′dou′nər) *n. Informal* A tramp.

sun·dries (sun′drēz) *n.pl.* Items or things too small or too numerous to be separately specified. [< SUNDRY]

sun·dry (sun′drē) *adj.* Of an indefinite small number; various; several; miscellaneous. [OE *syndrig* separate]

sun·fish (sun′fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** **1.** Any of various large oceanic fishes having a deep, compressed body truncated in the rear, and tough, leathery flesh. **2.** Any of a family of North American fresh-water fishes.

sun·flow·er (sun′flou′ər) *n.* Any of various tall, stout herbs with large leaves and circular heads of bright yellow flowers.

Sunflower State Nickname of Kansas.

sung (sung) Past participle and occasional past tense of SING.

Sung (sōōng) *n.* A dynasty in Chinese history, 960 to 1280, noted for its achievements in art and philosophy.

sun·glass (sun′glas′, -gläs′) *n.* **1.** *pl.* Spectacles that protect the eyes from the glare of the sun by their colored lenses. **2.** A burning glass.

sunk (sungk) Past participle and alternative past tense of SINK.

sunk·en (sung′kən) Obsolete past participle of SINK. — *adj.* **1.** Deeply depressed or fallen in; hollow: a *sunken* cheek. **2.** Located beneath the surface of the ground or the water. **3.** At a lower level: *sunken* gardens.

sun lamp A lamp radiating ultraviolet rays, used for therapeutic treatments or to acquire a sun tan.

sun·less (sun′lis) *adj.* **1.** Lacking sun or sunlight; overcast; dark. **2.** Cheerless; gloomy. — **sun′less·ness** *n.*

sun·light (sun′lit) *n.* The light of the sun.

sun·ny (sun′ē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** **1.** Filled with the light and warmth of the sun; also, exposed to the sun. **2.** Of or resembling the sun or sunlight. **3.** Bright; genial; cheery: a *sunny* smile. — **sun′ni·ly** *adv.* — **sun′ni·ness** *n.*

sunny side **1.** The side, as of a hill, facing the sun. **2.** The cheerful view of any situation, question, etc.

sun parlor A room enclosed in glass and having a sunny exposure. Also **sun porch.**

sun·rise (sun′rīz′) *n.* **1.** The daily first appearance of the sun above the horizon, with the atmospheric phenomena just before and after. **2.** The time at which the sun rises.

sun·set (sun′set′) *n.* **1.** The apparent daily descent of the sun below the horizon. **2.** The time when the sun sets; the early evening. **3.** The colors in the sky at sunset.

sun·shade (sun′shād′) *n.* Something used as a shade or protection from the sun, as a parasol, an awning, etc.

sun·shine (sun′shīn′) *n.* **1.** The shining light of the sun; the direct rays of the sun. **2.** The warmth of the sun's rays. **3.** Brightness; cheerfulness. — **sun′shin′y** *adj.*

Sunshine State Nickname of Florida, New Mexico, and South Dakota.

sun·spot (sun′spot′) *n. Astron.* One of many dark irregular spots appearing periodically on the sun's surface.

sun·stroke (sun′strōk′) *n. Pathol.* A sudden onset of high fever induced by exposure to the sun and often marked by convulsions and coma. — **sun′struck′** (-struk′) *adj.*

sun tan A bronze-colored condition of the skin, produced by exposure to the sun. — **sun′-tanned′** (-tand′) *adj.*

sun·up (sun′up′) *n. Chiefly U.S.* Sunrise.

sup[1] (sup) *v.t. & v.i.* **supped, sup·ping** To take (fluid food) in successive mouthfuls, a little at a time; sip. — *n.* A mouthful or taste of liquid or semiliquid food. [OE *sūpan*]

sup[2] (sup) *v.* **supped, sup·ping** *v.i.* To eat supper. [< OF *soper, super*]

sup- Var. of SUB-.

su·per[1] (sōō′pər) *n. Informal* A superintendent (def. 2).

su·per[2] (sōō′pər) *n. Slang* A supernumerary (def. 2).

su·per[3] (sōō′pər) *n.* An article of superior size or quality; also, such size or quality. — *adj. Slang* First-rate; superfine. [Short for SUPERIOR]

super- *prefix* **1.** Above in position; over: *superstructure.* **2.** Above or beyond; more than: *supersonic.* **3.** Excessively: *supersaturate.* **4.** Greater than or superior to others of its class: *superhighway.* **5.** Extra; additional: *supertax.* [< L *super-* < *super* above, beyond]

In the following list of words *super-* denotes excess or superiority, as *supercritical* excessively critical, *superexcellence* superior excellence.

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superabhor
superabominable
superabsurd
superaccession
superaccommodating
superaccomplished
superaccumulate
superachievement
superacquisition
superacute
superadaptable
superadequate
superadmiration
superadorn
superaffluence
superagency
superaggravation
superagitation
superambitious
superangelic
superappreciation
superarbitrary
superarduous
superarrogant
superaspiration
superastonish
superattachment
superattraction
superattractive
superbelief
superbeloved
superbenefit
superbenevolent
superbenign
superbias
superblessed
superblunder
superbold
superbrave
superbusy
supercandid
supercapable
supercatastrophe
supercatholic
supercaution
superceremonious
superchivalrous
supercivil
supercivilized
superclassified
supercolossal
supercombination
supercommendation
supercommercial
supercompetition
supercomplex
supercomprehension
supercompression
superconfident
superconformist

superconformity
superconfusion
supercongestion
superconservative
supercontrol
supercordial
supercritic
supercritical
supercultivated
supercurious
supercynical
superdainty
superdanger
superdeclamatory
superdeficit
superdejection
superdelicate
superdemand
superdemonic
superdesirous
superdevelopment
superdevilish
superdevotion
superdiabolical
superdifficult
superdiplomacy
superdistribution
superdividend
superdonation
supereconomy
supereffective
supereffluence
superelastic
superelated
superelegance
supereligible
supereloquent
superemphasis
superendorsement
superendow
superenforcement
superenrollment
superestablishment
superesthetic
superethical
superevident
superexacting
superexalt
superexaltation
superexcellence
superexcellent
superexcitation
superexcited
superexcitement
superexiguity
superexpansion
superexpectation
superexpenditure
superexpressive
superexquisiteness

superextension
superfecundity
superfeminine
superfervent
superfoliation
superfolly
superformal
superformation
superformidable
superfriendly
superfructified
superfulfillment
supergaiety
supergallant
supergenerosity
superglorious
supergoodness
supergovernment
supergratification
supergravitation
superhandsome
superhearty
superhero
superheroic
superhistorical
superhypocrite
superideal
superignorant
superillustrate
superimpending
superimpersonal
superimportant
superimprobable
superimproved
superincentive
superinclination
superinclusive
superinconsistent
superindependent
superindifference
superindignant
superindividualism
superindividualist
superindulgence
superindustrious
superinference
superinfinite
superinfluence
superingenious
superinitiative
superinjustice
superinquisitive
superinsistent
superintellectual
superintolerable
superjurisdiction
superjustification
superknowledge
superlaborious

superlenient
superlie
superlogical
superloyal
superlucky
superluxurious
supermagnificently
supermanhood
supermarvelous
supermasculine
supermechanical
supermediocre
supermental
supermentality
supermetropolitan
supermishap
supermodest
supermoisten
supermorose
supermundane
supermystery
supernecessity
supernegligent
supernotable
supernumerous
superobedience
superobese
superobjectionable
superobligation
superobstinate
superoffensive
superofficious
superofficiousness
superopposition
superoratorical
superordinary
superorganize
superornamental
superoutput
superpatient
superpatriotic
superpatriotism
superperfection
superpious
superplease
superpolite
superpositive
superprecise
superpreparation
superpressure
superproduce
superprosperous
superpublicity
superpure
superpurgation
superradical
superrational
superrefined
superreform

superreliance
superremuneration
superrespectable
superresponsible
superrestriction
superreward
superrighteous
superromantic
supersacrifice
supersafe
supersagacious
supersanguine
supersarcastic
supersatisfaction
superscholarly
superscientific
supersensitive
supersensitiveness
supersensuousness
supersentimental
superserious
supersevere
supersignificant
supersimplify
supersmart
supersolemn
supersolemnly
supersolicitation
superspecialize
superspiritual
superspirituality
superstimulation
superstoical
superstrain
superstrenuous
superstrict
superstrong
superstylish
supersufficient
supersurprise
supersweet
supertension
superthankful
superthorough
supertoleration
supertragic
supertrivial
superugly
superunity
superurgent
supervexation
supervigilant
supervigorous
supervirulent
supervital
supervolume
superwise
superworldly
superwrought
superzealous

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su·per·a·ble (sōō′pər·ə·bəl) *adj.* That can be surmounted, overcome, or conquered. [< L < *superare* to overcome]

su·per·a·bun·dant (sōō′pər·ə·bun′dənt) *adj.* More than sufficient; excessive. — **su′per·a·bun′dance** *n.* — **su′per·a·bun′dant·ly** *adv.*

su·per·an·nu·ate (sōō′pər·an′yōō·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** 1. To permit to retire on a pension on account of age or infirmity. 2. To set aside or discard as obsolete or too old. [< Med.L < L < *super* beyond + *annus* year]

su·per·an·nu·at·ed (sōō′pər·an′yōō·ā′tid) *adj.* 1. Retired on account of age, esp. with a pension. 2. Too old to be useful or efficient. 3. Obsolete; outdated.

su·perb (sōō·pûrb′, sə-) *adj.* 1. Having grand, impressive beauty; majestic; imposing. 2. Luxurious; rich and costly; elegant. 3. Very good; supremely fine. [< L *superbus* proud] — **su·perb′ly** *adv.* — **su·perb′ness** *n.*

su·per·car·go (sōō′pər·kär′gō) *n. pl.* **·goes** or **·gos** An agent on board ship in charge of the cargo and its sale and purchase. [< L *super-* over + CARGO]

su·per·charge (*v.* sōō′pər·chärj′; *n.* sōō′pər·chärj′) *v.t.* **·charged, ·charg·ing** 1. To adapt (an engine) to develop more power by fitting with a supercharger. 2. To charge to excess; overload. — *n.* An excess charge.

su·per·charg·er (sōō′pər·chär′jər) *n. Mech.* A compressor for supplying air or combustible mixture to an internal-combustion engine at a pressure greater than that developed by the suction of the pistons alone.

su·per·cil·i·ous (sōō′pər·sil′ē·əs) *adj.* Exhibiting haughty contempt or indifference; arrogant. [< L < *supercilium* eyebrow] — **su′per·cil′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **su′per·cil′i·ous·ness** *n.*

su·per·con·duc·tiv·i·ty (sōō′pər·kon′duk·tiv′ə·tē) *n. Physics.* The property, exhibited by certain substances, of becoming almost perfect conductors of electricity at temperatures close to absolute zero. — **su′per·con·duc′tive** (-kən·duk′tiv) *adj.* — **su′per·con·duc′tor** *n.*

su·per·e·go (sōō′pər·ē′gō, -eg′ō) *n. Psychoanal.* The part of the psyche that acts to secure the conformity of the ego to parental, social, and moral standards.

su·per·em·i·nent (sōō′pər·em′ə·nənt) *adj.* Excelling or surpassing others; of a superior or remarkable quality. [< L *supereminere* to rise above] — **su′per·em′i·nence** *n.* — **su′per·em′i·nent·ly** *adv.*

su·per·er·o·gate (sōō′pər·er′ə·gāt) *v.i.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** To do more than is required or ordered. [< L < *super-* over and above + *erogare* to pay out] — **su′per·er′o·ga′tion** *n.* — **su′per·e·rog′a·to′ry** (-ə·rog′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

su·per·fi·cial (sōō′pər·fish′əl) *adj.* 1. Of, lying near, or forming the surface; affecting only the surface. 2. Of only the ordinary and the obvious; shallow: a *superficial* writer. 3. Marked by partial knowledge; cursory; hasty; slight: a *superficial* analysis. 4. Not real or genuine: a *superficial* likeness. 5. Square: said of measure. [< LL < L *super-* over + *ficies* face] — **su′per·fi′ci·al′i·ty** (-fish′ē·al′ə·tē), **su′per·fi′cial·ness** *n.* — **su′per·fi′cial·ly** *adv.*

su·per·fine (sōō′pər·fīn′) *adj.* 1. Of surpassing fineness and delicacy; of the best quality. 2. Overrefined; unduly elaborate; overnice. — **su′per·fine′ness** *n.*

su·per·flu·id (*n.* sōō′pər·flōō′id; *adj.* sōō′pər·flōō′id) *n. Physics* Matter, as helium, cooled to within a degree of absolute zero, and characterized by an exceptional heat conductivity, a ready permeation of very dense substances, and the ability to flow upward against gravity. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to such a state.

su·per·flu·i·ty (sōō′pər·flōō′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** 1. The state of being superfluous. 2. That which is superfluous. 3. Superabundance; plenty. [< OF < L < *super-* over + *fluere* to flow]

su·per·flu·ous (sōō·pûr′flōō·əs) *adj.* 1. Exceeding what is needed; excessively abundant; surplus. 2. Unnecessary; uncalled for; irrelevant: a *superfluous* question. — **su·per′flu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **su·per′flu·ous·ness** *n.*

su·per·heat (*v.* sōō′pər·hēt′; *n.* sōō′pər·hēt′) *v.t.* 1. To heat to excess; overheat. 2. To raise the temperature of (a gas or vapor not in contact with water) above the saturation point for a given pressure. 3. To heat (a liquid) above the boiling point for a given pressure, but without conversion into vapor. — *n.* The degree to which steam has been superheated, or the heat so imparted. — **su′per·heat′er** *n.*

su·per·het·er·o·dyne (sōō′pər·het′ər·ə·dīn′) *adj. Electronics* Pertaining to or designating a type of radio reception using heterodyne circuits between stages of amplification. Also **su′per·het′.** — *n.* A superheterodyne receiver. [< SUPER(SONIC) + HETERODYNE]

su·per·high·way (sōō′pər·hī′wā′) *n.* A highway for high-speed traffic, generally with four or more traffic lanes divided by a safety strip.

su·per·hu·man (sōō′pər·hyōō′mən) *adj.* 1. Above the range of human power or skill; miraculous or divine. 2. Beyond normal human ability or power. — **su′per·hu·man′i·ty** (-hyōō·man′ə·tē) *n.* — **su′per·hu′man·ly** *adv.*

su·per·im·pose (sōō′pər·im·pōz′) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** 1. To lay or impose upon something else. 2. To add to something else. — **su′per·im′po·si′tion** (-im′pə·zish′ən) *n.*

su·per·in·duce (sōō′pər·in·dōōs′, -dyōōs′) *v.t.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** To introduce additionally; bring in or cause as an addition. — **su′per·in·duc′tion** (-duk′shən) *n.*

su·per·in·tend (sōō′pər·in·tend′) *v.t.* To have the charge and direction of; manage; supervise. [< LL < *super-* over + *intendere* to aim at] — **su′per·in·ten′dence** *n.*

su·per·in·ten·dent (sōō′pər·in·ten′dənt) *n.* 1. One whose function is to superintend some particular work, office, or undertaking. 2. A person charged with supervising maintenance and repair in an office or apartment building. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to superintendence or a superintendent; superintending. [< LL < *superintendere* to superintend] — **su′per·in·ten′den·cy** *n.*

su·pe·ri·or (sə·pir′ē·ər, sōō-) *adj.* 1. Surpassing in quantity, quality, or degree; more excellent; preferable. 2. Of great worth or excellence; extraordinary. 3. Of higher grade, rank, or dignity. 4. Too great or dignified to be influenced; serenely indifferent: with *to*: *superior* to envy. 5. Affecting superiority; supercilious; disdainful. 6. Locally higher; more elevated; upper. 7. *Printing* Set above the line: In $C^{b}D^{a}$, 4 and n are *superior*. — *n.* 1. One who surpasses another in rank or excellence. 2. The ruler of an ecclesiastical order or house, as a convent, or monastery. [< OF < L < *super* above] — **su·pe·ri·or·i·ty** (sə·pir′ē·ôr′ə·tē, -or′-, sōō-) *n.* — **su·pe′ri·or·ly** *adv.*

su·per·la·tive (sə·pûr′lə·tiv, sōō-) *adj.* 1. Elevated to the highest degree; of supreme excellence or eminence. 2. *Gram.* Expressing the extreme degree of comparison of adjectives or adverbs. See COMPARISON (def. 3). 3. Excessive. — *n.* 1. That which is superlative. 2. *Gram.* **a** The highest degree of comparison of the adjective or adverb. **b** Any word or phrase in this degree. [< OF < LL < L < *super-* above + *latus*, pp. of *ferre* to carry] — **su·per′la·tive·ly** *adv.* — **su·per′la·tive·ness** *n.*

su·per·man (sōō′pər·man′) *n. pl.* **·men** (-men′) 1. A hypothetical superior being, regarded as the product of evolutionary survival of the fittest. 2. A man possessing superhuman powers. [Trans. of G *übermensch*]

su·per·mar·ket (sōō′pər·mär′kit) *n.* A large store selling food and household supplies and operating on a self-service, cash-and-carry basis. Also **super market.**

su·per·nal (sōō·pûr′nəl) *adj.* 1. Heavenly; celestial. 2. Placed or located above; lofty; overhead; towering. [< OF < L < *super* over] — **su·per′nal·ly** *adv.*

su·per·nat·u·ral (sōō′pər·nach′ər·əl) *adj.* 1. Existing or occurring through some agency beyond the known forces of nature. 2. Believed to be miraculous or caused by the immediate exercise of divine power. 3. Of the miraculous. — *n.* 1. That which is supernatural. 2. The action or intervention of something supernatural: with *the*. [< Med.L < L *super-* above + *natura* (< *nasci* to be born)] — **su′per·nat′u·ral·ly** *adv.* — **su′per·nat′u·ral·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** (adj.) 1. A *supernatural* event is literally not bound or explainable by known natural laws. *Preternatural* refers to that which is superlative in degree, but not outside the known realm of nature: to display *preternatural* insight into a situation. Anything *miraculous* is so marvellous or extraordinary that it is usually attributed to divine agency.

su·per·nat·u·ral·ism (sōō′pər·nach′ər·əl·iz′əm) *n.* 1. The quality of being supernatural. 2. Belief in the doctrine that a supernatural power guides the natural order. — **su′per·nat′u·ral·ist** *adj. & n.* — **su′per·nat′u·ral·is′tic** *adj.*

su·per·nu·mer·ar·y (sōō′pər·nōō′mə·rer′ē, -nyōō′-) *adj.* 1. Being beyond a fixed or standard number. 2. Beyond a customary or necessary number; superfluous. — *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** 1. A supernumerary person or thing. 2. A stage performer, as in crowd scenes, without any speaking part. [< LL < L < *super* over + *numerus* number]

su·per·pose (sōō′pər·pōz′) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** To lay over or upon something else, as one layer upon another. [< F < *super-* over + *poser* to put] — **su′per·pos′a·ble** *adj.* — **su′per·po·si′tion** (-pə·zish′ən) *n.*

su·per·sat·u·rate (sōō′pər·sach′ōō·rāt) *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To saturate (a solution) beyond the point normal under a given temperature. — **su′per·sat′u·ra′tion** *n.*

su·per·scribe (sōō′pər·skrīb′) *v.t.* **·scribed, ·scrib·ing** 1. To write or engrave on the outside or upper part of. 2. To inscribe with a name or address, as a letter. [< LL < L *super-* over + *scribere* to write] — **su′per·scrip′tion** (-skrip′shən) *n.*

su·per·script (sōō′pər·skript′) *adj.* Written above or overhead. — *n.* 1. A superscript character. 2. *Math.* A character written above and to the right or left of a term to indicate a specific operation or characteristic of the term.

su·per·sede (sōō′pər·sēd′) *v.t.* **·sed·ed, ·sed·ing** 1. To take the place of, as by reason of superior worth, right, or appropriateness; replace; supplant. 2. To put something in the place of; set aside; suspend; annul. [< OF < L < *super-*

above, over + *sedere* to sit] — **su/per·sed/er** *n.* — **su/per·se/dure** (-sē/jər), **su/per·se/sion** (-sesh/ən) *n.*

su·per·son·ic (sōō/pər·son/ik) *adj.* **1.** *Aeron.* Of, pertaining to, or characterized by a speed greater than that of sound. **2.** Ultrasonic.

su·per·son·ics (sōō/pər·son/iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The science that treats of supersonic speed.

su·per·sti·tion (sōō/pər·stish/ən) *n.* **1.** A belief founded on irrational feelings, esp. of fear, and marked by a trust in charms, omens, the supernatural, etc.; also, any rite or practice inspired by such belief. **2.** Any unreasonable belief. [< OF < L < *super-* over + *stare* to stand still]

su·per·sti·tious (sōō/pər·stish/əs) *adj.* **1.** Disposed to believe in superstitions. **2.** Of or manifesting superstition. — **su/per·sti/tious·ly** *adv.* — **su/per·sti/tious·ness** *n.*

su·per·struc·ture (sōō/pər·struk/chər) *n.* **1.** Any structure or part of a structure considered in relation to its foundation. **2.** *Naut.* The parts of a ship's structure, as of a warship, above the main deck.

su·per·tax (sōō/pər·taks/) *n.* An extra tax in addition to the normal tax; a surtax.

su·per·vene (sōō/pər·vēn/) *v.i.* **·vened, ·ven·ing** **1.** To follow closely upon something; come as something extraneous or additional. **2.** To take place; happen. [< L < *super-* over and above + *venire* to come] — **su/per·ven/ient** (-vēn/yənt) *adj.* — **su/per·ven/tion** (-ven/shən) *n.*

su·per·vise (sōō/pər·vīz) *v.t.* **·vised, vis·ing** To have charge of directing (employees, an operation, etc.); superintend; oversee. [< Med.L < L *super-* over + *videre* to see]

su·per·vi·sion (sōō/pər·vizh/ən) *n.* **1.** The act of supervising; superintendence. **2.** The authority to supervise.

su·per·vi·sor (sōō/pər·vī/zər) *n.* **1.** One who supervises or oversees; superintendent; inspector; administrative officer. **2.** A person supervising teachers of special subjects in a school. — **su/per·vi/sor·ship** *n.* — **su/per·vi/so·ry** *adj.*

su·pine (sōō·pīn/) *adj.* **1.** Lying on the back, or with the face turned upward. **2.** Inactive; indolent; listless. [< L *supinus*] — **su·pine/ly** *adv.* — **su·pine/ness** *n.*

sup·per (sup/ər) *n.* The last meal of the day; the evening meal. [< OF *soper* to sup, dine] — **sup/per·less** *adj.*

sup·plant (sə·plant/, -plänt/) *v.t.* **1.** To take the place of; displace. **2.** To take the place of (someone) by scheming, treachery, etc. **3.** To replace (one thing) with another; remove; uproot. [< OF < L *supplantare* to trip up < *sub-* up from below + *planta* the sole of the foot] — **sup·plan·ta·tion** (sup/lan·tā/shən) *n.* — **sup·plant/er** *n.*

sup·ple (sup/əl) *adj.* **sup·pler** (sup/lər), **sup·plest** (sup/ləst) **1.** Easily bent; flexible; pliant. **2.** Yielding to the humor or wishes of others; esp., servilely compliant. **3.** Showing adaptability of mind. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To make or become supple. [< OF < L < *sub-* under + stem of *plicare* to fold] — **sup/ple·ly** *adv.* — **sup/ple·ness** *n.*

sup·ple·ment (*v.* sup/lə·ment; *n.* sup/lə·mənt) *v.t.* To make additions to; provide for what is lacking in. — *n.* **1.** Something that supplements; esp. an addition to a publication. **2.** A supplementary angle. [See SUPPLY¹.]

sup·ple·men·tal (sup/lə·men/təl) *adj.* Additional.

sup·ple·men·ta·ry (sup/lə·men/tər·ē) *adj.* Functioning as a supplement; supplemental.

supplementary angle *Geom.* Either of two angles whose sum is 180°: also called *supplement.*

sup·pli·ant (sup/lē·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Entreating earnestly and humbly; beseeching. **2.** Manifesting entreaty or supplication. — *n.* One who supplicates. [< MF < L. See SUPPLICATE.] — **sup/pli·ant·ly** *adv.* — **sup/pli·ant·ness** *n.*

sup·pli·cant (sup/lə·kənt) *n.* One who supplicates. — *adj.* Entreating humbly; beseeching. [See SUPPLICATE.]

sup·pli·cate (sup/lə·kāt) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To ask for humbly or by earnest prayer. **2.** To beg something of; entreat. — *v.i.* **3.** To beg or pray humbly. [< L < *sub-* under + *plicare* to bend, fold] — **sup/pli·ca/tion** *n.* — **sup/pli·ca·to·ry** (-kə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē) *adj.*

sup·ply¹ (sə·plī/) *v.* **·plied, ·ply·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give or furnish (something needful or desirable). **2.** To furnish with what is needed: to *supply* an army with ammunition. **3.** To provide for adequately; satisfy: to *supply* a demand. **4.** To make good or compensate for, as a loss or deficiency. **5.** To fill (the place of another); also, to fill (an office, etc.) or occupy (a pulpit) as a substitute. — *v.i.* **6.** To take the place of another temporarily. — *n. pl.* **·plies** **1.** That which is or can be supplied. **2.** An amount sufficient for a given use; store or quantity on hand. **3.** *Usu. pl.* Accumulated stores reserved for distribution, as for an army. **4.** *Econ.* The amount of a commodity offered at a given price or available for meeting a demand. **5.** A substitute or temporary incumbent. **6.** The act of supplying. [< OF < L < *sub-* up from under + *ple-*, root of *plenus* full]

sup·ply² (sup/lē) *adv.* In a supple manner; supplely.

sup·port (sə·pôrt/, -pōrt/) *v.t.* **1.** To bear the weight of. **2.** To hold in position. **3.** To bear or sustain (weight, etc.). **4.** To keep (a person, the mind, etc.) from failing or declining. **5.** To serve to uphold or corroborate (a statement, etc.). **6.** To provide (a person, institution, etc.) with maintenance. **7.** To give approval or assistance to; uphold. **8.** To tolerate: I cannot *support* his insolence. **9.** To carry on; keep up: to *support* a war. **10.** In the theater: **a** To act (a part). **b** To act in a subordinate role to. — *n.* **1.** The act of supporting, or the state of being supported. **2.** One who or that which supports. **3.** Subsistence. [< OF < L < *sub-* up from under + *portare* to carry]

sup·port·a·ble (sə·pôr/tə·bəl, -pōr/-) *adj.* Capable of being supported or endured; bearable; endurable. — **sup·port/a·ble·ness, sup·port/a·bil/i·ty** *n.* — **sup·port/a·bly** *adv.*

sup·port·er (sə·pôr/tər, -pōr/-) *n.* **1.** One who or that which supports. **2.** An adherent. **3.** An elastic or other support for some part of the body. — **Syn.** See ADHERENT.

sup·pose (sə·pōz/) *v.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To think or imagine to oneself as true. **2.** To believe or believe probable; think. **3.** To assume as true for the sake of argument or illustration: *Suppose* he comes late. **4.** To expect or require: used in the passive: He is *supposed* to be on time. **5.** To imply as cause or consequence; presuppose. — *v.i.* **6.** To conjecture. [< OF < *sup-* under (< L *sub-*) + *poser* to put down] — **sup·pos/a·ble** *adj.* — **sup·pos/a·bly** *adv.* — **sup·pos/er** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** We *suppose* something to be true in expectation of finding that it is true, or in order to ascertain what follows if it is not true. We *conjecture* or *surmise* when the evidence is admittedly insufficient for certainty: *surmise* suggests slighter grounds for a conclusion than *conjecture.* Also, *conjecture* suggests that the question is one of fact, while *surmise* may refer to questions of interpretation or evaluation.

sup·posed (sə·pōzd/, -pō/zid) *adj.* Accepted as genuine or true, often erroneously. — **sup·pos·ed·ly** (sə·pō/zid·lē) *adv.*

sup·po·si·tion (sup/ə·zish/ən) *n.* **1.** The act of supposing. **2.** That which is supposed. — **Syn.** See HYPOTHESIS. [< Med.L < L < *sub-* under + *ponere* to place] — **sup/po·si/tion·al** *adj.* — **sup/po·si/tion·al·ly** *adv.*

sup·pos·i·to·ry (sə·poz/ə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** *Med.* A solid, readily fusible, medicated preparation for introduction into the rectum, vagina, or urethra. [< LL < L < *sub-* under + *ponere* to place]

sup·press (sə·pres/) *v.t.* **1.** To put an end or stop to; quell; crush, as a rebellion. **2.** To stop or prohibit the activities of; also, to abolish. **3.** To withhold from knowledge or publication, as a book, news, etc. **4.** To repress, as a groan or sigh. **5.** To check or stop (a hemorrhage, etc.). [< L < *sub-* under + *premere* to press] — **sup·pres/er** or **sup·pres/sor** *n.* — **sup·press/i·ble** *adj.* — **sup·pres/sive** *adj.*

sup·pres·sion (sə·presh/ən) *n.* **1.** The act of suppressing, or the state of being suppressed. **2.** *Psychoanal.* The deliberate exclusion from consciousness and action of an idea, emotion, or desire.

sup·pu·rate (sup/yə·rāt) *v.i.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To form or generate pus; maturate. [< L < *sub-* under + *pus* pus] — **sup/pu·ra/tion** *n.* — **sup/pu·ra/tive** *adj. & n.*

supra- *prefix* Above; beyond. [< L]

su·pra·re·nal (sōō/prə·rē/nəl) *Anat. adj.* **1.** Situated above the kidneys. **2.** Of or pertaining to the suprarenal glands. — *n.* A suprarenal gland. [< NL < L *supra-* above + *renes* kidneys]

suprarenal gland *Anat.* An adrenal gland.

su·prem·a·cy (sə·prem/ə·sē, sōō-) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The state of being supreme. **2.** Supreme power or authority.

su·preme (sə·prēm/, sōō-) *adj.* **1.** Highest in power or authority. **2.** Highest in degree, importance, quality, etc.; utmost: *supreme* devotion. **3.** Ultimate; last; final. [< L < *super* above] — **su·preme/ly** *adv.* — **su·preme/ness** *n.*

Supreme Being God.

Supreme Court In the U.S. and in various States, a court of appellate jurisdiction and, in most cases, of last resort.

Supreme Soviet The highest legislative body of the Soviet Union, consisting of two chambers, the **Soviet of the Union** and the **Soviet of Nationalities.**

sur-¹ *prefix* Above; beyond; over: *surcharge; surcoat.* [< OF < L *super* above]

sur-² Assimilated var. of SUB-.

su·rah (sōōr/ə) *n.* A soft, usu. twilled fabric of silk or silk and rayon. Also **surah silk.** [after *Surat,* India]

sur·cease (sûr·sēs/, sûr/sēs) *Archaic n.* Absolute cessation; end. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·ceased, ·cea·sing** To cease; end. [< AF < L < *super-* above + *sedere* to sit]

sur·charge (*n.* sûr/chärj/; *v.* sûr·chärj/) *n.* **1.** An excessive burden, load, or charge. **2.** An additional or excessive amount charged; overcharge. **3.** A new valuation or something additional printed on a postage stamp. — *v.t.*

·charged, ·charg·ing 1. To overcharge. 2. To overload. 3. To fill to excess. 4. To imprint a surcharge on (postage stamps). [< F < *sur-* over + CHARGE] — **sur·charg′er** *n.*

sur·cin·gle (sûr′sing·gəl) *n.* A girth or strap encircling the body of a horse, etc., as for holding a saddle. [< OF < *sur-* over + L *cingulum* belt]

sur·coat (sûr′kōt′) *n.* 1. An outer coat. 2. A cloaklike garment worn over armor. [< OF < *sur-* over + *cot* coat]

surd (sûrd) *n.* 1. *Math.* An irrational number, as $\sqrt{2}$. 2. *Phonet.* A voiceless speech sound. — *adj.* 1. *Math.* Incapable of being expressed in rational numbers; irrational. 2. *Phonet.* Voiceless. [< L *surdus* deaf, silent]

sure (shōōr) *adj.* **sur·er, sur·est** 1. Free from doubt; certain; positive. 2. Certain of obtaining, attaining, or retaining something: with *of*. 3. Not liable to change; firm; stable. 4. Bound to happen; inevitable. 5. Not liable to fail or err; infallible. 6. Reliable; trustworthy. 7. *Rare* Secure; safe. — **to be sure** Indeed; certainly. — **to make sure** To make certain; secure. — *adv. Informal* Surely; certainly. [< OF < L < *se-* without + *cura* care] — **sure′ness** *n.*

sure-e·nough (shōōr′i·nuf′) *U.S. Informal adj.* Real; genuine. — *adv.* Really; surely.

sure-foot·ed (shōōr′fōōt′id) *adj.* 1. Not liable to fall or stumble. 2. Not liable to fail or err.

sure·ly (shōōr′lē) *adv.* 1. Certainly. 2. Securely; safely.

sure·ty (shōōr′tē, shōōr′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** 1. One who agrees to be responsible for another; esp., one who engages to be responsible for the debt or default of another. 2. A pledge or guarantee to secure against loss, damage, default, etc.; security. 3. That which gives or serves as a basis for security or confidence; a guarantee. 4. The state of being sure. [< OF < L *securus*. See SURE.] — **sure′ty·ship** *n.*

surf (sûrf) *n.* The swell of the sea that breaks upon a shore; also, the foam caused by such a swell. — *v.i.* To engage in surfing. — **surf′er** *n.* [Earlier *suff*, ? var. of SOUGH] — **surf′y** *adj.*

sur·face (sûr′fis) *n.* 1. The exterior part or face of anything. 2. A superficial aspect; outward appearance. 3. That which has length and breadth, but not thickness. — *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or on a surface. 2. Superficial; exterior; apparent. — *v.* **·faced, ·fac·ing** *v.t.* 1. To put a surface on; esp., to make smooth. — *v.i.* 2. To rise to the surface, as a submarine. [< F < *sur-* above + FACE]

sur·face-ac·tive (sûr′fis·ak′tiv) *adj. Chem.* Pertaining to any of a class of substances that have the property of reducing the surface tension of a liquid in which they are dissolved: said esp. of detergents.

surface tension *Physics* That property of a liquid by virtue of which the surface molecules exhibit a strong inward attraction, thus forming an apparent membrane that tends to contract to the minimum area.

sur·fac·tant (sûr·fak′tənt) *n. Chem.* A surface-active agent.

surf·board (sûrf′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* A long, narrow board used in surfing.

surf·boat (sûrf′bōt′) *n.* A boat of extra strength and buoyancy, for launching and landing through surf.

sur·felt (sûr′fit) *v.t.* 1. To feed or supply to fullness or satiety; satiate. — *v.i.* 2. To partake of anything to excess; overindulge. — *n.* 1. Excess in eating or drinking; also, the excessive quantity partaken of. 2. The result of such excess; satiety. 3. Oppressive fullness caused by excess in eating or drinking. [< OF *surfaire* to overdo < *sur-* above + *faire* to make] — **sur·feit·er** *n.*

surf·ing (sûrf′ing) *n.* A water sport in which a person standing on a surfboard is borne by the surf toward the shore. Also **surf·rid·ing** (sûrf′ri′ding).

surf·rid·er (sûrf′ri′dər) *n.* One who engages in surfing.

surge (sûrj) *v.i.* **surged, surg·ing** 1. To rise high and roll onward, as waves; swell or heave. 2. To move or go in a manner suggestive of this. 3. To increase or vary suddenly, as an electric current. — *n.* 1. A large swelling wave; billow; also, such billows collectively. 2. A heaving and rolling motion, as of great waves. 3. *Electr.* A sudden fluctuation of voltage or current due to lightning, switching, etc. [< OF < L *surgere* to rise] — **surg′er** *n.* — **surg′y** *adj.*

sur·geon (sûr′jən) *n.* One who practices surgery, as distinguished from a physician. [See SURGERY.]

Surgeon General *pl.* **Surgeons General** or **Surgeon Generals** The chief officer of the Medical Department in the United States Army or Navy.

surgeon's knot A knot used in tying ligatures, stitching up wounds, etc. For illus. see KNOT.

sur·ger·y (sûr′jər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ger·ies** 1. The branch of medical science that relates to body injuries, deformities, and diseased conditions requiring treatment by operative procedures, with or without instruments. 2. A place where surgical treatment is given, as an operating room. 3. The work of a surgeon. [< OF, ult. < LL < Gk. < *cheir* hand + *ergon* work]

sur·gi·cal (sûr′ji·kəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or used in surgery. — **sur′gi·cal·ly** *adv.*

sur·ly (sûr′lē) *adj.* **sur·li·er, sur·li·est** Characterized by rudeness, ill-humor, or gruffness. [Earlier *sirly* < *sir* a lord + *-ly* like] — **sur′li·ly** (-lə·lē) *adv.* — **sur′li·ness** *n.*

sur·mise (sər·mīz′; *for n., also* sûr′mīz) *v.* **·mised, ·mis·ing** *v.t.* 1. To infer on slight evidence; guess. — *v.i.* 2. To make a conjecture. — **Syn.** See SUPPOSE. — *n.* 1. A conjecture made on slight evidence. 2. The act of surmising. [< OF < *sur-* upon + *mettre* to put < L *mittere* to send]

sur·mount (sər·mount′) *v.t.* 1. To overcome (a difficulty, etc.). 2. To mount to the top or cross to the other side of (an obstacle or mountain). 3. To be or lie over or above. 4. To place something on top of. [< OF < Med.L < L *super-* over + *mons* hill, mountain] — **sur·mount′a·ble** *adj.* — **sur·mount′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **sur·mount′er** *n.*

sur·name (sûr′nām′; *for v., also* sûr·nām′) *n.* The name of a person's family; the last name of a person: also called *family name*. — *v.t.* **·named, ·nam·ing** To give a surname to; call by a surname. [Alter. of obs. *surnoun* < OF < *sur-* above, beyond + *nom* name < L *nomen*] — **sur′nam′er** *n.*

sur·pass (sər·pas′, -päs′) *v.t.* 1. To go beyond or past in degree or amount; excel. 2. To go beyond the reach or powers of; transcend. — **Syn.** See EXCEED. [< MF < *sur-* above + PASS] — **sur·pass′a·ble** *adj.*

sur·pass·ing (sər·pas′ing, -päs′-) *adj.* Preeminently excellent; exceeding. — *adv. Poetic* Exceedingly; excellently. — **sur·pass′ing·ly** *adv.* — **sur·pass′ing·ness** *n.*

sur·plice (sûr′plis) *n. Eccl.* A loose white vestment with full sleeves, worn over the cassock by the clergy and choir of some churches. [< AF or OF < Med.L < *super-* over + *pellicia* fur garment]

sur·plus (sûr′plus) *adj.* Being in excess of what is used or needed. — *n.* 1. That which remains over and above what has been used or is required; excess. 2. Assets in excess of liabilities. [< OF < Med.L < *super-* over and above + *plus* more]

sur·prise (sər·prīz′) *v.t.* **·prised, ·pris·ing** 1. To cause to feel wonder or astonishment because unusual or unexpected. 2. To come upon suddenly or unexpectedly; take unawares. 3. To attack or capture suddenly and without warning. 4. To lead unawares, as into doing something not intended: with *into*. 5. To elicit in this manner: They *surprised* the truth from him. — *n.* 1. The act of surprising; a coming upon unawares. 2. The state of being surprised; astonishment. 3. That which causes surprise, as a sudden and unexpected event, fact, or gift. — **to take by surprise** 1. To come upon without warning or unexpectedly. 2. To astound or amaze; astonish. [< OF < Med.L < L *super-* over + *prehendere* to take] — **sur·pris′al** *n.* — **sur·pris′er** *n.*

sur·pris·ing (sər·prī′zing) *adj.* Causing surprise or wonder; amazing. — **sur·pris′ing·ly** *adv.* — **sur·pris′ing·ness** *n.*

sur·re·al·ism (sə·rē′əl·iz′əm) *n.* A modern movement in literature and art that attempts to express the workings of the subconscious mind, characterized by the incongruous arrangement and presentation of subject matter. [< F < *sur-* beyond, above + *réalisme* realism] — **sur·re′al·ist** *adj. & n.* — **sur·re′al·is′tic** *adj.* — **sur·re′al·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

sur·ren·der (sə·ren′dər) *v.t.* 1. To yield possession of or power over to another; give up because of compulsion. 2. To give up; abandon, as hope. 3. To relinquish, esp. in favor of another. 4. To give (oneself) over to a passion, influence, etc. — *v.i.* 5. To give oneself up, as to an enemy in warfare. — *n.* The act of surrendering. [< OF < *sur-* over + RENDER]

sur·rep·ti·tious (sûr′əp·tish′əs) *adj.* 1. Accomplished by secret or improper means; clandestine. 2. Acting secretly or by stealth. — **Syn.** See STEALTHY. [< L < *sub-* secretly + *rapere* to snatch] — **sur′rep·ti′tious·ly** *adv.* — **sur′rep·ti′tious·ness** *n.*

sur·rey (sûr′ē) *n.* A light vehicle, having two seats, four wheels, and sometimes a top. [Prob. after *Surrey*, England]

sur·ro·gate (sûr′ə·gāt; *for n., also* sûr′ə·git) *n.* 1. A substitute; deputy. 2. A probate judge. — *v.t.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** 1. To put in the place of another; substitute. 2. To appoint (another) to succeed oneself. [< L < *sub-* in place of another + *rogare* to ask] — **sur′ro·gate·ship** *n.*

sur·round (sə·round′) *v.t.* 1. To extend around; be on all sides of; encircle; enclose. 2. To shut in or enclose, as enemy troops, so as to cut off retreat. [< OF < LL < *super-* over + *undare* to rise in waves < *unda* a wave]

sur·round·ing (sə·roun′ding) *n.* 1. *pl.* That which surrounds; environment; conditions of life. 2. The act of one who surrounds. — *adj.* Encompassing; enveloping.

sur·tax (sûr′taks′) *n.* An extra tax; esp., a graduated income tax over and above the usual tax, levied on the amount by which net income exceeds a certain sum. — *v.t.* To assess with a surtax. [< F < *sur-* above + TAX]

sur·veil·lance (sər·vā′ləns, -vāl′yəns) *n.* 1. Close watch kept over one, as a suspect. 2. The act of watching, or the state of being watched. [< F < *sur-* over + *veiller* to watch < L *vigilare*] — **sur·veil′lant** *adj. & n.*

sur·vey (sər·vā′; *for n., also* sûr′vā) *v.t.* 1. To look at in its

entirety; view in a general way. **2.** To look at carefully and minutely; scrutinize. **3.** To determine accurately the area, contour, or boundaries of (land) by measuring lines and angles according to the principles of geometry and trigonometry. — *v.i.* **4.** To survey land. — *n.* **1.** The operation, act, process, or results of finding the contour, area, boundaries, etc., of a surface. **2.** A general or comprehensive view. **3.** A scrutinizing view; inspection. [< AF < OF < Med.L < *super-* over + *videre* to look]

sur·vey·ing (sər·vā′ing) *n.* **1.** The science and art of determining the area and configuration of portions of the surface of the earth and representing them on maps. **2.** The act of one who surveys.

sur·vey·or (sər·vā′ər) *n.* **1.** One who surveys; esp., one who surveys land. **2.** One who examines a thing for the purpose of ascertaining its condition, quality, or character; esp., a customs officer.

surveyor's measure A system of measurement used in surveying and based on the chain as a unit.

sur·viv·al (sər·vī′vəl) *n.* **1.** The act of surviving, or the state of having survived. **2.** One who or that which survives; esp., a custom, belief, etc., persisting in society.

survival of the fittest The principle of natural selection as applied to living organisms, societies, etc.

sur·vive (sər·vīv′) *v.* **·vived, ·viv·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To remain alive or in existence. — *v.t.* **2.** To live or exist beyond the death, occurrence, or end of; outlive; outlast. [< AF < OF < LL < *super-* above, beyond + *vivere* to live] — **sur·viv′ing** *adj.* — **sur·viv′er, sur·vi′vor** *n.*

sus- Assimilated var. of SUB-.

sus·cep·ti·bil·i·ty (sə·sep tə·bil′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being susceptible. **2.** The ability to receive or be impressed by deep emotions or strong feelings; sensibility. **3.** *pl.* Sensitive emotions; feelings. **4.** *Physics* The ratio of the magnetization of a material to the magnetic force producing it. — **Syn.** See SENSIBILITY.

sus·cep·ti·ble (sə·sep′tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Yielding readily; capable of being influenced, acted on, or determined; open; liable: usu. with *of* or *to*. **2.** Having delicate sensibility; impressionable. [< Med.L < L < *sub-* under + *capere* to take] — **sus·cep′ti·ble·ness** *n.* — **sus·cep′ti·bly** *adv.*

sus·pect (*v.* sə·spekt′; *adj.* & *n.* sus′pekt) *v.t.* **1.** To think (a person) guilty as specified on little or no evidence. **2.** To have distrust of; doubt. **3.** To have an inkling or suspicion of; think possible. — *v.i.* **4.** To have suspicions. — *adj.* Exciting, open to, or viewed with suspicion; suspected. — *n.* One who is under suspicion, esp. for a crime. [< F < L < *sub-* from under + *specere* to look]

sus·pend (sə·spend′) *v.t.* **1.** To bar for a time from a privilege, office, or function as a punishment. **2.** To cause to cease for a time; withhold temporarily. **3.** To hold in a state of indecision; withhold or defer action on: to *suspend* a sentence. **4.** To hang from a support so as to allow free movement. **5.** To sustain in a body of nearly the same specific gravity; keep in suspension, as dust motes in the air. — *v.i.* **6.** To stop for a time. **7.** To fail to meet obligations; stop payment. [< OF < L *sub-* under + *pendere* to hang]

sus·pend·er (sə·spen′dər) *n.* **1.** *pl. U.S.* A pair of straps worn over the shoulders for supporting the trousers. **2.** *Brit.* A garter.

sus·pense (sə·spens′) *n.* **1.** The state of being uncertain, undecided, or insecure, usu. accompanied by anxiety, apprehension, etc. **2.** An uncertain or doubtful situation. [< OF < Med.L < L *suspendere*. See SUSPEND.]

sus·pen·sion (sə·spen′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of suspending, or the state of being suspended. **2.** The state of deferment. **3.** *Physics* A uniform dispersion of small particles in a medium, either by mechanical agitation or by molecular forces. **4.** Cessation of payments in business. **5.** Any device on or from which something is suspended. **6.** *Mech.* A system of flexible members, as springs in a vehicle, intended to insulate the chassis and body against road shocks. **7.** *Music* The prolongation of a chord tone into the succeeding chord, where it forms a momentary dissonance; also, the tone so prolonged. **8.** The act of debarring from an office or its privileges.

suspension bridge A bridge in which the roadway is hung from cables anchored over towers and without intervening support from below.

SUSPENSION BRIDGE
(Brooklyn Bridge, New York)

sus·pen·sive (sə·spen′siv) *adj.* **1.** Tending to suspend or keep in suspense. **2.** Of or characterized by suspense. **3.** Having the power of suspending operation: a *suspensive* veto. — **sus·pen′sive·ly** *adv.* — **sus·pen′sive·ness** *n.*

sus·pen·so·ry (sə·spen′sər·ē) *adj.* Suspending; sustaining; delaying. — *n.* *pl.* **·ries** A truss, bandage, or supporter.

sus·pi·cion (sə·spish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of suspecting, or the state of one who suspects; the imagining of something wrong without proof or clear evidence. **2.** *Informal* The least particle, as of a flavor. — *v.t.* *Dial.* To suspect. [< OF < Med.L < L < *sub-* from under + *specere* to look] — **sus·pi′cion·al** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** distrust, dubiety, skepticism. See DOUBT. **2.** soupçon, dash, touch, tinge, shade.

sus·pi·cious (sə·spish′əs) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to suspect; distrustful. **2.** Apt to arouse suspicion. **3.** Indicating suspicion. — **sus·pi′cious·ly** *adv.* — **sus·pi′cious·ness** *n.*

sus·tain (sə·stān′) *v.t.* **1.** To keep from sinking or falling; uphold; support. **2.** To endure without yielding; withstand. **3.** To undergo or suffer, as loss or injury. **4.** To keep up the courage, resolution, or spirits of; comfort. **5.** To keep up or maintain; keep in effect or being. **6.** To maintain by providing with food, drink, etc. **7.** To uphold or support as being true or just. **8.** To corroborate; confirm. [< OF < L < *sub-* up from under + *tenere* to hold] — **sus·tain′a·ble** *adj.* — **sus·tain′er** *n.* — **sus·tain′ment** *n.*

sus·tain·ing program (sə·stā′ning) A radio or television program that has no commercial sponsor but is paid for by the network or station.

sus·te·nance (sus′tə·nəns) *n.* **1.** The act of sustaining, or the state of being sustained; esp., maintenance of life. **2.** That which sustains; esp., that which supports life; food. **3.** Means of support; livelihood. [See SUSTAIN.]

sut·ler (sut′lər) *n.* A peddler who sells goods and food to an army. [< Du. *soetelen* to perform mean duties]

sut·tee (su·tē′, sut′ē) *n.* Formerly, the sacrifice of a Hindu widow on the funeral pyre of her husband; also, the widow so immolated. [< Hind. *satī* < Skt., a faithful wife] — **sut·tee′ism** *n.*

su·ture (sōō′chər) *n.* **1.** The junction of two contiguous surfaces or edges along a line by or as by sewing. **2.** *Anat.* The interlocking of two bones at their edges, as in the skull. **3.** *Surg.* **a** The operation of uniting the edges of a cut or wound by or as by stitching. **b** The thread, silver wire, or other material used in this operation. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** To unite by means of sutures; sew together. [< MF < L *suere* to sew] — **su′tur·al** *adj.* **su′tur·al·ly** *adv.*

su·ze·rain (sōō′zə·rin, -rān) *n.* **1.** Formerly, a feudal lord. **2.** A nation having paramount control over a locally autonomous region. [< F *sus* above < L *sursum* upwards; on analogy with *souverain* sovereign] — **su′ze·rain·ty** *n.*

svelte (svelt) *adj.* Slender; slim; willowy. [< F < Ital. < L *ex-* out + *vellere* to pluck]

swab (swob) *n.* **1.** A small stick having a wad of cotton wound about one or both ends, used for cleansing the mouth of a sick person, applying medicines, etc.; also, a specimen of mucus, etc., taken with such a stick. **2.** A mop for cleaning decks, floors, etc. **3.** A cylindrical brush for cleaning firearms. **4.** *Slang* An awkward fellow; lout. — *v.t.* **swabbed, swab·bing** To clean, apply, medicate, etc., with or as with a swab. [? < MDu. *swabbe*] — **swab′ber** *n.*

swad·dle (swod′l) *v.t.* **·dled, ·dling** To wrap with a bandage; esp., to wrap (an infant) with a long strip of linen or flannel; swathe. — *n.* A band used for swaddling. [OE *swathian* to swathe]

swaddling clothes Bands or strips of linen or other cloth wound around a newborn infant. Also **swaddling bands, swaddling clouts.**

swag (swag) *n.* **1.** *Slang* Property obtained by robbery or theft; plunder; booty. **2.** In Australia, a bundle or pack of personal belongings. [Prob. < Scand.]

swage (swāj) *n.* A tool or form, often one of a pair, for shaping metal by hammering or pressure. — *v.t.* **swaged, swag·ing** To shape (metal) with or as with a swage. [< OF *souage*]

swag·ger (swag′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To walk with a proud or insolent air; strut. **2.** To boast; bluster. — *n.* Expression of superiority in words or deeds; braggadocio. [Appar. freq. of SWAG] — **swag′ger·er** *n.* — **swag′ger·ing·ly** *adv.*

swagger stick A short, canelike stick carried by army personnel, esp. officers. Also **swagger cane.**

Swa·hi·li (swä hē′lē) *n.* *pl.* **·li** **1.** A language of East Africa, basically Bantu with an admixture of Arabic elements, used widely as a lingua franca. **2.** A member of a Swahili-speaking group or community. [< Arabic < *sāhil* coast] — **Swa·hi′li·an** *adj.*

swain (swān) *n.* *Poetic* **1.** A youthful rustic. **2.** A young rustic gallant. **3.** A lover. [< ON *sveinn* boy]

swal·low[1] (swol′ō) *v.t.* **1.** To cause (food, etc.) to pass from

the mouth into the stomach by means of muscular action of the gullet or esophagus. **2.** To take in or engulf; absorb; envelop: often with *up*. **3.** To put up with or endure. **4.** *Informal* To believe credulously. **5.** To refrain from expressing; suppress. **6.** To take back; recant: to *swallow* one's words. —*v.i.* **7.** To perform the act or the motions of swallowing. —*n.* **1.** The amount swallowed at once. **2.** The gullet; throat. **3.** The act of swallowing. [OE *swelgan* to swallow] —**swal'low·a·ble** *adj.* —**swal'low·er** *n.*

swal·low[2] (swol'ō) *n.* **1.** Any of various small birds with short bills, long, pointed wings, and forked tails, noted for their swiftness of flight and migratory habits. **2.** A similar bird, as the swift. [OE *swealwe*]

swal·low-tail (swol'ō-tāl') *n.* **1.** The tail of a swallow, or a similar deeply forked tail. **2.** A butterfly having a taillike prolongation on each hind wing. **3.** *Informal* A swallow-tailed coat.

swal·low-tailed coat (swol'ō-tāld') A man's formal dress coat with two long, tapering tails in the back.

swam (swam) Past tense of SWIM.

swa·mi (swä'mē) *n. pl.* **·mis** **1.** Master; lord: used by Hindus as a title of respect. **2.** A Hindu religious teacher. Also **swa'my.** [< Hind. < Skt. *swāmin* lord]

swamp (swomp, swômp) *n.* A tract or region of lowland saturated with water; a wet bog. Also **swamp'land'** (-land'). ◆ Collateral adjective: *paludal*. —*v.t.* **1.** To drench or submerge with water or other liquid. **2.** To overwhelm with difficulties; crush; ruin. **3.** *Naut.* To sink or fill (a vessel) with water. —*v.i.* **4.** To sink in or as in a swamp. —**swamp'ish** *adj.* —**swamp'y** *adj.*

swamp fever Malaria.

swan (swon, swôn) *n.* **1.** A large, long-necked, aquatic bird, noted for its brilliant white plumage and for its grace on the water. **2.** A poet or singer. [OE]

Swan (swon, swôn) *n.* The constellation Cygnus.

swan dive A dive performed with head tilted back and arms extended until near the water.

swang (swang) Dialectal past tense of SWING.

swank (swangk) *adj. Slang* Ostentatiously fashionable; pretentious. Also **swank'y.** —*n. Slang* **1.** Behavior, speech, etc., that is pretentious and overly stylish. **2.** Swagger; bluster. —*v.i.* To act in a pretentious or swaggering manner; show off. [< dial. E. Appar. akin to MLG *swank* flexible] —**swank'i·ly** *adv.* —**swank'i·ness** *n.*

swan's-down (swonz'doun', swônz'-) *n.* **1.** The down of a swan, used for trimming, powder puffs, etc. **2.** A soft woolen cloth resembling down. Also **swans'down'.**

swan song A last or dying work, as of a poet or composer: from the fable that the swan sings only before dying.

swap (swop) *Informal v.t. & v.i.* **swapped, swap·ping** To trade (one thing for another). —*n.* An exchange or trade. Also spelled *swop*. [ME *swappen* to strike (a bargain)]

sward (swôrd) *n.* Land thickly covered with grass; turf: also called *swarth*. —*v.t. & v.i.* To cover or become covered with sward. [OE *sweard* skin]

swarm[1] (swôrm) *n.* **1.** A large number or body of insects or small living things of any kind. **2.** A hive of bees; also, a large number of bees leaving the parent stock at one time, to take up new lodgings, accompanied by a queen. **3.** A crowd or throng of persons, animals, or things. —**Syn.** See FLOCK. —*v.i.* **1.** To leave the hive in a swarm: said of bees. **2.** To come together, move, or occur in great numbers. **3.** To teem: with *with*. —*v.t.* **4.** To fill with a swarm or crowd; throng. [OE *swearm*] —**swarm'er** *n.*

swarm[2] (swôrm) *v.t. & v.i.* To climb (a tree, etc.) by clasping it with the arms and legs. [Prob. akin to SWARM[1].]

swart (swôrt) *adj. Dial.* or *Poetic* Swarthy. Also *swarth*. [OE *sweart*] —**swart'ness** *n.*

swarth[1] (swôrth) *n. Dial.* Sward. [OE *swearth*]

swarth[2] (swôrth) *adj.* Swart; swarthy. [? Var. of SWART]

swarth·y (swôr'thē) *adj.* **swarth·i·er, swarth·i·est** Having a dark hue; of dark or sunburned complexion; tawny: also *swart, swarth*. Also **swart'y.** [Var. of obs. *swarty* < SWART] —**swarth'i·ly** *adv.* —**swarth'i·ness, swarth'ness** *n.*

swash (swosh, swôsh) *v.i.* **1.** To move or wash noisily, as waves; splash. **2.** To swagger. —*v.t.* **3.** To splash (water, etc.). **4.** To splash or dash water, etc., upon or against. —*n.* **1.** The splash of a liquid. **2.** A narrow channel through which tides flow. **3.** A swaggerer or his behavior. [Imit.]

swash·buck·ler (swosh'buk'lər, swôsh'-) *n.* A swaggering or boasting soldier. [< SWASH + BUCKLER] —**swash'·buck'ler·ing** *n.* —**swash'buck'ling** *adj. & n.*

swas·ti·ka (swos'ti·kə) *n.* **1.** A primitive religious ornament or symbol, consisting of a Greek cross with the ends of the arms bent at right angles. **2.** The emblem of the Nazis. [< Skt. *svastika* < *svasti* well-being, fortune]

swat (swot) *v.t.* **swat·ted, swat·ting** To hit with a sharp blow. —*n.* A smart blow. Also spelled *swot*. [Var. of SQUAT, in dial. sense of "squash"] —**swat'ter** *n.*

swatch (swoch) *n.* A strip, as of cloth, esp. one cut off for a sample. [< dial. E (Northern), a cloth tally]

swath (swoth, swôth) *n.* **1.** A row or line of cut grass, grain, etc. **2.** The space or width of grass, grain, etc., cut by any of various mowing devices. **3.** A narrow belt or track; strip. Also called *swathe*. —**to cut a wide swath** To make a fine impression or display. [OE *swæth* a track]

swathe[1] (swāth) *v.t.* **swathed, swath·ing** **1.** To bind or wrap, as in bandages. **2.** To envelop; surround. —*n.* A bandage for swathing. [OE *swathian*] —**swath'er** *n.*

swathe[2] (swāth) *n.* A swath.

sway (swā) *v.i.* **1.** To swing from side to side or to and fro; oscillate. **2.** To bend or incline to one side; lean; veer. **3.** To tend in opinion, sympathy, etc. **4.** To have influence or control. —*v.t.* **5.** To cause to swing, bend, or incline. **6.** To influence (a person, opinion, etc.). **7.** To cause to swerve, as from a course of action. —*n.* **1.** Power exercised in governing; dominion; control. **2.** The act of swaying; a sweeping, swinging, or turning from side to side. **3.** Overpowering force or influence. [Prob. fusion of ON *sveigja* to bend and LG *swajen* to be moved to and fro by the wind]

sway-back (swā'bak') *n.* A hollow or unnaturally sagging condition of the back, as in a horse. —**sway'-backed'** *adj.*

swear (swâr) *v.* **swore** (*Obs.* **sware**), **sworn, swear·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To make a solemn affirmation with an appeal to God, some deity, etc., as in attestation of truth or proof of good intentions. **2.** To utter a solemn promise. **3.** To use profanity; curse. **4.** *Law* To give testimony under oath. —*v.t.* **5.** To affirm or assert solemnly by invoking sacred beings or things. **6.** To vow. **7.** To declare or affirm upon oath. **8.** To take or utter (an oath). **9.** To administer a legal oath to. —**to swear by** **1.** To appeal to by oath. **2.** To have complete confidence in. —**to swear in** To administer a legal oath to. —**to swear off** *Informal* To promise to renounce or give up: *to swear off* drink. —**to swear out** To obtain (a warrant for arrest) by making a statement or charge under oath. [OE *swerian*] —**swear'er** *n.*

sweat (swet) *v.* **sweat** or **sweat·ed, sweat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To exude or excrete sensible moisture from the pores of the skin; perspire. **2.** To exude moisture in drops; ooze. **3.** To gather and condense moisture in drops, as on the outer surface of a glass. **4.** To pass through pores or interstices in drops. **5.** To ferment, as tobacco leaves. **6.** *Informal* To work hard; toil; drudge. **7.** *Informal* To suffer: You will *sweat* for that! —*v.t.* **8.** To exude (moisture) from the pores. **9.** To gather or condense drops of (moisture). **10.** To soak or stain with perspiration. **11.** To cause to sweat. **12.** To cause to work hard. **13.** *Informal* To force (employees) to work for low wages and under unfavorable conditions. **14.** *Slang* To extort money from. **15.** To heat (solder, etc.) until it melts. **16.** To join, as metal objects, by applying heat. **17.** *Metall.* To heat so as to extract an element that is easily fusible. **18.** *Slang* To subject to torture or rigorous interrogation for the purpose of extracting information. —**to sweat (something) out** *U.S. Slang* To wait through anxiously and helplessly. —*n.* **1.** The act or state of sweating. **2.** That which is excreted from the sweat glands; perspiration. **3.** Any gathering in minute drops of moisture on a surface. **4.** *Archaic* Hard labor; drudgery. **5.** *Informal* Fuming impatience; worry; hurry. —**no sweat** *U.S. Slang* No difficulty whatever. [OE < *swāt* sweat] —**sweat'i·ly** *adv.* —**sweat'i·ness** *n.* —**sweat'y** *adj.*

sweat·band (swet'band') *n.* A band, usu. of leather, inside the crown of a hat to protect it from sweat.

sweat·box (swet'boks') *n.* **1.** A device for sweating such products as hides and dried fruits. **2.** A narrow cell or box where an unruly prisoner is confined.

sweat·er (swet'ər) *n.* **1.** A knitted garment in the form of a jersey or jacket with or without sleeves. **2.** One who or that which sweats. **3.** An employer who underpays and overworks his employees. **4.** A sudorific.

sweat gland *Anat.* One of the convoluted tubules that secrete sweat, found in subcutaneous tissue.

sweat shirt A collarless pullover, sometimes lined with fleece, used by athletes.

sweat·shop (swet'shop') *n.* A place where work is done for insufficient wages and for long hours.

Swede (swēd) *n.* A native or inhabitant of Sweden, or a person of Swedish descent.

Swe·den·bor·gi·an·ism (swē'dən·bôr'jē·ən·iz'əm) *n.* The system of philosophy or the theology developed by **Emanuel Swe·den·borg** (swēd'n·bôrg), 1688–1772, Swedish mystic theologian and philosopher. —**Swe·den·bor·gi·an** (swēd'n·bôr'jē·ən) *adj. & n.*

Swed·ish (swē'dish) *adj.* Pertaining to Sweden, the Swedes or their language. —*n.* **1.** The North Germanic language of Sweden. **2.** The inhabitants of Sweden collectively.

sweep (swēp) *v.* **swept, sweep·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To collect, remove, or clear away with a broom, brush, etc. **2.** To clean or clean with or as with a broom or brush: to *sweep* a floor. **3.** To touch or brush: Her dress *swept* the ground. **4.** To pass over or through swiftly, as in searching: His eyes *swept* the sky. **5.** To cause to move with an even, continuous sc

tion: He *swept* the cape over her shoulders. **6.** To move, carry, bring, etc., with strong or continuous force: The flood *swept* the bridge away. **7.** To move over or through with strong or steady force: The gale *swept* the bay. **8.** To drag the bottom of (a body of water, etc.). —*v.i.* **9.** To clean or brush a floor or other surface with a broom, etc. **10.** To move or go strongly and evenly, esp. with speed: The train *swept* by. **11.** To walk with or as with trailing garments: She *swept* into the room. **12.** To trail, as a skirt. **13.** To extend with a long reach or curve: The road *sweeps* along the lake shore. —*n.* **1.** The act or result of sweeping. **2.** A long stroke or movement: a *sweep* of the hand. **3.** The act of clearing out or getting rid of, as a removal from office or place. **4.** A turning of the eye or of optical instruments over the field of vision. **5.** A great victory or success, as in an election. **6.** The range, area, or compass reached by sweeping, as extent of stroke, range of vision, etc. **7.** A curve or bend, as of a scythe blade, etc. **8.** *Brit.* A chimney sweep. **9.** A long, heavy oar. **10.** A well sweep. **11.** *pl.* Sweepings, as of a place where precious metals are worked. **12.** *Informal* Sweepstakes. [ME *swopen* to brush away] — **sweep'er** *n.* — **sweep'y** *adj.*

sweep·back (swēp'bak') *n. Aeron.* The backward inclination of the leading edge of an airplane wing.

sweep·ing (swē'ping) *adj.* **1.** Carrying off or clearing away with a driving movement. **2.** Carrying all before it; covering a wide area; comprehensive. **3.** General and thoroughgoing. —*n.* **1.** The action of one who or that which sweeps. **2.** *pl.* Things swept up; refuse. — **sweep'ing·ly** *adv.* — **sweep'ing·ness** *n.*

sweep·stakes (swēp'stāks') *n. pl.* **·stakes** **1.** A gambling arrangement by which all the sums staked may be won by one or by a few of the betters, as in a horse race. **2.** A race or contest using this arrangement; also, the prize or prizes. Also **sweep'stake'.**

sweet (swēt) *adj.* **1.** Having an agreeable flavor of or like that of sugar. **2.** Containing or due to sugar in some form. **3.** Not fermented or decaying; fresh. **4.** Not salt or salty: *sweet* water. **5.** Gently pleasing to the senses. **6.** Arousing gentle, pleasant emotions. **7.** Having gentle, pleasing, and winning qualities. **8.** *Music Slang* **a** Designating jazz marked by blandness, moderate tempo, etc. **b** Playing or performing such jazz: a *sweet* trumpet. **9.** Sound; rich; productive: said of soil. **10.** Not dry: said of wines. —*n.* **1.** The quality of being sweet; sweetness. **2.** *Chiefly pl.* A confection, preserve, or piece of candy. **3.** A beloved person; darling. **4.** Something agreeable or pleasing; a pleasure. **5.** *Brit.* A dessert. [OE *swēte*] — **sweet'ly** *adv.* — **sweet'·ness** *n.*

sweet alyssum A perennial Mediterranean herb having very fragrant white blossoms: also called *madwort.*

sweet bay A highly ornamental tree or shrub with large flowers.

sweet·bread (swēt'bred') *n.* The pancreas (**stomach sweetbread**) or the thymus gland (**neck sweetbread** or **throat sweetbread**) of a calf or other animal, when used as food. [< SWEET + BREAD, in obs. sense of "a morsel"]

sweet·bri·er (swēt'brī'ər) *n.* A stout prickly rose native in Europe and Asia, with aromatic leaves: Also **sweet'bri'ar.**

sweet clover Any of several cloverlike herbs, used for fodder.

sweet corn Young ears of corn having sweet, milky kernels, boiled or roasted as food: also called *green corn.*

sweet·en (swēt'n) *v.t.* **1.** To make sweet or sweeter. **2.** To make more endurable; lighten. **3.** To make pleasant or gratifying. —*v.i.* **4.** To become sweet or sweeter. — **sweet'en·er** *n.*

sweet·en·ing (swēt'n·ing) *n.* **1.** The act of making sweet. **2.** That which sweetens.

sweet flag A marsh-dwelling plant, having long leaves and an aromatic rootstock: also called *calamus.*

sweet gum **1.** A North American tree, the wood of which is sometimes used to imitate mahogany. **2.** The balsam or gum yielded by it.

sweet·heart (swēt'härt') *n.* One who is particularly loved by or as a lover; a lover: often used as a term of endearment.

sweet·ie (swē'tē) *n. U.S. Informal* Darling; dear; honey.

sweet·ish (swē'tish) *adj.* Somewhat or rather sweet. — **sweet'ish·ly** *adv.* — **sweet'ish·ness** *n.*

sweet·meat (swēt'mēt') *n.* **1.** A confection, preserve, candy, etc. **2.** *pl.* Very sweet candy, cakes, etc.

sweet pea An ornamental annual climber of the bean family cultivated for its varicolored flowers.

sweet pepper A mild variety of capsicum whose unripe green fruit is used as a vegetable.

sweet potato **1.** A perennial tropical vine, with rose-violet or pink flowers and a fleshy tuberous root. **2.** The root itself, eaten as a vegetable. **3.** *U.S. Informal* An ocarina.

sweets (swēts) *n.pl.* **1.** Sweet things. **2.** *Brit.* Candy.

sweet tooth *Informal* A fondness for candy or sweets.

sweet william A perennial species of pink with closely clustered, showy flowers. Also **sweet William.**

swell (swel) *v.* **swelled, swelled** or **swol·len, swell·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To increase in bulk or dimension, as by inflation within; dilate; expand. **2.** To increase in size, amount, degree, etc. **3.** To grow in volume or intensity, as a sound. **4.** To rise in waves or swells, as the sea. **5.** To bulge, as a sail. **6.** To become puffed up with pride. **7.** To grow within one: My anger *swells* at the sight. —*v.t.* **8.** To cause to increase in size or bulk. **9.** To cause to increase in amount, extent, or degree. **10.** To cause to bulge; belly. **11.** To puff with pride. **12.** *Music* To crescendo and diminuendo in immediate succession. —*n.* **1.** The act, process, or effect of swelling; expansion. **2.** The long continuous body of a wave; a billow; also, a rise in the land. **3.** A bulge or protuberance. **4.** *Music* A crescendo and an immediate diminuendo; also, the signs (< >) indicating it. **5.** A device, as on an organ, by which the volume of a tone may be uninterruptedly varied. **6.** *Informal* A person of the ultrafashionable set. —*adj. Informal* **1.** Ultrafashionable; smart. **2.** First-rate; distinctive. [OE *swellan*]

swell·ing (swel'ing) *n.* **1.** The act of expanding, inflating, or augmenting. **2.** *Pathol.* Abnormal enlargement or protuberance of a part of the body. —*adj.* Increasing; bulging.

swel·ter (swel'tər) *v.i.* **1.** To suffer from oppressive heat; perspire from heat. —*v.t.* **2.** To cause to suffer or perspire from heat. —*n. Archaic* A hot, sweltering condition. [OE *sweltan* to die]

swel·ter·ing (swel'tər·ing) *adj.* **1.** Oppressive; overpoweringly hot. **2.** Overcome by or suffering with heat. Also **swel'try** (-trē). — **swel'ter·ing·ly** *adv.*

swept (swept) Past tense and past participle of SWEEP.

swept·back (swept'bak') *adj. Aeron.* Having the leading edge inclined backward at an angle with the lateral axis of the airplane: said of a wing.

swerve (swûrv) *v.t. & v.i.* **swerved, swerv·ing** To turn or cause to turn aside from a course or purpose; deflect. —*n.* **1.** The act of swerving or turning aside. **2.** That which swerves. [OE *sweorfan* to file or grind away]

swift (swift) *adj.* **1.** Traversing space or performing movements in a brief time; rapid; quick. **2.** Capable of quick motion; fleet; speedy. **3.** Passing rapidly, as time or events; also, unexpected. **4.** Acting with readiness; prompt. —*n.* A bird of swallowlike form possessing extraordinary powers of flight; esp. the **chimney swift.** [OE] — **swift'ly** *adv.* — **swift'ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** (adj.) *Swift* and *fleet* are chiefly applied to moving persons or animals; *swift* suggests ease of motion, and *fleet,* nimbleness: a *swift* bird, a *fleet* horse. *Speedy* may be applied to that which moves or that which progresses: a *speedy* worker, *speedy* action. *Rapid* is applied to progress: *rapid* delivery of mail.

swig (swig) *Informal* *n.* A deep draft, as of liquor. —*v.t. & v.i.* **swigged, swig·ging** To drink deeply or greedily. [Origin unknown] — **swig'ger** *n.*

swill (swil) *v.t.* **1.** To drink greedily or to excess. **2.** *Brit.* To drench, as with water; rinse; wash. —*v.i.* **3.** To drink to excess; tope. —*n.* **1.** Liquid food for animals; esp., swine; slop. **2.** Any animal or vegetable refuse; garbage. **3.** A deep draft of liquor. [OE *swillan, swilian* to wash]

swim[1] (swim) *v.* **swam, swum, swim·ming** *v.i.* **1.** To propel oneself through water by organized bodily movement. **2.** To be supported on liquid; float. **3.** To move with a smooth or flowing motion, as if swimming. **4.** To be immersed in or covered with liquid; be flooded; overflow. —*v.t.* **5.** To traverse by swimming. **6.** To cause to swim. —*n.* **1.** The action, pastime, or period of swimming. **2.** A gliding, swaying movement. — **in the swim** *Informal* In the current of affairs. [OE *swimman*] — **swim'mer** *n.*

swim[2] (swim) *v.i.* **1.** To be dizzy; reel; have a giddy sensation. **2.** To seem to reel, whirl, or spin. —*n.* A sudden dizziness or swoon. [OE *swīma* dizziness]

swim bladder The air bladder of a fish. Also **swimming bladder.**

swim·ming[1] (swim'ing) *n.* The act of one who or that which swims. —*adj.* **1.** Used for swimming. **2.** Having the capacity of swimming; natatorial. **3.** Watery; flooded with tears, as the eyes. [< SWIM[1]]

swim·ming[2] (swim'ing) *n.* A state of dizziness or vertigo. —*adj.* Affected by dizziness. [< SWIM[2]]

swim·ming·ly (swim'ing·lē) *adv.* Easily, rapidly, and successfully.

swimming pool *U.S.* An indoor or outdoor tank designed for swimming, usu., equipped to cleanse the water.

swin·dle (swin'dəl) *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To cheat of money or property by deliberate fraud; defraud. **2.** To obtain by such means. —*v.i.* **3.** To practice fraud or decep-

tion for gain. — *n.* **1.** The act of swindling. **2.** Anything that proves to be fraudulent or deceptive, esp., a deal or scheme. [Back formation < SWINDLER]
— **Syn.** (verb) **1.** fleece, cozen, bamboozle, hoodwink. — (noun) imposition, imposture.

swin·dler (swind′lər) *n.* One who swindles or deceives. [< G < *schwindeln* to act thoughtlessly, be giddy]

swine (swīn) *n. pl.* **swine** **1.** A domesticated pig. **2.** Any of several related omnivorous mammals having a long mobile snout and cloven hoofs. **3.** A low, greedy, stupid, or vicious person. [OE *swīn*]

swine·herd (swīn′hûrd′) *n.* A tender of swine.

swing (swing) *v.* **swung** (*Dial.* **swang**), **swung, swing·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move to-and-fro or backward and forward rhythmically, as something suspended; oscillate. **2.** To ride in a swing. **3.** To move with an even, swaying motion. **4.** To turn; pivot. **5.** To be suspended; hang. **6.** *Informal* To be executed by hanging. — *v.t.* **7.** To cause to move to and fro or backward and forward. **8.** To cause to move with a sweeping motion, as a sword, ax, etc.; brandish; flourish. **9.** To cause to turn on or as on a pivot. **10.** To lift or hoist. **11.** *Informal* To bring to a successful conclusion; manage successfully. — *n.* **1.** The act, process, or manner of swinging; also, the distance covered. **2.** A free swaying motion. **3.** A seat hanging from ropes or chains on which a person may move to and fro as a pastime. **4.** Free course or scope; full liberty or license. **5.** Compass; sweep. **6.** The rhythm characterizing certain styles of poetry or music. **7.** A sweeping blow or stroke. **8.** The course of a career or period of activity; main current of business. **9.** In jazz: a development after about 1935, characterized by large bands, contrapuntal styles, etc. [OE *swingan* to scourge, beat up] — **swing′er** *n.*

swin·gle-tree (swing′gəl-trē′) *n.* A whiffletree.

swing shift *U.S. Informal* An evening work shift, usu. lasting from about 4 p.m. to midnight.

swin·ish (swī′nish) *adj.* Of, like, or fit for swine; degraded; sensual; beastly. — **swin′ish·ly** *adv.* — **swin′ish·ness** *n.*

swipe (swīp) *v.t.* **swiped, swip·ing** **1.** *Informal* To give a strong blow; strike with a full swing of the arm. **2.** *Slang* To steal; snatch. — *n.* *Informal* A hard, sweeping stroke or blow. [Var. of SWEEP]

swirl (swûrl) *v.i.* **1.** To move with a whirling or twisting motion; whirl. **2.** To be dizzy; swim, as the head. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to move in a whirling or twisting motion. — *n.* **1.** A whirling along, as in an eddy; whirl. **2.** A curl or twist; spiral. [< dial. E (Scottish) *swyrle*] — **swir′ly** *adj.*

swish (swish) *v.i.* **1.** To move through the air with a hissing, whistling sound, as a slender, flexible rod. **2.** To rustle, as silk. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to swish. **4.** To thrash; flog. — *n.* **1.** A hissing or rustling sound. **2.** A movement producing such a sound. [Imit.]

Swiss (swis) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Switzerland or its inhabitants. — *n. pl.* **Swiss** A native or naturalized inhabitant of Switzerland.

Swiss chard Chard.

Swiss cheese A pale yellow cheese with many large holes, made in, or similar to that made in, Switzerland.

Swiss steak A thick cut of steak floured and braised, often with a sauce of tomatoes and onions.

switch (swich) *n.* **1.** A small flexible rod, etc., used for whipping. **2.** A tress of false hair, used by women in building a coiffure. **3.** A mechanism for shifting a railway train from one track to another. **4.** The act or operation of shifting, or changing. **5.** The end of the tail in certain animals, as a cow. **6.** *Electr.* A device to make or break a circuit, or transfer a current from one conductor to another. — *v.t.* **1.** To whip with or as with a switch. **2.** To move, jerk, or whisk suddenly or sharply. **3.** To turn aside or divert; shift. **4.** To exchange: They *switched* plates. **5.** To shift (a railroad car) to another track by means of a switch. **6.** *Electr.* To connect or disconnect with a switch. — *v.i.* **7.** To turn aside; change; shift. **8.** To be shifted or turned. [Earlier *swits*] — **switch′er** *n.*

switch·back (swich′bak′) *n.* **1.** A railway or road ascending a steep incline in a zigzag pattern. **2.** *Brit.* A roller coaster.

switch·board (swich′bôrd′; -bōrd′) *n.* A panel or arrangement of panels bearing switches for connecting and disconnecting electric circuits, as a telephone exchange.

switch·man (swich′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who handles railway switches.

switch·yard (swich′yärd′) *n.* A railroad yard for the assembling and breaking up of trains.

swiv·el (swiv′əl) *n.* **1.** A coupling device, link, ring, or pivot that permits either half of a mechanism, as a chain, to rotate independently. **2.** A pivoted support on which a gun may be swung. **3.** A cannon that swings on a pivot: also **swivel gun.** — *v.* **swiv·eled** or **·elled, swiv·el·ing** or **·el·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To turn on or as on a swivel. **2.** To fit with or secure by a swivel. — *v.i.* **3.** To turn on or as on a swivel. [ME < OE < *swīfan* to revolve]

swivel chair A chair having a seat that turns horizontally on a swivel.

swob (swob), **swob·ber** (swob′ər) See SWAB, etc.

swol·len (swō′lən) Alternative past participle of SWELL.

swoon (swōōn) *v.i.* To faint. — *n.* A fainting fit. [ME < OE *geswōgen* unconscious] — **swoon′ing** *n.*

swoop (swōōp) *v.i.* **1.** To drop or descend suddenly, as a bird pouncing on its prey. — *v.t.* **2.** To take or seize suddenly: often with *up.* — *n.* The act of swooping. [< OE *swāpan* to sweep]

swop (swop) See SWAP.

sword (sôrd, sōrd) *n.* **1.** A weapon consisting of a long blade fixed in a hilt, as a rapier, etc. **2.** Power; esp., military power. **3.** War; destruction; slaughter. — **at swords' points** Hostile; ready for a fight. — **to put to the sword** To kill with a sword; slaughter in battle. [OE *sweord*]

sword·fish (sôrd′fish′, sōrd′-) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** A large marine fish having the bones of the upper jaw consolidated to form an elongated swordlike process.

sword grass **1.** Any of several varieties of grasses or sedges with sharp or serrated edges. **2.** The gladiolus.

sword·knot (sôrd′not′, sōrd′-) *n.* Formerly, a loop of leather used to fasten the hilt of a sword to the wrist; now, a tassel of cord or ribbon tied to a sword hilt.

sword·play (sôrd′plā′, sōrd′-) *n.* The act, art, or skill of using the sword, esp. in fencing. — **sword′-play′er** *n.*

swords·man (sôrdz′mən, sōrdz′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One skilled in the use of or armed with a sword. Also **sword′·man.** — **swords′man·ship** or **sword′man·ship** *n.*

swore (swôr, swōr) Past tense of SWEAR.

sworn (swôrn, swōrn) Past participle of SWEAR.

swot (swot) See SWAT.

swounds (zwoundz, zoundz), **swouns** (zwounz, zounz) See ZOUNDS.

swum (swum) Past participle and dialectal past tense of SWIM.

swung (swung) Past tense and past participle of SWING.

sy- Var. of SYN-.

syb·a·rite (sib′ə·rīt) *n.* One given to pleasure and luxury; an epicure. [< L < Gk. < *Sybaris,* an ancient Greek city in southern Italy, famed for its luxury.] — **syb′a·rit′ic** (-rit′·ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **syb′a·rit′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

syc·a·more (sik′ə·mōr, -mōr) *n.* **1.** A medium-sized bushy tree of Syria and Egypt allied to the common fig. **2.** Any of various plane trees of the U.S., esp., the **American sycamore**: also called *buttonwood.* **3.** An ornamental shade tree of Europe and Asia. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *sykon* fig + *moron* mulberry]

syc·o·phant (sik′ə·fənt) *n.* A servile flatterer. [< L < Gk. *sykophantēs* informer] — **syc′o·phan·cy** *n.* — **syc′o·phan′tic** (-fan′tik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **syc′o·phan′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

syl·la·bar·y (sil′ə·ber′ē) *n. pl.* **·bar·ies** A list or table of syllables; esp., a list of characters representing syllables. [< NL < Med.L < L. See SYLLABLE.]

syl·lab·ic (si·lab′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or consisting of a syllable or syllables. **2.** *Phonet.* Designating a consonant capable of forming a complete syllable, as *l* in *middle* (mid′l). **3.** Having every syllable distinctly pronounced. Also **syl·lab′i·cal.** — *n. Phonet.* A sound of high sonority, usu., a vowel. — **syl·lab′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

syl·lab·i·cate (si·lab′ə·kāt′) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To form or divide into syllables. — **syl·lab′i·ca′tion, syl·lab′i·ca′·tion** *n.*

syl·lab·i·fy (si·lab′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To syllabicate.

syl·la·ble (sil′ə·bəl) *n.* **1.** *Phonet.* A word or part of a word uttered in a single vocal impulse, usu. consisting of a vowel alone or with one or more consonants. **2.** A part of a written or printed word corresponding, more or less, to the spoken division. In this dictionary, syllable breaks are indicated by centered dots. **3.** The least detail, mention, or trace: Please don't repeat a *syllable* of what you've heard here. — *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.t.* **1.** To pronounce the syllables of. — *v.i.* **2.** To pronounce syllables. [< AF, OF < L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *lambanein* to take]

syl·la·bus (sil′ə·bəs) *n. pl.* **·bus·es** or **·bi** (-bī) A concise statement of the main points of a course of study, subject, etc. [< NL < Med.L < L < *sittyba* label on a book < Gk.]

syl·lo·gism (sil′ə·jiz′əm) *n.* **1.** *Logic* **a** A formula of argument consisting of two propositions, called *premises,* and a *conclusion,* logically drawn from them. Example: All men are mortal (*major premise*); kings are men (*minor premise*); therefore, kings are mortal (*conclusion*). **b** Deductive reasoning. **2.** A subtle or crafty argument. [< OF < L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *logizesthai* to infer] — **syl′lo·gis′tic** *adj. & n.* — **syl′lo·gis′ti·cal** *adj.* — **syl′lo·gis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

sylph (silf) *n.* **1.** An imaginary being, mortal but without a soul, living in the air. **2.** A slender, graceful young woman or girl. [< NL *sylphes,* pl.] — **sylph′like** *adj.*

syl·van (sil′vən) *adj. Chiefly Poetic* **1.** Of or located in a forest or woods **2.** Composed of or abounding in trees or woods. **3.** Characteristic of a forest or wood; rustic. — *n.*

A spirit, person or animal dwelling in the woods. [< MF < L < *silva* wood]

sym- Assimilated var. of SYN-.

sym·bi·o·sis (sim'bī-ō'sis, -bē-) *n. Biol.* The consorting together, usu., in mutually advantageous partnership, of dissimilar organisms, as of the algae and fungi in lichens. [< NL < Gk. ult. < *syn-* together + *bios* life] — **sym'bi·ot'ic** (-ot'ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **sym'bi·ot'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sym·bol (sim'bəl) *n.* **1.** Something chosen to represent something else; esp., an object used to typify a quality, abstract idea, etc.: The oak is a *symbol* of strength. **2.** A character, mark, etc., indicating something, as a quantity in mathematics. — *v.t.* To symbolize. — **Syn.** See EMBLEM. [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *ballein* to throw]

sym·bol·ic (sim·bol'ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or expressed by a symbol or symbols. **2.** Serving as a symbol: with *of*. **3.** Characterized by or involving the use of symbols: *symbolic* poetry. Also **sym·bol'i·cal.** — **sym·bol'i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **sym·bol'i·cal·ness** *n.*

sym·bol·ism (sim'bəl·iz'əm) *n.* **1.** Representation by symbols; treatment or interpretation of things as symbolic. **2.** The quality of being symbolic. **3.** A system of symbols. **4.** The theories and practice of a group of symbolists.

sym·bol·ist (sim'bəl·ist) *n.* One who uses symbols; esp., one skilled in the interpretation or use of symbols, as in literature and art.

sym·bol·is·tic (sim'bəl·is'tik) *adj.* **1.** Expressed by symbols; characterized by the use of symbols **2.** Of or pertaining to symbolism; symbolic. Also **sym'bol·is'ti·cal.**

sym·bol·ize (sim'bəl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To be a symbol of; represent symbolically; typify. **2.** To represent by a symbol or symbols. **3.** To treat as symbolic or figurative. — *v.i.* **4.** To use symbols. — **sym'bol·i·za'tion** *n.*

sym·me·try (sim'ə·trē) *n. pl.* **·tries** **1.** An exact correspondence between the opposite halves of a figure, form, line, pattern, etc., on either side of an axis or center; the condition whereby half of something is the mirror image of the other half. **2.** Beauty or harmony of form resulting from a symmetrical or nearly symmetrical arrangement of parts; due or right proportion. [< MF < LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *metron* a measure] — **sym·met'ric** (-met'rik), **sym·met'ri·cal** (-met'ri·kəl) *adj.*

sym·pa·thet·ic (sim'pə·thet'ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, expressing, or proceeding from sympathy. **2.** Having a fellow feeling for others; sympathizing; compassionate. **3.** Being in accord or harmony; congenial. Also **sym·pa·thet'i·cal.** [< NL < Gk. See SYMPATHY.] — **sym'pa·thet'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sym·pa·thin (sim'pə·thin) *n. Biochem.* A substance liberated by the stimulation of certain fibers of the sympathetic nervous system and acting as a chemical mediator in associated nerve impulses. [< SYMPATH(ETIC) + -IN]

sym·pa·thique (saṅ·pà·tēk') *adj. French* Pleasant; nice; congenial: said of persons.

sym·pa·thize (sim'pə·thīz) *v.i.* **·thized, ·thiz·ing** **1.** To share the sentiments, feelings, or ideas of another: with *with*. **2.** To feel or express compassion, as for another's sorrow or affliction: with *with*. **3.** To be in harmony or agreement. — **sym'pa·thiz'er** *n.* — **sym'pa·thiz'ing·ly** *adv.*

sym·pa·thy (sim'pə·thē) *n. pl.* **·thies** **1.** The quality of being affected by the state of another with feelings correspondent in kind. **2.** A fellow feeling; esp., a feeling of compassion for another's sufferings; pity; commiseration. **3.** An agreement of affections, inclinations, or temperaments that makes persons agreeable to one another; congeniality; accord. — **Syn.** See PITY. [< L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *pathos* feeling]

sympathy strike A strike in which the strikers support the demands of another group of workers but demand nothing for themselves.

sym·pho·ny (sim'fə·nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** *Music* A composition for orchestra, consisting usu., of four movements, that are related by structure, key, etc. **2.** A symphony orchestra. **3.** A harmonious or agreeable mingling of sounds, colors, etc.: *symphony* in gray. [< OF < L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *phōnē* sound] — **sym·phon'ic** (fon'ik) *adj.* — **sym'pho·nist** *n.*

symphony orchestra A large orchestra composed usu. of the string, brass, woodwind, and percussion sections needed to present symphonic works: also called *symphony*.

sym·phy·sis (sim'fə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) *Anat.* A junction of two parts of the skeleton, formed either by a growing together of two bones or by the intervention of a layer of cartilage between them. [< NL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *phyein* to grow] — **sym·phyt·ic** (sim·fit'ik) *adj.* — **sym·phyt'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sym·po·si·um (sim·pō'zē·əm) *n. pl.* **·si·ums** or **·si·a** (-zē·ə) **1.** A meeting for discussion of a particular subject. **2.** A collection of comments or opinions brought together; esp., a series of brief essays or articles on the same subject, as in a magazine. Also **sym·po'si·on** (-zē·on). [< L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *posis* a drinking < *po-*, stem of *pinein* to drink] — **sym·po'si·ac** (-ak) *adj.*

symp·tom (sim'təm) *n.* **1.** A sign, token, or indication. **2.** *Med.* Any observable alteration in bodily functions or mental behavior arising from and indicating the presence of disease, esp. when regarded as an aid in diagnosis. [< L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *piptein* to fall]

symp·to·mat·ic (simp'tə·mat'ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, of the nature of, or constituting a symptom or symptoms. **2.** According to symptoms: a *symptomatic* classification of diseases. Also **symp'to·mat'i·cal.** — **symp'to·mat'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

syn- *prefix* With; together; associated with or accompanying: *syntax, syndrome*. Also: *sy-* before *sc, sp, st*, and *z*, as in *system*; *syl-* before *l*, as in *syllable*; *sym-* before *b, p*, and *m*, as in *sympathy*; *sys-* before *s*. [< L < Gk. < *syn* together]

syn·a·gogue (sin'ə·gôg, -gog) *n.* **1.** A place of meeting for Jewish worship and religious instruction. **2.** A Jewish congregation or assemblage for religious instruction and observances. **3.** The Jewish religion or communion. Also **syn'a·gog.** [< OF < LL < Gk. *synagōgē* assembly < *syn-* together + *agein* to lead, bring] — **syn'a·gog'i·cal** (-goj'i·kəl), **syn'a·gog'al** (-gôg'əl, -gog'əl) *adj.*

syn·apse (si·naps') *n. Physiol.* The junction point of two neurons, across which a nerve impulse passes. Also called **syn·ap·sis** (si·nap'sis). [< NL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *hapsis* a joining]

syn·carp (sin'kärp) *n. Bot.* **1.** A fruit composed of several carpels, as the blackberry. **2.** A multiple fruit, as the fig. Also **syn·car·pi·um** (sin·kär'pē·əm). [< NL < Gk. *syn-* together + *karpos* fruit] — **syn·car'pous** *adj.*

syn·chro (sing'krō) *n.* Any of various electromagnetic devices for the remote control of complex operations.

syn·chro·mesh (sing'krə·mesh') *n. Mech.* **1.** A gear system by which driving and driven members are brought to the same speed before engaging. **2.** Any gear in such a system. [< SYNCHRO(NIZED) + MESH]

syn·chro·nism (sing'krə·niz'əm) *n.* **1.** The state of being synchronous. **2.** Coincidence in time of different events or phenomena; simultaneousness. **3.** A tabular grouping of historic personages or events according to their dates. **4.** In art, representation in the same picture of events that occurred at different times. — **syn'chro·nis'tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **syn'chro·nis'ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

syn·chro·nize (sing'krə·nīz) *v.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To occur at the same time; coincide. **2.** To move or operate in unison. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause (timepieces) to agree in keeping or indicating time. **4.** To cause to operate in unison. **5.** To assign the same date or period to. — **syn'chro·ni·za'tion** *n.* — **syn'chro·niz'er** *n.*

syn·chro·nous (sing'krə·nəs) *adj.* **1.** Occurring at the same time; coincident. **2.** Happening at the same rate. **3.** *Physics* Having the same period or rate of vibration, as waves or electric currents. Also **syn·chron'ic, syn'chro·nal.** [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *chronos* time] — **syn'chro·nous·ly** *adv.* — **syn'chro·nous·ness** *n.*

syn·cli·nal (sin·klī'nəl, sing-) *adj.* **1.** Sloping downward on each side toward a line or point. **2.** *Geol.* Inclining upward on each side from the axis of the fold, as rock strata. Also **syn·clin·i·cal** (sin·klin'i·kəl, sing-). — *n.* A syncline. [< Gk. < *syn-* together + *klinein* to incline]

syn·cline (sing'klīn) *n. Geol.* A trough or structural basin toward which rocks dip.

syn·co·pate (sing'kə·pāt) *v.t.* **·pat·ed, ·pat·ing** **1.** *Gram.* To contract (a word) by syncope. **2.** *Music* To treat or modify, as a tone, by syncopation. [< LL *syncopatus*, pp. of *syncopare* to affect with syncope] — **syn'co·pat'or** *n.*

syn·co·pa·tion (sing'kə·pā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of syncopating or state of being syncopated. **2.** That which is syncopated, as a dance or rhythm. **3.** *Music* **a** The rhythmic placement of a tone so that its accent does not coincide with the metric accent, as by beginning it on a weak beat or a fraction of a beat and continuing it through the next strong beat. **b** A tone so treated. **c** Any music featuring syncopation, as ragtime, jazz, etc. **4.** *Gram.* Syncope.

syn·co·pe (sing'kə·pē) *n.* **1.** *Gram.* The elision of a sound or syllable in the middle part of a word, as *e'er* for *ever*. **2.** *Pathol.* A loss of consciousness caused by temporary cerebral anemia. [< OF, ult. < LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *kop-*, stem of *koptein* to cut] — **syn'co·pal, syn·cop·ic** (sin·kop'·ik) *adj.*

syn·cre·tize (sing'krə·tīz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** To attempt to blend and reconcile, as various philosophies. [< NL < Gk. *synkrētizein* to combine] — **syn'cre·tism** *n.*

syn·det·ic (sin·det'ik) *adj.* Serving to unite or connect; connective, as a word. Also **syn·det'i·cal.** [< Gk. < *syn-* together + *deein* to bind] — **syn·det'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

syn·dic (sin′dik) *n.* **1.** A civil magistrate or officer representing a government. **2.** One who is designated to transact business for others. [< Gk. *syndikos* defendant's advocate < syn- together + *dikē* judgment]

syn·di·cal·ism (sin′di·kəl·iz′əm) *n.* A social and political theory proposing the taking over of the means of production by syndicates of workers, preferably by means of the general strike, with consequent political control. — **syn′di·cal·ist** *adj. & n.* — **syn′di·cal·is′tic** *adj.*

syn·di·cate (*n.* sin′də·kit; *v.* sin′də·kāt) *n.* **1.** An association of individuals united to negotiate some business or to prosecute some enterprise requiring large capital. **2.** An agency that sells articles, etc., to a number of periodicals, as newspapers, for simultaneous publication. **3.** The office or jurisdiction of a syndic; also, syndics collectively. — *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** **1.** To combine into or manage by a syndicate. **2.** To sell (an article, etc.) for publication in many newspapers or magazines. [See SYNDIC.]

syn·drome (sin′drōm) *n. Med.* An aggregate or set of concurrent symptoms indicating the presence and nature of a disease. [< NL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *dramein* to run] — **syn·drom·ic** (sin·drom′ik) *adj.*

sy·nec·do·che (si·nek′də·kē) *n.* A figure of speech in which a part is put for a whole or a whole for a part, an individual for a class, or a material for the thing, as a *roof* for a *house*. [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *ekdechesthai* to take from] — **syn·ec·doch·ic** (sin′ek·dok′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

synfuel (sin′fyōō·əl) *n.* Synthetic fuel.

syn·i·ze·sis (sin′ə·zē′sis) *n.* **1.** *Biol.* The contractile massing of the chromatin in meiosis. **2.** *Med.* Contraction of the pupil of the eye. Also **syn′e·zi′sis** (-zī′sis). [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *izanein* to settle down, sit]

syn·od (sin′əd) *n.* **1.** An ecclesiastical council. **2.** Any deliberative assembly. [OE < LL < Gk. *synodos*, lit., a coming together < *syn-* together + *hodos* way]

sy·nod·i·cal (si·nod′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a synod; transacted in a synod. **2.** *Astron.* Pertaining to the conjunction of two heavenly bodies, one of which revolves round the other, or to the interval between two successive conjunctions. Also **syn·od·al** (sin′ə·dəl), **sy·nod′ic.** — **sy·nod′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

syn·o·nym (sin′ə·nim) *n.* **1.** A word having the same or almost the same meaning as some other: opposed to *antonym*. **2.** The equivalent of a word in another language. Also **syn′o·nyme.** [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *onyma, onoma* name] — **syn′o·nym′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **syn′o·nym′i·ty** *n.*

sy·non·y·mize (si·non′ə·mīz) *v.t.* **·mized, ·miz·ing** To give the synonyms of; express by words of similar meaning.

sy·non·y·mous (si·non′ə·məs) *adj.* **1.** Being a synonym or synonyms; equivalent or similar in meaning. **2.** Closely related or alike in significance or effect. Also **syn·o·ny·mat·ic** (sin′ə·ni·mat′ik). — **sy·non′y·mous·ly** *adv.*

sy·non·y·my (si·non′ə·mē) *n.* *pl.* **·mies** **1.** The quality of being synonymous. **2.** The science or systematic collection and study of synonyms; also, the use and discrimination of synonyms. **3.** A written analysis discriminating the meaning of synonyms. **4.** An index, list, or collection of synonyms, as in scientific nomenclature.

sy·nop·sis (si·nop′sis) *n.* *pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) A general view, as of a subject or its treatment; an abstract; syllabus; summary. [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *opsis* view]

sy·nop·tic (si·nop′tik) *adj.* **1.** Giving or constituting a synopsis or general view. **2.** *Often cap.* Presenting the same or a similar point of view: said of the first three Gospels (**Synoptic Gospels**). Also **sy·nop′ti·cal.** — **sy·nop′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

sy·no·vi·a (si·nō′vē·ə) *n. Physiol.* The viscid, transparent, albuminous fluid secreted by the **synovial membranes** at points where lubrication is necessary, as in joints. [< NL, appar. < Gk. *syn-* together + L *ovum* egg < Gk. *ōon*] — **sy·no′vi·al** *adj.*

syn·tax (sin′taks) *n.* **1.** The arrangement and interrelationship of words in phrases and sentences. **2.** The branch of linguistics dealing with such relationships. [< F < LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *tassein* to arrange] — **syn·tac·tic** (sin·tak′tik) or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **syn·tac′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

syn·the·sis (sin′thə·sis) *n.* *pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** The assembling of separate or subordinate parts into a whole: opposed to *analysis*. **2.** A complex whole composed of originally separate parts. **3.** *Chem.* The building up of compounds from a series of reactions involving elements, radicals, or similar compounds. Compare ANALYSIS. [< L < Gk. < *syn-* together + *tithenai* to place] — **syn′the·sist** *n.*

syn·the·size (sin′thə·sīz) *v.t.* **·sized, ·siz·ing** **1.** To unite or produce by synthesis. **2.** To apply synthesis to.

syn·thet·ic (sin·thet′ik *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, of the nature of, or characterized by synthesis. **2.** Tending to reduce particulars to inclusive wholes. **3.** *Chem.* Produced artificially by the synthesis of simpler materials or substances rather than occurring naturally. **4.** Artificial; spurious. — *n.* Anything produced by synthesis. — **syn·thet′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

synthetic fuel Fuel obtained by processing, such as crude oil obtained from shale or tar sands by extraction and from coal by liquefaction, or natural gas obtained from coal by gasification.

syph·i·lis (sif′ə·lis) *n. Pathol.* An infectious, chronic, venereal disease caused by a spirochete transmissible by direct contact or congenitally, and usu. progressing by three stages of increasing severity. [after a Latin poem published in 1530, the hero of which, *Syphilus*, a shepherd, was the first sufferer from the disease]

syph·i·lit·ic (sif′ə·lit′ik) *adj.* Relating to or affected with syphilis. — *n.* A person suffering from syphilis.

Syr·i·ac (sir′ē·ak) *n.* The language of the Syrians, belonging to the eastern Aramaic subgroup of the Northwest Semitic languages. [< L < Gk. *Syriakos*]

Syr·i·an (sir′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to ancient or modern Syria. — *n.* **1.** A native of Syria, esp. one of the Semitic people of Arabic, Phoenician, and Aramean descent. **2.** One who is a member of a Christian church in Syria. [< OF < L < Gk. *Syria* Syria]

sy·rin·ga (si·ring′gə) *n.* **1.** Any of various ornamental shrubs of the saxifrage family, having fragrant cream-colored flowers. **2.** The lilac. [< NL < Gk. *syrinx, -ingos* a pipe]

syr·inge (sir′inj, si·rinj′) *n.* **1.** *Med.* A small instrument of glass, metal, rubber, or plastic, consisting of a receptacle into which a liquid may be drawn for ejection in a fine jet or stream, used for cleaning wounds, affected parts, etc. **2.** A hypodermic syringe. — *v.t.* **·inged, ·ing·ing** To spray or inject by a syringe; cleanse or treat with injected fluid. [< Med.L < Gk. *syrinx, -ingos* tube, pipe]

syr·inx (sir′ingks) *n.* *pl.* **sy·rin·ges** (sə·rin′jēz) or **sy′rinx·es** **1.** *Ornithol.* A special modification of the windpipe serving as the song organ in birds. **2.** *Anat.* The Eustachian tube. [< Gk., pipe] — **sy·rin·ge·al** (si·rin′jē·əl) *adj.*

syr·up (sir′əp) *n.* A thick, sweet liquid, as the boiled juice of fruits, sugar cane, etc.: also, *esp. U.S.*, *sirup*. [< OF < Arabic *sharāb*] — **syr′up·y** *adj.*

sys- Var. of SYN-.

sys·tal·tic (sis·tal′tik) *adj. Physiol.* Alternately contracting and dilating, as the motion of the heart; pulsatory. [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *stellein* to send]

sys·tem (sis′təm) *n.* **1.** Orderly combination or arrangement of parts, elements, etc., into a whole; esp., such combination according to some rational principle; any methodical arrangement of parts. **2.** Any group of facts, concepts, and phenomena regarded as constituting a natural whole for purposes of philosophic or scientific investigation and construction: the Ptolemaic *system*; the solar *system*. **3.** The connection or manner of connection of parts as related to a whole, or the parts collectively so related: a railroad *system*. **4.** The state or quality of being in order or orderly; method. **5.** *Physiol.* **a** An assemblage of organic structures composed of similar elements and combined for the same general functions: the nervous *system*. **b** The entire body, taken as a functional whole. **6.** *Physics* An aggregate or region of matter considered as a unit with respect to specified factors such as mass, energy, gravitation, radioactivity, etc. **7.** *Chem.* A group of substances in one or more phases exhibiting, or tending to approach, equilibrium. **8.** *Mineral.* One of the primary divisions into which all crystal forms may be grouped, depending upon the relative lengths and mutual inclinations of the assumed crystal axes. **9.** *Geol.* A category of igneous and sedimentary rock strata corresponding with a period in the time scale. [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *histanai* to stand, set up]

sys·tem·at·ic (sis′tə·mat′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or the nature of, or characterized by system. **2.** Characterized by system or method; methodical: a *systematic* person. **3.** Forming a system; systematized. **4.** Carried out with organized regularity. **5.** Taxonomic. Also **sys′tem·at′i·cal** — **sys′tem·at′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sys·tem·a·tism (sis′tə·mə·tiz′əm) *n.* **1.** Systematic arrangement or classification. **2.** Adherence to or reduction of principles, etc., to a system. — **sys′tem·a·tist** *n.*

sys·tem·a·tize (sis′tə·mə·tīz′) *v.t.* **·tized, ·tiz·ing** To reduce to a system. Also **sys′tem·ize,** *Brit.* **sys′tem·a·tise′.** — **sys′tem·a·ti·za′tion** *n.* — **sys′tem·a·tiz′er** *n.*

sys·tem·ic (sis·tem′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to system or a system. **2.** *Physiol.* Pertaining to or affecting the body as a whole: a *systemic* poison. — **sys·tem′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sys·to·le (sis′tə·lē) *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* The regular contraction of the heart, esp. of the ventricles, that impels the blood outward. Compare DIASTOLE. **2.** The shortening of a syllable that is naturally or by position long. [See SYSTALTIC.] — **sys·tol·ic** (sis·tol′ik) *adj.*

syz·y·gy (siz′ə·jē) *n.* *pl.* **·gies** *Astron.* **a** One of two opposite points in the orbit of a celestial body when it is in conjunction with or in opposition to the sun. **b** The points on the moon's orbit when the moon is most nearly in line with the earth and the sun. [< LL < Gk. < *syn-* together + *zeugnai* to yoke] — **sy·zyg·i·al** (si·zij′ē·əl) *adj.*

T

t, T (tē) *n.* *pl.* **t's** or **ts, T's** or **Ts, tees** (tēz) **1.** The twentieth letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *t*, the voiceless alveolar stop. **3.** Anything shaped like the letter T. **— to a T** Precisely; with exactness.

't Contraction for IT: used initially, as in *'tis* and finally, as in *on't*.

-t Inflectional ending used to indicate past participles and past tenses, and corresponding to *-ed*, as in *bereft, lost, spent*. [Origin uncertain]

tab (tab) *n.* **1.** A flap, strip, tongue, or appendage of something, as a garment. **2.** A small, projecting part used as an aid in filing papers, etc. **3.** *Informal* Tally; total; bill: to pick up the *tab*. **— to keep tab** or **tabs (on) 1.** To watch or supervise closely. **2.** To maintain a factual record (of).

tab·ard (tab′ərd) *n.* **1.** Formerly, a short, sleeveless or short-sleeved outer garment. **2.** A knight's cape or cloak, worn over his armor; also, a similar garment worn by a herald. [< OF *tabart*, ult. < L *tapete* tapestry]

Ta·bas·co (tə·bas′kō) *n.* A pungent sauce made from red pepper: a trade name. Also **Tabasco sauce.**

tab·by (tab′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·bies 1.** A brindled or striped cat. **2.** Any domestic cat, esp. a female. **3.** A gossiping old maid. **4.** Any of various plain-woven fabrics, as a watered taffeta. **—** *adj.* **1.** Having dark, wavy markings; brindled, as a cat. **2.** Watered or mottled, as a fabric. **3.** Made of tabby. **—** *v.t.* **·bied, ·by·ing** To give a wavy or watered appearance to (silk, etc.). [< F < Arabic *'Attābi*, name of a quarter of Baghdad where the cloth was manufactured]

tab·er·nac·le (tab′ər·nak′əl) *n.* **1.** A tent or similar temporary structure or shelter. **2.** A Jewish house of worship; a temple. **3.** Originally, the portable sanctuary used by the Jews in the wilderness. **4.** Any house of worship, esp. one of large size. **5.** The human body as the dwelling place of the soul. **6.** *Eccl.* The ornamental receptacle for the consecrated Eucharistic elements, or for the pyx. **7.** An ornamental recess or structure sheltering something. **—** *v.i. & v.t.* **·led, ·ling** To dwell or place in or as in a tabernacle. [< OF < L *tabernaculum*, dim. of *taberna* shed] **— tab·er·nac·u·lar** (tab′ər·nak′yə·lər) *adj.*

ab·la·ture (tab′lə·chər) *n.* *Music* A notation for instrumental music that indicates rhythm and fingering, but not the pitches produced. [< F < L *tabula* board]

a·ble (tā′bəl) *n.* **1.** An article of furniture with a flat horizontal top upheld by one or more supports. **2.** Such a table around which persons sit for a meal. **3.** The food served or entertainment provided at a meal or dinner. **4.** The company of persons at a table. **5.** A collection of related numbers, values, signs, or items of any kind, arranged for reference or comparison, often in parallel columns: a *table* of logarithms. **6.** A synoptical statement; list: *table* of contents. **7.** A tableland; plateau. **8.** A tablet or slab bearing an inscription; esp., one of those that bore the Ten Commandments or certain Roman laws. **— to turn the tables** To thwart an opponent's action and turn the situation to his disadvantage. **—** *v.t.* **·bled, ·bling 1.** To place on a table, as a playing card. **2.** To postpone discussion of (a resolution, bill, etc.) until a future time, or for an indefinite period. **3.** *Rare* To tabulate. [Fusion of OF *table* and OE *tabule*, both < L *tabula* board]

ab·leau (tab′lō, ta·blō′) *n.* *pl.* **·leaux** (-loz, -lō) or **·leaus** (-lōz) **1.** Any picture or picturesque representation; esp., a striking scene presented dramatically. **2.** A tableau vivant. [< F, dim. of *table* table]

a·bleau vi·vant (ta·blō′ vē·väN′) *pl.* **ta·bleaux vi·vants** (ta·blō′ vē·väN′) *French* A picturelike scene represented by silent and motionless persons standing in appropriate attitudes: also called *tableau*.

a·ble·cloth (tā′bəl·klôth′, -kloth′) *n.* A cloth covering a table, esp., at meals.

ab·le d'hôte (tab′əl dōt′, tä′bəl; *Fr.* tä′blə dōt′) *pl.* **tab·les d'hôte** (tab′əlz dōt′, tä′bəlz; *Fr.* tä′blə dōt′) A complete meal served at a restaurant or hotel, the price of the entire meal being determined by the price of the entrée one chooses. Compare À LA CARTE. [< F, lit., table of the host, as at an inn]

ta·ble·land (tā′bəl·land′) *n.* A broad, level, elevated region, usu. treeless; a plateau.

table linen Tablecloths, napkins, doilies, etc.

ta·ble·spoon (tā′bəl·spōon′, -spo͝on′) *n.* **1.** A fairly large spoon used for serving food and in measuring for recipes, etc. **2.** A tablespoonful, equivalent to three teaspoons.

ta·ble·spoon·ful (tā′bəl·spōon·fo͝ol′, -spo͝on-) *n.* *pl.* **·fuls** As much as a tablespoon will hold.

tab·let (tab′lit) *n.* **1.** A pad, as of writing paper or note paper. **2.** A small, flat surface, esp., one designed for or containing an inscription or design. **3.** A definite portion of a drug, etc., pressed into a solid form. **4.** A small, flat, or nearly flat piece of some prepared substance, as chocolate or soap. **5.** A thin sheet or slab of solid material, as stone, wood, etc., used for writing, painting, or drawing. [< OF *tablete*, dim. of *table* table]

table tennis A table game resembling tennis, played usu. indoors with a small celluloid ball and wooden paddles: also called *ping-pong*.

ta·ble·ware (tā′bəl·wâr′) *n.* Dishes, knives, forks, spoons, etc., for table use, collectively.

tab·loid (tab′loid) *n.* A newspaper consisting of sheets one half the size of those in an ordinary newspaper, in which the news is presented by means of pictures and concise reporting. **—** *adj.* **1.** Compact; concise; condensed. **2.** Sensational: *tabloid* journalism. [< TABL(ET) + -OID]

Tab·loid (tab′loid) *n.* Proprietary name for any of various medical preparations and drugs in concentrated or condensed tablet form.

ta·boo (tə·bo͞o′, ta-) *n.* **1.** Among primitive peoples, esp. the Polynesians, a religious and social interdict forbidding the mention of a certain person, thing, or place, the performance of a certain action, etc. **2.** The system or practice of such interdicts or prohibitions. **3.** Any restriction or ban founded on custom or social convention. **4.** The convention of avoiding certain words as profane, obscene, disagreeable, or otherwise socially unacceptable: compare EUPHEMISM. **—** *adj.* **1.** Consecrated or prohibited by taboo. **2.** Banned or forbidden by social authority or convention. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To place under taboo. **2.** To exclude; ostracize. Also **ta·bu′**. [< Tonga *tabu*]

ta·bor (tā′bər) *n.* A small drum or tambourine on which a fifer beats his own accompaniment. **—** *v.i.* To beat or play on a timbrel or small drum; beat lightly and repeatedly. Also **ta′bour.** [< OF *tabour*, prob. < Persian *tabīrah* drum] **— ta′bor·er** *n.*

tab·o·ret (tab′ər·it, tab′ə·ret′) *n.* **1.** A small tabor. **2.** A stool or small seat, usu. without arms or back. **3.** An embroidery frame. Also **tab·ou·ret** (tab′ər·it, tab′ə·ret′).

tab·u·lar (tab′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or consisting of a table or list. **2.** Computed from or with a mathematical table. **3.** Having a flat surface; tablelike. **— tab′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

tab·u·lar·ize (tab′yə·lə·rīz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To arrange in tabular form; tabulate. **— tab′u·lar·i·za′tion** *n.*

tab·u·late (tab′yə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing 1.** To arrange in a table or list: to *tabulate* results. **2.** To form with a tabular surface. **—** *adj.* Having a flat surface. **— tab′u·la′tion** *n.*

tab·u·la·tor (tab′yə·lā′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which tabulates. **2.** A device built into a typewriter, and used to present statistical matter in tabulated form. **3.** An automatic accounting machine for tabulating reports.

tac·a·ma·hac (tak′ə·mə·hak′) *n.* **1.** A yellowish, resinous substance with a strong odor, derived from various trees and used as incense. **2.** Any of the trees producing this substance. **3.** A tree of the U.S., having leaf buds exuding a gummy resin: also **tac′a·ma·hac′a** (-hak′ə), **tac′a·ma·hack′, tac′ca·ma·hac′**. [< Sp. < Nahuatl *tecomahca*, lit., fetid copal]

tace (tās) *n.* Tasset, a type of armor plate.

ta·chom·e·ter (ta·kom′ə·tər) *n.* **1.** An instrument for measuring speed and velocity, as of a machine, the flow of a current, blood, etc. **2.** A device for indicating the speed of rotation of an engine, etc. [< Gk. *tachos* speed + -METER]

ta·chom·e·try (tə·kom′ə·trē) *n.* The art or science of using a tachometer. — **tach·o·met·ric** (tak′ə·met′rik) *adj.*

tachy- *combining form* Speed; swiftness. [< Gk. *tachys* swift]

tac·it (tas′it) *adj.* **1.** Existing, inferred, or implied without being directly stated. **2.** Making no sound; silent; noiseless. [< F < L *tacere* to be silent] — **tac′it·ly** *adv.* — **tac′it·ness** *n.*

tac·i·turn (tas′ə·tûrn) *adj.* Habitually silent or reserved. — **tac′i·turn′i·ty** *n.* — **tac′i·turn·ly** *adv.*

tack[1] (tak) *n.* **1.** A small sharp-pointed nail, commonly with tapering sides and a flat head. **2.** *Naut.* **a** A rope that holds down the lower outer corner of certain sails. **b** The corner so held. **c** The direction in which a vessel sails when sailing close-hauled, considered in relation to the position of her sails. **d** The distance or the course run at one time in such direction. **e** The act of tacking. **f** Any veering of a vessel to one side, as to take advantage of a side wind. **3.** A change of policy; a new course of action. **4.** In sewing, a large, temporary stitch. — *v.t.* **1.** To fasten or attach with tacks. **2.** To secure temporarily, as with tacks or long stitches. **3.** To attach as supplementary; append. **4.** *Naut.* **a** To bring (a vessel) momentarily into the wind so as to go on the opposite tack. **b** To navigate (a vessel) to windward by making a series of tacks. — *v.i.* **5.** *Naut.* **a** To tack a vessel. **b** To go on the opposite tack, or sail to windward by a series of tacks. **6.** To change one's course of action; veer. [< AF *taque*, OF *tache* nail] — **tack′er** *n.*

tack[2] (tak) *n.* Food in general. [Origin uncertain]

tack·le (tak′əl) *n.* **1.** A rope, pulley, or combination of ropes and pulleys used for hoisting or moving objects. **2.** A windlass or winch, together with ropes and hooks. **3.** The equipment used in any work or sport; gear; fishing *tackle.* **4.** In football: **a** The act of tackling. **b** One of two linemen whose position is usu. between the guard and end. **5.** A ship's rigging. — *v.t.* **·led, ·ling 1.** To deal with; undertake to master, accomplish, or solve. **2.** In football, to seize and stop (an opponent carrying the ball). — *v.i.* **3.** In football, to tackle an opposing player. [< MLG *takel* < *taken* to seize] — **tack′ler** *n.*

tack·y[1] (tak′ē) *adj.* **tack·i·er, tack·i·est** Having adhesive properties; sticky, as a surface covered with partly dried varnish. Also **tack′ey.** [Prob. < TACK[1], v. (def. 2)]

tack·y[2] (tak′ē) *adj.* **tack·i·er, tack·i·est** *U.S. Informal* Shabby; neglected; shoddy. [Cf. dial. G *taklig* untidy]

tact (takt) *n.* A quick or intuitive appreciation of what is fit, proper, or right; esp., skill in avoiding what would offend or disturb. [< L *tactus* a touching]

tact·ful (takt′fəl) *adj.* Possessing or manifesting tact; considerate. — **tact′ful·ly** *adv.* — **tact′ful·ness** *n.*

tac·ti·cal (tak′ti·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or like tactics. **2.** Exhibiting adroit maneuvering. — **tac′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

tac·ti·cian (tak·tish′ən) *n.* An expert in tactics.

tac·tics (tak′tiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing. in def. 1*) **1.** The science and art of handling troops in the presence of the enemy or for immediate objectives: distinguished from *strategy.* **2.** Any maneuvering to gain an objective. [< Gk. *taktikos* suitable for arranging or organizing]

tac·tile (tak′til, -tīl, *esp. Brit.* -tīl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the organs or sense of touch; caused by or consisting of contact. **2.** That may be touched; tangible. [< F < L *tactus* touch] — **tac·til′i·ty** *n.*

tact·less (takt′lis) *adj.* Lacking tact. — **tact′less·ly** *adv.* — **tact′less·ness** *n.*

tac·tu·al (tak′chōō·əl) *adj.* Tactile. — **tac′tu·al·ly** *adv.*

tad·pole (tad′pōl) *n.* The aquatic larva of an amphibian, as a frog or toad, breathing by external gills and having a tail: also called *polliwog.* [ME *taddepol* < *tadde* toad]

tael (tāl) *n.* **1.** An Oriental weight varying from 1 to 2½ ounces, commonly about 1⅓ ounces. **2.** A Chinese monetary unit of varying value. [< Pg. < Malay *tahil*]

ta'en (tān) *Scot.* Taken.

taf·fe·ta (taf′ə·tə) *n.* A fine, plain-woven, somewhat stiff fabric of silk, rayon, etc. — *adj.* Made of or resembling taffeta. [< OF < Med.L < Persian *tāftan* to twist]

taff·rail (taf′rāl′, -rəl) *n.* *Naut.* **1.** The rail around a vessel's stern. **2.** The upper part of a vessel's stern. [< MDu. *tafereel* panel, picture]

taf·fy (taf′ē) *n.* **1.** A confection made of brown sugar or molasses, mixed with butter, boiled down, and pulled: also called *toffee.* **2.** *Informal* Flattery. [Origin unknown]

tag[1] (tag) *n.* **1.** Something tacked on or attached to something else; an appendage. **2.** A label tied or attached loosely as to a piece of baggage. **3.** A loose, ragged edge of anything; tatter. **4.** The tail or tip of the tail of any animal. **5.** The final lines of a speech in a play; catchword; cue. — *v.* **tagged, tag·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To supply, adorn, fit, mark, or label with a tag. **2.** To shear away matted locks of wool from (sheep). **3.** To follow closely or persistently. — *v.i.* **4.** To follow closely at one's heels. [Prob. < Scand.]

tag[2] (tag) *v.t.* **tagged, tag·ging 1.** In baseball, to touch (a player) with the ball or with the hand or glove in which the ball is held. **2.** To overtake and touch, as in the game of tag. **3.** *Informal* To make contact with; designate: *tagged* him for a loan. — *n.* **1.** In baseball, the act or instance of tagging a player, esp., a base runner, in an attempt to retire him. **2.** A children's running game in which a player who is touched or caught (usu., called "it") tries to touch or catch the others. [< TAG[1]]

Ta·ga·log (tä·gä′log, tag′ə·log, -lôg) *n.* **1.** A member of a Malay people native to the Philippines, esp., Luzon. **2.** One of the principal native languages and, since 1940, the official language of the Philippines. Also **Ta·gal** (tä·gäl′).

tag day A day on which contributions are solicited for charitable and other institutions.

tag end **1.** A loose end or tag of cloth, yarn, etc. **2.** The endmost part of anything.

tagged atom A tracer.

tag·ger (tag′ər) *n.* One who or that which tags.

Ta·hi·ti·an (tä·hē′tē·ən, tə-, -shən) *adj.* Of or relating to Tahiti, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** One of the native Polynesian people of Tahiti. **2.** The Polynesian language of the Tahitians.

Tai (tī) See THAI.

tail[1] (tāl) *n.* **1.** The hindmost part or rear end of an animal; esp., when prolonged beyond the rest of the body as a distinct, flexible member. ◆ Collateral adjective: *caudal.* **2.** Any slender, flexible, terminal extension of the main part of an object: the *tail* of a shirt. **3.** *Astron.* The luminous trail extending from the nucleus of a comet. **4.** The bottom, back, or inferior portion of anything. **5.** *pl. Informal* The reverse side of a coin. **6.** Anything of taillike appearance, as a number of persons in single file. **7.** A pigtail; braid. **8.** *Aeron.* The rear end of an aircraft; also, the stabilizer and control surfaces at the rear of an aircraft. **9.** The rear portion of a bomb, projectile, rocket, or guided missile. **10.** *pl. Informal* A man's full-dress suit; also, a swallow-tailed coat. — *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with a tail. **2.** To cut off the tail of. **3.** To be the tail or end of: to *tail* a procession. **4.** To insert and fasten by one end, as a beam into a wall: with *in* or *on.* **5.** *Informal* To follow secretly and stealthily; shadow. — *v.i.* **6.** To extend or proceed in a line. **7.** *Informal* To follow close behind. **8.** To be inserted and fastened at one end, as a beam. — **to tail off** To diminish or recede gradually. — *adj.* **1.** Rearmost; hindmost. **2.** Coming from behind; following: a *tail* wind. [OE *tægl*] — **tail′less** *adj.*

tail[2] (tāl) *Law adj.* Restricted in succession to particular heirs: an estate *tail.* — *n.* A cutting off, abridgment, or limitation of ownership; an entail. [< OF *taillier* to cut]

tail·gate (tāl′gāt′) *n.* A hinged or vertically sliding board or gate closing the back end of a truck, wagon, etc. Also **tail·board** (tāl′bôrd, -bōrd). — *v.t. & v.i.* **·gat·ed, ·gat·ing** To drive too close behind for safety.

tail·ing (tā′ling) *n.* **1.** *pl.* Refuse or residue from grain after milling, or from ground ore after washing. **2.** The inner, covered portion of a projecting brick or stone in a wall.

tail·light (tāl′līt′) *n.* A light attached to the rear of a vehicle. Also **tail lamp.**

tai·lor (tā′lər) *n.* One who makes to order or repairs men's or women's outer garments. — *v.i.* **1.** To do a tailor's work. — *v.t.* **2.** To fit with garments: He is well *tailored.* **3.** To work at or make by tailoring: to *tailor* a coat. ◆ Collateral adjective: *sartorial.* **4.** To make, adjust, or adapt for a specific purpose. [< OF < LL *taliare* to split, cut]

tai·lor-bird (tā′lər·bûrd′) *n.* A passerine bird of Asia and Africa, that stitches leaves together to hold and hide its nest.

tai·lored (tā′lərd) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by simple, severe style: said esp. of women's clothes. **1.** Made by a tailor.

tai·lor-made (tā′lər·mād′) *adj.* **1.** Made by a tailor. **2.** Made or as if made to order; perfectly right or suitable.

tail·piece (tāl′pēs′) *n.* **1.** Any endpiece or appendage. **2.** In a violin or similar instrument, a piece of wood, as ebony, at the soundboard end, having the strings fastened to it. For illus., see VIOLIN. **3.** *Printing* An ornamental design on the lower blank portion of a page.

tail pipe An exhaust (*n.* def. 2).

tail·race (tāl′rās′) *n.* **1.** That part of a millrace below the water wheel. **2.** The channel for water to remove tailings.

tail·spin (tāl′spin′) *n.* **1.** *Aeron.* The descent of a stalled airplane along a tight helical path at a steep angle. **2.** *Informal* An emotional upheaval often resulting in loss of control.

tail wind A wind blowing in the same general direction as the course of an aircraft, ship, or other vehicle.

taint (tānt) *v.t.* **1.** To imbue with an offensive, poisonous, or deteriorating quality or principle; infect with decay. **2.** To render morally corrupt. — *v.i.* **3.** To be or become tainted. — *n.* **1.** A trace or germ of decay. **2.** A moral stain or blemish; disgrace. [Fusion of ATTAINT and F *teint*, pp. of *teindre* to tinge, color]

Taj Ma·hal (täzh′ mə·häl′, täj′) A mausoleum of white marble built (1631–45) at Agra, India.

take (tāk) *v.* **took, tak·en, tak·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To lay hold of;

grasp. **2.** To get possession of; seize. **3.** To seize forcibly; capture. **4.** To catch in a trap or snare. **5.** To win in competition. **6.** To choose; select. **7.** To buy. **8.** To rent or hire. **9.** To subscribe to, as a periodical. **10.** To assume occupancy of: to *take* a chair. **11.** To assume the responsibilities or duties of: to *take* office. **12.** To bring or accept into some relation to oneself: He *took* a wife. **13.** To assume as a symbol or badge: to *take* the veil. **14.** To impose upon oneself: to *take* a vow. **15.** To remove or carry off: with *away*. **16.** To steal. **17.** To remove by death. **18.** To subtract or deduct. **19.** To undergo: to *take* a beating. **20.** To accept passively: to *take* an insult. **21.** To become affected with: He *took* cold. **22.** To affect: The fever *took* him at dawn. **23.** To captivate; charm or delight. **24.** To react to: How did she *take* the news? **25.** To undertake to deal with: to *take* an examination. **26.** To consider; deem. **27.** To understand; comprehend. **28.** To strike in a specified place; hit: The blow *took* him on the forehead. **29.** *Informal* To aim or direct: He *took* a shot at the target. **30.** To carry with one: He *took* a briefcase along. **31.** To lead: This road *takes* you to town. **32.** To escort; conduct: Who *took* her to the dance? **33.** To receive into the body, as by eating, inhaling, etc. **34.** To accept, as something offered, due, or given: to *take* a degree. **35.** To let in; admit: The car will *take* only six people. **36.** To indulge oneself in: to *take* a nap. **37.** To perform, as an action: to *take* a stride. **38.** To avail oneself of (an opportunity, etc.). **39.** To put into effect; adopt: to *take* measures. **40.** To use up or consume: The piano *takes* too much space. **41.** To make use of; apply: They *took* clubs to him. **42.** To travel by means of: to *take* a train. **43.** To go to; seek: to *take* cover. **44.** To ascertain or obtain by measuring, computing, etc.: to *take* a census. **45.** To obtain or derive from some source; adopt or copy. **46.** To obtain by writing; write down or copy: to *take* notes. **47.** To obtain a likeness or representation of, as by drawing or photographing; also, to obtain (a likeness, picture, etc.) in such a manner. **48.** To experience; feel: to *take* pride. **49.** To conceive: to *take* a dislike. **50.** To absorb: The cloth will not *take* the pattern. **51.** In baseball, to allow (a pitch) to pass without swinging at it: said of a batter. **52.** *Slang* To cheat; deceive. **53.** *Gram.* To require by construction or usage: The verb *takes* a direct object. — *v.i.* **54.** To get possession. **55.** To engage; catch, as mechanical parts. **56.** To begin to grow; germinate. **57.** To have the intended effect: The vaccination *took*. **58.** To become popular; gain favor or currency, as a play. **59.** To admit of being photographed: His face *takes* well. **60.** To detract: with *from*. **61.** To become (ill or sick). **62.** To make one's way; go. **63.** In baseball, to allow a pitch to pass without swinging at it: said of a batter. **— to take after 1.** To resemble. **2.** To follow as an example. **— to take amiss** To be offended by. **— to take at one's word** To believe. **— to take back 1.** To regain. **2.** To retract. **— to take breath** To pause, as from working. **— to take down 1.** To pull down, as a building. **2.** To dismantle; disassemble. **3.** To humble. **4.** To write down; make a record of. **— to take heart** To gain courage or confidence. **— to take in 1.** To admit; receive. **2.** To lessen in size or scope. **3.** To furl or haul in (sail). **4.** To include; embrace. **5** To understand; comprehend. **6.** To receive into one's home for pay, as lodgers or work. **7.** *Informal* To cheat or deceive. **8.** *U.S. Informal* To visit, as on a trip or tour: Did you *take in* the Louvre? **— to take in vain** To use profanely or blasphemously, as the name of a deity. **— to take it 1.** To assume; understand. **2.** To endure hardship, abuse, etc. **— to take it out on** *U.S. Informal* To vent one's anger, frustration, etc., on. **— to take off 1.** To remove, as a coat. **2.** To carry away. **3.** To kill. **4.** To deduct. **5.** *Informal* To mimic; burlesque. **6.** To rise from the ground or water in starting a flight, as an airplane. **7.** *U.S. Informal* To leave; depart. **— to take on 1.** To hire; employ. **2.** To undertake to deal with; handle. **3.** *Informal* To exhibit violent emotion. **— to take out 1.** To extract; remove. **2.** To obtain from the proper authority, as a license or patent. **3.** To lead or escort. **— to take over 1.** To assume control. **2.** To convey. **— to take place** To happen. **— to take stock 1.** To make an inventory. **2.** To estimate probability, position, etc.; consider. **— to take the field** To begin a campaign or game. **— to take to 1.** To have recourse to; go to: to *take* to one's bed. **2.** To develop the practice of, or an addiction to: He *took to* drink. **3.** To become fond of. **— to take to heart** To be deeply affected by. **— to take up 1.** To raise or lift. **2.** To make smaller or less; shorten or tighten. **3.** To pay, as a mortgage. **4.** To accept as stipulated: to *take up* an option. **5.** To begin or begin again. **6.** To reprove or criticize. **7.** To occupy, engage, or consume, as space or time. **8.** To acquire an interest in or devotion to: to *take up* a cause. **— to take up with** *Informal* To become friendly with. — *n.* **1.** The act of taking, or that which is taken. **2.** An uninterrupted run of a camera or recording apparatus in making a motion picture, television program, sound recording, etc. **3.** A quantity collected at one time: the *take* of fish. **4.** *U.S. Slang* Money collected, as the receipts of a sporting event. [OE *tacan* < ON *taka*]

take-down (tāk′doun′) *adj.* Fitted for being taken apart or easily down: a *takedown* rifle. — *n.* **1.** Any article so constructed as to be taken apart easily. **2.** *U.S. Informal* The act of humiliating anyone.

take-home pay (tāk′hōm′) *U.S.* The remainder of one's wages or salary after tax and other payroll deductions.

take-in (tāk′in′) *n. Informal* An act of cheating or hoaxing.

take-off (tāk′ôf′, -of′) *n.* **1.** The act of rising or leaping from the ground to begin flight; also, the spot where this happens. **2.** *Informal* A satirical imitation; caricature.

take-o·ver (tāk′ō·vər) *n.* An assuming or seizure of control, function, ownership, or rule.

tak·er (tā′kər) *n.* One who takes or collects.

tak·ing (tā′king) *adj.* **1.** Fascinating; captivating. **2.** *Informal* Contagious; infectious. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who takes. **2.** The thing or things taken. **3.** *pl.* Receipts, as of money. **— tak′ing·ly** *adv.* **— tak′ing·ness** *n.*

talc (talk) *n.* A soft, white or variously colored, hydrous magnesium silicate, $H_2Mg_3(SiO_3)_4$, used in making paper, soap, toilet powder, insulators, etc. Also **tal·cum** (tal′kəm). — *v.t.* **talcked** or **talced, talck·ing** or **talc·ing** To treat with talc. [< F < Med. L < Arabian *talq*]

talcum powder Finely powdered and purified talc, used as a dusting agent, filter, etc.

tale (tāl) *n.* **1.** That which is told or related; a story; recital. **2.** A piece of gossip. **3.** A lie; falsehood. [OE *talu* speech, narrative]

tale·bear·er (tāl′bâr′ər) *n.* One who carries gossip; a taleteller. **— tale′bear′ing** *adj. & n.*

tal·ent (tal′ənt) *n.* **1.** A particular and uncommon aptitude for some special work or activity. **2.** People of skill or ability, collectively. **3.** An ancient weight and denomination of money. [OE < L < Gk. *talanton* weight]

tal·ent·ed (tal′ən·tid) *adj.* Having great ability; gifted.

talent scout One whose business is to discover talented people, esp. for the performing arts.

ta·ler (tä′lər) *n.* A former German silver coin, the prototype of all dollars: also spelled *thaler*. [< G. See DOLLAR.]

ta·les (tā′lēz) *n. pl.* ·les (-lēz) *Law* Persons to be summoned for jury duty to make up a deficiency when the regular panel is exhausted by challenges. [< L *tales* pl. of *talis* such a one]

tales·man (tālz′mən) *n. pl.* ·**men** (-mən) *Law* One of the tales.

tale·tel·ler (tāl′tel′ər) *n.* **1.** One who tells stories, etc.; a raconteur. **2.** A talebearer. **— tale′tell′ing** *adj. & n.*

tal·i·pes (tal′ə·pēz) *n. Pathol.* Clubfoot. [< NL < L *talus* ankle + *pes, pedis* foot] **— tal·i·ped** (tal′ə·ped) *adj.*

tal·i·pot (tal′ə·pot) *n.* A stately East Indian palm crowned by large leaves used as fans, umbrellas, writing material, and as coverings for houses. [< Bengali *tālipāt* palm leaf]

tal·is·man (tal′is·mən, -iz-) *n. pl.* ·**mans** **1.** Something supposed to produce extraordinary or magical effects; a charm or amulet. **2.** An astrological charm or symbol supposed to benefit or protect the possessor. [< F < Sp. < Arabic *tilsam, tilasm* magic figure] **— tal′is·man′ic** (-man′·ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

talk (tôk) *v.i.* **1.** To express or exchange thoughts in audible words; communicate by speech. **2.** To make a speech. **3.** To communicate by means other than speech: to *talk* with one's fingers. **4.** To speak irrelevantly; prate; chatter. **5.** To confer; consult. **6.** To spread rumor; gossip. **7.** To make sounds suggestive of speech. **8.** *U.S. Informal* To give information, as to the police; inform. **9.** *Informal* To be effective or influential: money *talks*. — *v.t.* **10.** To express in words; utter. **11.** To use in speaking; converse in: to *talk* Spanish. **12.** To converse about; discuss: to *talk* business. **13.** To bring to a specified condition or state by talking: to *talk* one into doing something. **14.** To pass or spend, as time, in talking: usu. with *away*. **— to talk back** To answer impudently. **— to talk big** *Slang* To brag; boast. **— to talk down 1.** To silence by talking; outtalk. **2.** To direct (an aircraft) to a landing, in darkness, fog, etc., by giving oral instructions to the pilot over the radio. **— to talk down to** To speak to in a condescending manner. **— to talk shop** To talk about one's work. **— to talk up 1.** To discuss, esp. so as to promote; praise; extol. **2.** *Informal* To speak loudly or boldly. — *n.* **1.** The act of talking; conversation; speech. **2.** A speech or lecture, usu. informal. **3.** Report; rumor: We heard *talk* of war. **4.** That which is talked about; a topic; theme. **5.** A conference for discussion or deliberation; a council. **6.** Mere words; verbiage. **7.** A

language, dialect, or lingo: baseball *talk*. [ME *talken*, prob. freq. of OE *talian* to reckon, speak] — **talk'er** *n.*

talk·a·tive (tôk'kə·tiv) *adj.* Given to much talking. — **talk'a·tive·ly** *adv.* — **talk'a·tive·ness** *n.*

talking picture A motion picture with spoken words, music, sound effects, etc. Also *Informal* **talkie** (tô'kē).

talk·ing-to (tô'king·tōō') *n. pl.* **·tos** *Informal* A scolding.

talk·y (tô'kē) *adj.* **talk·i·er, talk·i·est** Talkative.

tall (tôl) *adj.* **1.** Having more than average height; high or lofty. **2.** Having specified height: He is six feet *tall*. **3.** *Informal* Extravagant; boastful; also, unbelievable: a *tall* story. **4.** *Informal* Large; excellent; grand: a *tall* dinner. — *adv. Informal* Proudly: to stand *tall*. [OE *getæl* swift, prompt] — **tall'ness** *n.*

tall·ish (tô'lish) *adj.* Rather tall.

tal·lith (tal'ith, tä'lis) *n.* A fringed scarf or mantle worn around the shoulders by Orthodox and Conservative Jewish men when praying. [< Hebrew *tallīth* cover, robe]

tal·low (tal'ō) *n.* A mixture of the harder animal fats, as of beef or mutton, refined for use in candles, soaps, oleomargarine, etc. — *v.t.* To smear with tallow. [ME *talgh*] — **tal'low·y** *adj.*

tal·ly (tal'ē) *n. pl.* **·lies** **1.** A piece of wood on which notches or scores are cut as marks of number. **2.** A score or mark. **3.** A reckoning; account. **4.** A counterpart; duplicate. **5.** A mark indicative of a quantity or number, used to denote one in a series. **6.** A label; tag. — *v.* **·lied, ·ly·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To score on a tally; record. **2.** To reckon; count; estimate: often with *up*. **3.** To mark or cut corresponding notches in; cause to correspond. — *v.i.* **4.** To correspond; fit: The stories *tally*. **5.** To keep score. [< AF < L *talea* rod, cutting] — **tal'li·er** *n.*

tal·ly-ho (tal'ē·hō') *interj.* A huntsman's cry to hounds when the quarry is sighted. — *n. pl.* **·hos** **1.** The cry of "tallyho." **2.** A four-in-hand coach. — *v.t.* **1.** To urge on, as hounds, with the cry of "tallyho." — *v.i.* **2.** To cry "tallyho." [Alter. of F *taïaut*, a hunting cry]

tal·ly·man (tal'ē·mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** One who keeps a count or a tally, esp., of votes. **2.** One who records number, volume, and measurement, as of timber.

Tal·mud (tal'mud, täl'mōōd) *n.* The body of Jewish civil and religious law (and related commentaries) not included in the Pentateuch. [< Hebrew *talmūdh* instruction] — **Tal·mud'ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **Tal'mud·ist** *n.*

tal·on (tal'ən) *n.* **1.** The claw of a bird or other animal, esp. of a bird of prey. **2.** Anything resembling or suggesting a claw, as a grasping human hand. **3.** A projection on the bolt of a lock on which the key presses in shooting the bolt. [< OF < L *talus* heel] — **tal'oned** (-ənd) *adj.*

ta·lus (tā'ləs) *n. pl.* **·li** (-lī) **1.** *Anat.* The bone of the foot just above the heel bone: also called *anklebone, astragalus*. **2.** A slope, as of a tapering wall. **3.** *Geol.* The sloping mass of rock fragments below a cliff. [< L, ankle, heel]

tam (tam) *n.* A tam-o'-shanter.

ta·ma·le (tə·mä'lē) *n.* A Mexican dish made of crushed corn and meat, seasoned with red pepper, wrapped in corn husks, dipped in oil, and cooked by steam. Also **ta·mal** (tə·mäl'). [< Am. Sp. *tamales*, pl. of *tamal* < Nahuatl *tamalli*]

tam·a·rack (tam'ə·rak) *n.* **1.** The American larch, a tree common in northern North America. **2.** Its wood. Also called *hackmatack*. [< Algonquian]

tam·a·rind (tam'ə·rind) *n.* **1.** A tropical tree of the bean family, with hard yellow wood and showy yellow flowers striped with red. **2.** The fruit of this tree, a flat pod with soft acid pulp used in preserves and as a laxative. [< Sp. < Arabic *tamr hindi* Indian date]

tam·bour (tam'bōōr) *n.* **1.** A drum. **2.** A round wooden frame on which material for embroidering may be stretched; also, the fabric embroidered. — *v.t. & v.i.* To embroider on a tambour. [< F < Arabic *tambūr* a stringed instrument]

tam·bou·rin (tam'bə·rin) *n.* **1.** A long, narrow drum, originating in Provence. **2.** A gay, 18th-century Provençal dance, or the music for it. [< F < Provençal]

tam·bou·rine (tam'bə·rēn') *n.* A musical instrument like the head of a drum, with jingles in the rim, played by striking it with the hand; a timbrel. [< F]

tame (tām) *adj.* **tam·er, tam·est** **1.** Having lost its native wildness or shyness; domesticated. **2.** In agriculture, brought under or produced by cultivation. **3.** Docile; tractable. **4.** Subdued or subjugated. **5.** Gentle; harmless. **6.** Lacking in effectiveness; uninteresting; dull. — *v.t.* **tamed, tam·ing** **1.** To domesticate. **2.** To bring into subjection or obedience; render spiritless. **3.** To tone down; soften, as glaring colors. [OE *tam*] — **tam'a·ble** or **tame'a·ble** *adj.* — **tame'ly** *adv.* — **tame'ness** *n.* — **tam'er** *n.*

tame·less (tām'lis) *adj.* Untamed or untamable. — **tame'·less·ness** *n.*

Tam·il (tam'əl, tum'əl) *n.* **1.** One of an ancient Dravidian people, and still the most numerous of the inhabitants of southern India and northern Ceylon. **2.** Their language.

Tam·ma·ny (tam'ə·nē) *n.* A fraternal society in New York City (founded 1789) serving as the central organization of the city's Democratic party. Also called **Tammany Hall, Tammany Society.** [Alter. of *Tamanend*, name of a 17th c. Delaware Indian chief friendly toward white men]

Tam·muz (täm·mōōz', täm'mōōz) The tenth month of the Hebrew year. See (Hebrew) CALENDAR. Also spelled *Thammuz*: also **Tam·uz.** [< Hebrew]

tam-o'-shan·ter (tam'ə·shan'tər) *n.* A Scottish cap with a tight headband and a full, flat top, sometimes with a pompon or tassel. [after *Tam o' Shanter*, a poem by Robert Burns]

tamp (tamp) *v.t.* **1.** To force down or pack closer by firm, repeated blows. **2.** To ram down, as dirt, etc., on top of the charge in a blasthole. [Back formation < TAMPION]

tam·per (tam'pər) *v.i.* **1.** To meddle; interfere: usu. with *with*. **2.** To make changes, esp., so as to damage or corrupt: with *with*. **3.** To use corrupt measures, as bribery; scheme or plot. [Var. of TEMPER] — **tam'per·er** *n.*

tam·pi·on (tam'pē·ən) *n.* *Mil.* A stopper, as the plug put into the mouth of a cannon to keep out moisture, etc. [< F *tampon*, nasal var. of *tapon*, *tape* bung < Gmc]

tam·pon (tam'pon) *n.* *Med.* A plug of cotton or lint for insertion in a wound or body cavity. — *v.t.* To plug up, as a wound, with a tampon. [See TAMPION]

tan (tan) *v.* **tanned, tan·ning** *v.t.* **1.** To convert into leather, as hides or skins, by treating with tannin. **2.** To turn brown, as the skin, by exposure to sunlight. **3.** *Informal* To thrash; flog. — *v.i.* **4.** To become tanned, as hides or the skin. — *n.* **1.** A yellowish brown color tinged with red. **2.** A dark or brown coloring of the skin, resulting from exposure to the sun. **3.** Tanbark. — *adj.* **1.** Of the color tan; light brown. **2.** Used in or pertaining to tanning. [OE < Med.L < *tanum* tanbark, prob. < Celtic.]

tan·a·ger (tan'ə·jər) *n.* Any of a family of American songbirds noted for the brilliant plumage of the male. [< NL < Pg. *tangara* < Tupi] — **tan'a·grine** (-grēn) *adj.*

tan·bark (tan'bärk') *n.* **1.** The bark of certain trees, esp. oak or hemlock, containing tannin, and used in tanning leather. **2.** Spent bark from the tan vats, used on circus arenas, racetracks, etc.

tan·dem (tan'dəm) *adv.* One in front of or before another. — *n.* **1.** Two or more horses harnessed in single file. **2.** A two-wheeled carriage drawn by a tandem of horses. **3.** A bicycle with seats for two persons, one behind the other: also **tandem bicycle.** **4.** Any arrangement of two or more persons or things placed one before another. — *adj.* Arranged in tandem, or including parts so arranged. [< L, at length (of time); used in puns in sense of "lengthwise"]

tang (tang) *n.* **1.** A penetrating taste, flavor, or odor. **2.** A trace; hint. **3.** Any distinct taste, odor, quality, etc., other than one that is sweet. **4.** A slender shank or tongue projecting from some metal part, as the end of a sword blade or chisel, for inserting in or fixing upon a handle. — *v.t.* To provide with a tang. [< ON *tangi* point, dagger]

tan·gen·cy (tan'jən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** The state of being tangent. Also **tan'gence.**

tan·gent (tan'jənt) *adj.* Being in contact at a single point or along a line; touching. — *n.* **1.** *Geom.* **a** A straight line in contact with a curve at one point. **b** A straight line, curve, or surface touching another curve or surface at one or more consecutive points. **2.** *Trig.* A function of an acute angle, equal to the ratio of the side opposite the angle to the side adjacent to the angle when the angle is included in a right triangle. — **to fly** (or **go**) **off on a tangent** *Informal* To make a sharp or sudden change in direction or course of action. [< L *tangens, -entis*, ppr. of *tangere* to touch]

tan·gen·tial (tan·jen'shəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or moving in the direction of a tangent. **2.** Touching slightly. **3.** Only partially relevant to a subject. Also **tan·gen'tal** (-jen'təl). — **tan·gen'ti·al'i·ty** (-shē·al'ə·tē) *n.* — **tan·gen'·tial·ly** *adv.*

tan·ger·ine (tan'jə·rēn') *n.* **1.** A small, juicy orange with a loose, easily removed skin: also called *mandarin*. **2.** A slightly burnt orange color. [after *Tangier*]

tan·gi·ble (tan'jə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Perceptible by touch; also, within reach by touch. **2.** Capable of being apprehended by the mind; of definite shape; real: *tangible* evidence. **3.** *Law* Perceptible to the senses; corporeal; material: *tangible* property. — *n.* **1.** That which is tangible. **2.** *pl.* Material assets. [< F < L < *tangere* to touch] — **tan'gi·bil'i·ty, tan'·gi·ble·ness** *n.* — **tan'gi·bly** *adv.*

tan·gle (tang'gəl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To twist or involve in a confused and not readily separable mass. **2.** To ensnare as in a tangle; enmesh. — *v.i.* **3.** To be or become entangled. — **to tangle with** *Informal* To come to blows with. — *n.* **1.** A confused intertwining, as of threads or hairs; a snarl. **2.** A state of confusion or complication; a jumbled mess. **3.** A state of perplexity or bewilderment. [Nasalized var. of obs. *tagle* < Scand.] — **tan'gler** *n.*

tan·gly (tang'glē) *adj.* Consisting of or being in a tangle.

tan·go (tang'gō) *n. pl.* **·gos** **1.** Any of several Latin-American dances in 2/4 time, characterized by deliberate gliding

steps and low dips. **2.** Any syncopated tune or melody to which the tango may be danced. — *v.i.* To dance the tango. [< Am.Sp., fiesta, Negro drum dance]

tang·y (tang′ē) *adj.* **tang·i·er, tang·i·est** Having a tang in taste or odor; pungent.

tank (tangk) *n.* **1.** A large vessel, basin, or receptacle for holding a fluid. **2.** Any natural or artificial pool or pond. **3.** *Mil.* A heavily armored combat vehicle, moving on caterpillar treads and mounting guns of various calibers. — *v.t.* To place or store in a tank. [< Pg. *tanque,* aphetic var. of *estanque* < L *stagnum* pool]

tank·age (tangk′ij) *n.* **1.** The act, process, or operation of putting in tanks. **2.** The price for storage in tanks. **3.** The capacity or contents of a tank. **4.** Slaughterhouse waste, as bones and entrails, used when dried as a fertilizer or feed.

tank·ard (tangk′ərd) *n.* A large, one-handled drinking cup, usu. made of pewter or silver, often with a cover. [< MDu. < Med.L *tancardus* large goblet]

tank·er (tangk′ər) *n.* A cargo vessel specially constructed for the transport of liquids, esp. oil and gasoline.

tank farm *U.S.* An area near a refinery, factory, port, etc., occupied by large storage tanks.

tank·ful (tangk′fo͝ol′) *n.* The quantity that fills a tank.

tank town *U.S. Informal* A small town where trains formerly stopped to refill from a water tank.

tan·nage (tan′ij) *n.* The act or operation of tanning.

tan·ner (tan′ər) *n.* One who tans hides.

tan·ner·y (tan′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ner·ies** A place where leather is tanned.

tan·nic (tan′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to or derived from tannin or tanbark.

tannic acid *n. Chem.* Any of a group of brownish astringent compounds extracted from gallnuts, sumac, etc., used in the preparation of ink and in the manufacture of leather.

tan·nin (tan′in) *n.* Tannic acid.

tan·ning (tan′ing) *n.* **1.** The art or process of converting hides into leather. **2.** A bronzing, as of the skin, by exposure to the sun, wind, etc. **3.** *Informal* A beating or thrashing.

tan·sy (tan′zē) *n. pl.* **·sies** Any of various coarse perennial herbs with yellow flowers and an aromatic, bitter taste, used in medicine for its tonic properties. [< OF *tanesie,* aphetic var. of *athanasie* < LL < Gk., immortality]

tan·ta·lize (tan′tə·līz) *v.t.* **·lized, ·liz·ing** To tease or torment by repeated frustration of hopes or desires. Also *Brit.* **tan′ta·lise.** [< TANTALUS] — **tan′ta·li·za′tion** *n.* — **tan′ta·liz′er** *n.* — **tan′ta·liz′ing·ly** *adv.*

tan·ta·lum (tan′tə·ləm) *n.* A silver-white, very heavy, ductile, metallic element (symbol Ta), forming alloys with tungsten, molybdenum, and iron. See ELEMENT. [< TANTALUS; from its inability to absorb water]

Tan·ta·lus (tan′tə·ləs) In Greek mythology, a rich king, who was punished in Hades by being made to stand in water that receded when he tried to drink, and under fruit-laden branches he could not reach.

tan·ta·mount (tan′tə·mount) *adj.* Having equivalent value, effect, or import; equivalent: with *to.* [< AF < L *tantus* as much + OF *amonter* to amount]

tan·trum (tan′trəm) *n.* A petulant fit of rage. [Origin unknown]

Tao·ism (dou′iz·əm, tou′-) *n.* One of the principal religions or philosophies of China, founded by Lao-tse, who taught that happiness could be acquired through obedience to the requirements of man's nature in accordance with the **Tao** (dou, tou), or Way, the basic principle of all nature. [< Chinese *tao* way, road] — **Tao′ist** *adj. & n.* — **Tao·is′tic** *adj.*

tap[1] (tap) *n.* **1.** An arrangement for drawing out liquid, as beer from a cask. **2.** A faucet or cock; spigot. **3.** A plug or stopper to close an opening in a cask or other vessel. **4.** Liquor drawn from a tap; also, a particular liquor or quality of liquor contained in casks. **5.** *Brit.* A place where liquor is served; taproom. **6.** A tool for cutting internal screw threads. **7.** A point of connection for an electrical circuit. — **on tap** **1.** Contained in a cask; ready for tapping: beer *on tap.* **2.** Provided with a tap. **3.** *Informal* Available; ready. — *v.t.* **tapped, tap·ping** **1.** To provide with a tap or spigot. **2.** To pierce or open so as to draw liquid from. **3.** To draw (liquid) from a container. **4.** To make connection with: to *tap* a gas main. **5.** To make connection with secretly: to *tap* a telephone wire. **6.** To make an internal screw thread in with a tap. [OE *tæppa*]

tap[2] (tap) *v.* **tapped, tap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To touch or strike gently. **2.** To make or produce by tapping. **3.** To apply leather to (the sole or heel of a shoe) in repair. — *v.i.* **4.** To strike a light blow or blows, as with the finger tip. — *n.* **1.** A gentle or playful blow; also, the sound made by such a blow. **2.** Leather, etc., affixed to a shoe sole or heel; also, a metal plate on the toe or heel of a shoe. [< OF *taper*] — **tap′per** *n.*

ta·pa (tä′pä) *n.* **1.** The inner bark of an Asian mulberry tree used in making a kind of cloth. **2.** The cloth. [< native Polynesian name]

tap-dance (tap′dans′, -däns′) *v.i.* **-danced, -danc·ing** To dance or perform a tap dance.

tap dance A dance in which the dancer emphasizes his steps by tapping the floor with the heels or toes of shoes designed to make the rhythm audible. — **tap dancer**

tape (tāp) *n.* **1.** A narrow strip of strong woven fabric. **2.** Any long, narrow, flat strip of paper, metal, etc. **3.** A magnetic tape. **4.** A tapeline. **5.** A string stretched breast-high across the finishing point of a racing track and broken by the winner of the race. — *v.t.* **taped, tap·ing** **1.** To wrap or secure with tape. **2.** To apply a tape to; bandage: to *tape* a boxer's hands. **3.** To measure with or as with a tapeline. **4.** *Informal* To record on magnetic tape. [OE *tæppe* strip of cloth] — **tape′less** *adj.*

tape·line (tāp′līn′) *n.* A tape for measuring distances. Also **tape measure.**

ta·per[1] (tā′pər) *n.* One who or that which tapes.

ta·per[2] (tā′pər) *n.* **1.** A small candle. **2.** A burning wick or other light substance giving but feeble illumination. **3.** A gradual diminution of size in an elongated object: the *taper* of a mast. **4.** Any tapering object, as a cone. — *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To make or become smaller or thinner toward one end. **2.** To lessen gradually; diminish: with *off.* — *adj.* Growing small by degrees in one direction; slender and conical or pyramidal. [OE, dissimilated var. of Med.L *papur* taper, wick < L, papyrus] — **ta′per·ing·ly** *adv.*

tape recorder A device that converts sound into magnetic patterns stored on a tape, reversing the process for playback.

tape recording **1.** The process of transcribing music, speech, etc., on a tape recorder. **2.** A transcription so made.

tap·es·try (tap′is·trē) *n. pl.* **·tries** A woven, ornamental fabric, used for hangings, in which the woof is supplied by a spindle, the design being formed by stitches across the warp. — *v.t.* **·tried, ·try·ing** **1.** To hang or adorn with tapestry. **2.** To make or weave as tapestry. [< OF < L < Gk. *tapētion,* dim. of *tapēs* rug]

tape·worm (tāp′wûrm′) *n.* Any of various worms with segmented, ribbonlike bodies, parasitic on the intestines of vertebrates and often infesting man.

tap·i·o·ca (tap′ē·ō′kə) *n.* A nutritious starchy substance having irregular grains, obtained by drying cassava starch. [< Sp. < Tupi < *ty* juice + *pÿa* heart + *oco* to be removed]

ta·pir (tā′pər) *n.* A large nocturnal mammal, having short limbs and a flexible snout, native to South and Central America and to the Malay Peninsula. [< Sp. < Tupi *tapy′ra*]

tap·pet (tap′it) *n. Mech.* A lever or projecting arm of a mechanism that moves or is moved intermittently by automatically touching another part. [< TAP[2]]

tap·ping (tap′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which taps. **2.** Something taken by tapping, or running from a tap.

tap·room (tap′ro͞om′, -ro͝om′) *n.* A bar or barroom.

tap·root (tap′ro͞ot′, -ro͝ot′) *n. Bot.* The principal descending root of a plant. — **tap′root′ed** *adj.*

taps (taps) *n.pl.* (*usu. construed as sing.*) A military signal by bugle or beat of drum, regularly sounded after tattoo for the extinguishing of all lights and sometimes played after a military burial.

tap·ster (tap′stər) *n.* One who draws and serves liquor; a bartender. [OE *tæppestre* barmaid]

tar[1] (tär) *n.* **1.** A dark, oily, viscid mixture of hydrocarbons, obtained by the destructive distillation of resinous woods, coal, etc. **2.** Coal tar. — *v.t.* **tarred, tar·ring** To cover with or as with tar. — **to tar and feather** To smear (a person) with tar and then cover with feathers as a punishment. — *adj.* Made of, derived from, or resembling tar. [OE *teoru*]

tar[2] (tär) *n. Informal* A sailor. [Short for TARPAULIN]

tar·an·tel·la (tar′ən·tel′ə) *n.* A lively Neapolitan dance in 6/8 time; also, the music written for it. [< Ital., dim. of *Taranto* Taranto]

ta·ran·tu·la (tə·ran′chō͝o·lə) *n. pl.* **·las** or **·lae** (-lē) **1.** A large, hairy spider of southern Europe. **2.** Any of various related spiders known for their painful but not dangerous bite. [< Med.L < Ital. < *Taranto* Taranto]

tar·boosh (tär·bo͞osh′) *n.* A brimless, usu. red, felt cap with colored silk tassel, worn by Moslem men. Also **tar·bush′.** [< Arabic *tarbūsh*]

tar·di·grade (tär′də·grād) *adj.* Slow in motion or action. [< F < L < *tardus* slow + *gradi* to walk]

tar·dy (tär′dē) *adj.* **·di·er, ·di·est** **1.** Not coming at the appointed time; late. **2.** Moving slowly. [< F < L *tardus* slow] — **tar′di·ly** *adv.* — **tar′di·ness** *n.*

tare[1] (târ) *n.* **1.** An unidentified weed that grows among wheat. **2.** A seed of wickedness. *Matt.* xiii 25. **3.** Any of various species of vetch. [MDu. *tarwe* wheat]

tare[2] (târ) *n.* An allowance made to a buyer of goods by deducting from the gross weight of his purchase the weight of the container. — *v.t.* **tared, tar·ing** To weigh, as a package, in order to determine the amount of tare. [< F < Arabic < *tarāha* to reject, throw away]

tar·get (tär′git) *n.* **1.** An object presenting a surface that may be used as a mark or butt, as in rifle or archery practice. **2.** Anything that is shot at. **3.** A person or thing made an object of attack or center of attention; a butt. — **on target** **1.** Headed or aimed so as to hit a target. **2.** *Informal* Aptly directed or placed; to the point: The quip was right *on target*. [ME *targette, targuele,* dim. of *targa* shield]

Tar·heel (tär′hēl′) *n. Informal* A native of North Carolina. Also **Tar Heel.**

Tarheel State Nickname of North Carolina.

tar·iff (tar′if) *n.* **1.** A schedule of articles of merchandise with the rates of duty to be paid for their importation or exportation. **2.** A duty, or duties collectively. **3.** The law or principles governing the imposition of duties. **4.** Any schedule of charges. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a list or table of duties or customs on. **2.** To fix a price or tariff on. [< Ital. < Arabic *ta′rif* information]

tar·mac (tär′mak) *n. Brit. & Canadian* **1.** *Aeron.* **a** A hangar apron. **b** An asphalt runway. **2.** An asphalt road.

tarn (tärn) *n.* A small mountain lake. [ME < ON *tjörn*]

tar·na·tion (tär·nā′shən) *interj. & n. U.S. Dial.* Damnation: a euphemism.

tar·nish (tär′nish) *v.t.* **1.** To dim the luster of. **2.** To dim the purity of; stain; disgrace. — *v.i.* **3.** To lose luster, as by oxidation. — *n.* **1.** Loss of luster. **2.** A blemish or stain. **3.** The thin film of color on the exposed surface of a metal or mineral. [< OF < *terne* dull, wan] — **tar′nish·a·ble** *adj.*

ta·ro (tä′rō) *n. pl.* **·ros** **1.** Any of several tropical plants of the arum family, grown for their edible, cornlike rootstocks. **2.** The rootstock of this plant. [< native Polynesian name]

tar·ot (tar′ō, -ət) *n.* One of a set of playing cards with grilled or checkered backs employed by fortunetellers and gypsies in foretelling future events. [< F < Ital. < *taroccare* to wrangle, play at cards]

tar·pau·lin (tär·pô′lin, tär′pə-) *n.* **1.** A waterproof canvas impregnated with tar, used to cover merchandise, athletic fields, etc. **2.** A sailor's wide-brimmed storm hat. Also *Informal* **tarp.** [< TAR[1] + PALL[1] + -ING[1]]

tar·pon (tär′pon, -pən) *n. pl.* **·pon** or **·pons** A large marine game fish of the West Indies and the coast of Florida, having conspicuous silvery scales. [Origin unknown]

tar·ra·gon (tar′ə·gon) *n.* **1.** A European perennial plant allied to wormwood. **2.** The aromatic leaves of this plant, used as seasoning. [< Sp. < Arabic < Gk. *drakōn* dragon]

tar·ri·er (tar′ē·ər) *n.* One who or that which tarries.

tar·ry[1] (tar′ē) *v.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To put off going or coming; linger. **2.** To remain in the same place, esp. longer than one expected. **3.** To wait; stay. — *n.* Sojourn; stay. [ME *tarien* to vex, hinder, delay, fusion of OE *ītrgan* to vex + OF *targer* to delay < LL < L *tardare* to delay]

tar·ry[2] (tär′ē) *adj.* **·ri·er, ·ri·est** Covered with tar; like tar.

tar·sal (tär′səl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or situated near the tarsus or ankle.

tarso- *combining form* The tarsus; pertaining to the tarsus. Also, before vowels, **tars-.** [< Gk. *tarsos* flat of the foot, edge of the eyelid]

tar·sus (tär′səs) *n. pl.* **·si** (-sī) **1.** *Anat.* The ankle, or, in man, the group of seven bones of which it is composed. **2.** *Zool.* **a** The shank of a bird's leg. **b** The distal part of the leg in insects. [< NL < Gk. *tarsos* flat of the foot, any flat surface]

tart[1] (tärt) *adj.* **1.** Having a sharp, sour taste. **2.** Severe; cutting; caustic: a *tart* remark. [OE *teart*] — **tart′ly** *adv.* — **tart′ness** *n.*

tart[2] (tärt) *n.* **1.** A small pastry shell with fruit or custard filling and without a top crust. **2.** In England, an uncovered fruit pie. **3.** *Slang* A girl or woman of loose morals, as a prostitute. [< OF *tarte*]

tar·tan (tär′tən) *n.* **1.** A woolen fabric having varicolored lines or stripes at right angles, forming a distinctive pattern, the characteristic dress of the Scottish Highlanders, each clan having its particular pattern or patterns. **2.** Any similar pattern; a plaid. **3.** A garment made of tartan. For illus. see KILT. — *adj.* **1.** Made of tartan. **2.** Striped or checkered in a manner similar to the Scottish tartans. [? < OF *tiretaine* linsey-woolsey]

tar·tar[1] (tär′tər) *n.* **1.** An acid substance deposited from grape juice during fermentation as a pinkish sediment; crude bitartrate of potassium. **2.** *Dent.* A yellowish incrustation on the teeth, chiefly calcium phosphate. [< F < LL < Med.Gk. *tartaron,* ? < Arabic]

tar·tar[2] (tär′tər) *n. Often cap.* **1.** A person of intractable or savage temper. **2.** An unexpectedly formidable opponent. — **to catch a tartar** To take on or be matched with an unexpectedly strong opponent. [< TARTAR]

Tar·tar (tär′tər) *n.* A Tatar. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Tatars or Tartary: also **Tar·tar·i·an** (tär·târ′ē·ən). [< F < LL < Persian *Tātar* Tatar]

Tar·tar·e·an (tär·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Tartarus.

tartar emetic *Chem.* A white, crystalline, poisonous derivative of tartaric acid, used in medicine and in dyeing.

tar·tare sauce (tär′tər) A fish sauce made of mayonnaise, capers, chopped olives, and pickles. Also **tar′tar sauce.**

tar·tar·ic (tär·tar′ik, -tär′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to or derived from tartar or tartaric acid.

tartaric acid *Chem.* Any one of four organic compounds, $C_4H_6O_6$, occurring in the free state or as a potassium or calcium salt, as in grape juice, various unripe fruits, etc.

tar·tar·ize (tär′tə·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To impregnate or treat with tartar, cream of tartar, or tartar emetic. — **tar′tar·i·za′tion** *n.*

Tartar mink The kolinsky. Also **Tartar sable.**

tar·tar·ous (tär′tər·əs) *adj.* Of or derived from tartar.

Tar·ta·rus (tär′tər·əs) **1.** In Greek mythology, the abyss below Hades where Zeus confined the Titans. **2.** Hades.

Tar·ta·ry (tär′tər·ē) A region of Asia and eastern Europe, ruled by the Tatars, under Mongol leadership, in the 13th and 14th centuries.

tart·let (tärt′lit) *n.* A small pastry tart.

tar·trate (tär′trāt) *n. Chem.* A salt or ester of tartaric acid.

task (task, täsk) *n.* **1.** A specific amount of labor or study imposed by authority or required by duty or necessity. **2.** Any work voluntarily undertaken. **3.** An exhausting or bothersome job or duty. **4.** A specific military mission. — **to take to task** To reprove; lecture. — *v.t.* **1.** To assign a task to. **2.** To overtax with labor; burden. **3.** To reprimand. [< AF < LL < L *taxare* to appraise]

task force *Mil.* A tactical unit consisting of elements drawn from different branches of the armed services and assigned to execute a specific mission.

task·mas·ter (task′mas′tər, täsk′más′tər) *n.* **1.** One who assigns tasks, esp. severe ones. **2.** One who or that which loads with heavy burdens.

Tass (täs, tas) *n.* A Soviet news agency. [< Russian *T(elegrafnoe) A(gentstvo) S(ovetskovo) S(oyuza)*]

tas·sel (tas′əl) *n.* **1.** A dangling ornament for curtains, cushions, etc., consisting of a tuft of loose threads or cords. **2.** Any of various similar objects, as the inflorescence on a stalk of Indian corn. **3.** Formerly, a clasp for holding a cloak. — *v.* **tas·seled** or **·selled, tas·sel·ing** or **·sel·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To provide or adorn with tassels. **2.** To form in a tassel or tassels. **3.** To remove the tassels from (Indian corn). — *v.i.* **4.** To put forth tassels, as Indian corn. [< OF, clasp < Med.L *tasselus,* var. of L *taxillus*]

taste (tāst) *v.* **tast·ed, tast·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To perceive the flavor of (something) by taking into the mouth or touching with the tongue. **2.** To take a little of (food or drink); eat or drink a little of. **3.** To test the quality of (a product) thus. His business is *tasting* tea. — *v.i.* **4.** To have specified flavor: Sugar *tastes* sweet. **5.** To take a small quantity into the mouth; take a taste: usu. with *of.* **6.** To have experience or enjoyment; with *of*: to *taste* of great sorrow. — *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* Any of the four fundamental sensations, salt, sweet, bitter, or sour, excited by the sole action of the gustatory nerves. **2.** A small quantity tasted, eaten, or sipped. **3.** A slight experience or sample of anything. **4.** Special fondness and aptitude for a pursuit; bent; inclination: a *taste* for music. **5.** The faculty of discerning and appreciating what is beautiful, appropriate, or correct, as in nature, art, clothes, etc. **6.** Style or form with respect to the rules of propriety. **7.** Individual preference: That tie suits my *taste.* **8.** The act of tasting. [< OF *taster* to taste, try, feel] — **tast′a·ble** *adj.*

taste bud *Physiol.* One of the clusters of cells situated in the epithelial tissue, chiefly of the tongue, and containing sensitive receptors for the discriminatory perception of taste.

taste·ful (tāst′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Conforming to taste. **2.** Possessing good taste. — **taste′ful·ly** *adv.* — **taste′ful·ness** *n.*

taste·less (tāst′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no flavor; insipid; dull. **2.** Lacking, or showing a lack of, good taste. **3.** Devoid of esthetic taste. — **taste′less·ly** *adv.* — **taste′less·ness** *n.*

tast·er (tās′tər) *n.* One who tastes; esp., one who tests the quality of as an occupation: a *teataster.*

tast·y (tās′tē) *adj.* **tast·i·er, tast·i·est** *Informal* **1.** Having a fine flavor; savory. **2.** Tasteful. — **tast′i·ly** *adv.* — **tast′i·ness** *n.*

tat (tat) *v.* **tat·ted, tat·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To make, as an edging, by tatting. — *v.i.* **2.** To make tatting. [Back formation < TATTING] — **tat′ter** *n.*

Ta·tar (tä′tər) *n.* **1.** One belonging to any of the Turkish peoples of west central and southwest central U.S.S.R. **2.** Any of the Turkic languages of the Tatars, as Uzbek. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Tatars. Also *Tartar.* [< Persian] — **Ta·tar′i·an** (-tär′ē·ən) *adj.*

tat·ter (tat′ər) *n.* **1.** A torn and hanging shred; rag. **2.** *pl.* Ragged clothing. — *v.t.* **1.** To make ragged; tear into tat-

ters. —*v.i.* **2.** To become ragged. [< Scand. Cf. ON *tötturr* rags] —**tat′tered** *adj.*

tat·ter·de·mal·ion (tat′ər·di·māl′yən, -mal′-) *n.* A person wearing ragged clothes; a raggamuffin. [Origin unknown]

tat·ting (tat′ing) *n.* A lacelike threadwork, made by hand; also, the act or process of making it. [Origin unknown]

tat·tle (tat′l) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.i.* **1.** To talk idly; prate; chatter. **2.** To tell tales about others. —*v.t.* **3.** To reveal by gossiping. —*n.* **1.** Idle talk or gossip. **2.** Prattling speech. [Prob. < MDu. *tatelen*] —**tat′tling·ly** *adv.*

—**Syn.** (verb) **1.** prattle. **2.** blab, inform.

tat·tler (tat′lər) *n.* One who tattles; a talebearer.

tat·tle·tale (tat′l·tāl′) *n.* A talebearer; tattler.

tat·too[1] (ta·tōō′) *v.t.* **1.** To prick and mark (the skin) with indelible pigments. **2.** To mark the skin with (designs, etc.) in this way. —*n. pl.* **·toos** A pattern or picture so made. [< Polynesian] —**tat·too′er** *n.* —**tat·too′ing** *n.*

tat·too[2] (ta·tōō′) *n.* **1.** A continuous beating or drumming. **2.** In military or naval usage, a signal by drum or bugle to repair to quarters, usu., occurring about 9 P.M. [< Du. < *tap* tap, faucet + *toe* to shut]

tau (tou) *n.* The nineteenth letter in the Greek alphabet (T, τ), corresponding to the English *t*. See ALPHABET.

taught (tôt) Past tense and past participle of TEACH.

taunt (tônt) *n.* A sarcastic, biting speech or remark; scornful reproach. —*v.t.* **1.** To reproach with sarcastic or contemptuous words; mock; upbraid. **2.** To tease in any way; provoke with taunts. [? < OF < L *temptare, tentare* to test, try] —**taunt′er** *n.* —**taunt′ing·ly** *adv.*

taupe (tōp) *n.* The color of moleskin; dark gray, often tinged with brown, purple, or yellow. [< F < L *talpa* mole]

tauro- *combining form* Bull; ox; bovine. Also, before vowels, **taur-**. [< Gk. *tauros* bull]

Tau·rus (tôr′əs) *n.* A constellation, the Bull, containing the bright star Aldebaran; also, the second sign of the zodiac. See CONSTELLATION, ZODIAC. [< L]

taut (tôt) *adj.* **1.** Stretched tight; not loose or slack. **2.** Tense; tight: *taut* muscles. **3.** In proper shape; tidy. [ME *togt, toht*] —**taut′ly** *adv.* —**taut′ness** *n.*

tau·ten (tôt′n) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become taut; tighten.

tauto- *combining form* Same; identical. Also, before vowels, **taut-**. [< Gk. *tauto* the same]

tau·tog (tô·tôg′, -tog′) *n.* A blackish, edible, fish of the North American Atlantic coast. Also **tau·taug′**. [< Algonquian pl. of *tautau*, a blackfish]

tau·tol·o·gy (tô·tol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** Unnecessary repetition of the same idea in different words; pleonasm: *He is writing his own autobiography.* [< LL < Gk. < *tauto* the same + *logos* discourse] —**tau·to·log·ic** (tô′tə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* —**tau′to·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

tav·ern (tav′ərn) *n.* **1.** A place licensed to retail liquors to be drunk on the premises. **2.** A public house providing lodging, food, and drink. [< OF < L *taberna* hut, booth]

taw (tô) *n.* **1.** A game of marbles. **2.** The line from which marble-players shoot. **3.** A marble used for shooting. [< Scand. Cf. ON *taug* string.]

taw·dry (tô′drē) *adj.* **·dri·er, ·dri·est** Showy and cheap; tastelessly ornamental. [< *St. Audrey's lace*, a type of neckpiece sold at St. Audrey's Fair at Ely, England] —**taw′dri·ly** *adv.* —**taw′dri·ness** *n.*

taw·ny (tô′nē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** Tan-colored; brownish yellow. Also **taw′ney.** [< AF < OF < *tanner* to tan] —**taw′ni·ness** *n.*

tax (taks) *n.* **1.** A compulsory contribution levied upon persons, property, or business for the support of government. **2.** Any proportionate assessment, as on the members of a society. **3.** A heavy demand on one's powers or resources; an onerous duty; a burden. —*v.t.* **1.** To impose a tax on. **2.** *Law* To settle or fix (costs) in any judicial matter. **3.** To subject to a severe demand; impose a burden upon: He *taxes* my patience. **4.** To accuse; charge; blame: usu. with *with*. [< OF < L *taxare* to estimate, appraise] —**tax′a·bil′i·ty, —tax′a·ble·ness** *n.* —**tax′a·ble** *adj.* —**tax′a·bly** *adv.* —**tax′er** *n.*

—**Syn.** (noun) **1.** assessment, custom, duty, excise, impost, levy, rate, tariff, tithe, toll, tribute.

Tax may appear as a combining form with the meaning of def. 1, as in the following list:

tax assessor	**tax evader**	**tax payment**
tax burden	**tax-evading**	**tax proposal**
tax-burdened	**tax-exempt**	**tax receipt**
tax claim	**tax-free**	**tax repeal**
tax collecting	**tax-laden**	**tax revenue**
tax collector	**tax law**	**tax-ridden**
tax cut	**tax levy**	**tax-supported**
tax dodger	**taxman**	**tax system**
tax-dodging	**taxpaid**	**taxwise**

tax·a·tion (tak·sā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of taxing. **2.** The amount assessed as a tax.

tax-de·duct·i·ble (taks′di·duk′tə·bəl) *adj.* Legally deductible from that portion of one's income or assets subject to taxes: Medical expenses are *tax-deductible*.

tax·i (tak′sē) *n. pl.* **tax·is** A taxicab. —*v.* **tax·ied, tax·i·ing** or **tax·y·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To ride in a taxicab. **2.** To move along the ground or on the surface of the water under its own power, as an airplane before taking off. —*v.t.* **3.** To cause (an airplane) to taxi. [< TAXI(CAB)]

tax·i·cab (tak′sē·kab′) *n.* An automobile available for hire, usually fitted with a taximeter. [Short for *taximeter cab*]

tax·i·der·my (tak′sə·dûr′mē) *n.* The art of stuffing and mounting the skins of dead animals for preservation or exhibition. [< Gk. *taxis* arrangement + *derma* skin] —**tax′i·der′mal, tax′i′der′mic** *adj.* —**tax′i·der′mist** *n.*

tax·i·me·ter (tak′si·mē′tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring distances and recording fares, used in taxicabs. [< F < *taxe* tariff + *mètre* meter]

-taxis *combining form* Order; disposition; arrangement: *thermotaxis*. Also spelled **-taxy.** [< Gk. *taxis* arrangement]

tax·on·o·my (tak·son′ə·mē) *n.* **1.** The department of knowledge that embodies the laws and principles of classification. **2.** *Biol.* The systematic arrangement of plant and animal organisms according to established criteria in the following major groups, beginning with the most inclusive: kingdom, phylum or division, class, order, family, genus, and species. [< F < Gk. *taxis* arrangement + *nomos* law] —**tax·o·nom·ic** (tak′sə·nom′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* —**tax′o′nom′i·cal·ly** *adv.* —**tax·on′o·mer, tax·on′o·mist** *n.*

tax·pay·er (taks′pā′ər) *n.* One who pays a tax or is subject to taxation.

T-bone (tē′bōn) *n.* A beefsteak containing a T-shaped bone, taken from the loin. Also **T-bone steak.**

tea (tē) *n.* **1.** An evergreen Asian shrub having leathery, toothed leaves and white or pink flowers. **2.** The prepared leaves of this plant, or an infusion of them used as a beverage. **3.** Any infusion, preparation, or extract used as a beverage or medicinally: beef *tea*, senna *tea*. **4.** *Brit.* A light evening or afternoon meal. **5.** A social gathering at which tea is served. [< dial. Chinese *t'e*]

Tea may appear as a combining form, as in **teacart, tea-taster, teaware.**

tea bag A small porous sack of cloth or paper containing tea leaves, immersed in water to make tea: also called *tea ball*.

tea ball **1.** A perforated metal ball that is filled with tea leaves and placed in hot water to make tea. **2.** A tea bag.

tea ceremony A ritual preparation and serving of tea, practiced by the Japanese.

teach (tēch) *v.* **taught, teach·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To impart knowledge by lessons; give instruction to: to *teach* a class. **2.** To give instruction in; communicate the knowledge of: to *teach* French. **3.** To train by practice or exercise. —*v.i.* **4.** To follow the profession of teaching. **5.** To impart knowledge or skill. [OE *tǣcan*] —**teach′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* —**teach′a·ble** *adj.* —**teach′a·bly** *adv.*

—**Syn. 1.** *Teach* embraces all methods of imparting knowledge, information, guidance, or counsel. To *instruct* is to give specific directions about a subject: to *instruct* recruits in the use of a rifle. *Educate* usu., means to instruct in a school or college. Both *school* and *discipline* refer to the teaching of certain patterns of behavior; they both connote authority: to *school* a child to obey promptly, to *discipline* oneself to eat sparingly. *Train* suggests the fitting of a person for a particular work; of all these words, *train* is preferred when reference is made to an animal.

teach·er (tē′chər) *n.* One who teaches; esp., one whose occupation is to teach others; an instructor.

teach·ing (tē′ching) *n.* **1.** The act or occupation of a teacher. **2.** That which is taught.

tea cozy A cozy.

tea·cup (tē′kup′) *n.* **1.** A small cup suitable for serving tea. **2.** As much as a teacup will hold, usu., four fluid ounces: also **tea′cup·ful′** (-fo͝ol′).

teak (tēk) *n.* **1.** A large East Indian tree, yielding a very hard, durable timber highly prized for shipbuilding. **2.** The wood of this tree: also **teak′wood** (-wo͝od). [< Malayalam *tēkka*]

tea·ket·tle (tē′ket′l) *n.* A kettle with a spout, used for boiling water.

teal (tēl) *n.* **1.** Any of various small, short-necked river ducks of the Old World and North America. **2.** A dull blue color with a greenish cast: also **teal blue.** [ME *tele*]

team (tēm) *n.* **1.** Two or more beasts of burden harnessed together, often including harness and vehicle; also, a single horse and vehicle. **2.** A set of workers, or players competing in a game: a baseball *team*. —*v.t.* **1.** To convey with a team. **2.** To harness together in a team. —*v.i.* **3.** To drive a team as a business. **4.** To form a team; work as a team: to *team* up. —*adj.* Of or pertaining to a team: *team* spirit. [OE *tēam* offspring, succession, row]

team·mate (tēm′māt′) *n.* A fellow player on a team.
team·ster (tēm′stər) *n.* **1.** One who drives or owns a team. **2.** One who drives a truck or other commercial vehicle.
team·work (tēm′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** Concerted action or effort by the members of a group to achieve some common end, as the coordinated play of an athletic team. **2.** Work done or requiring to be done by or with a team.
tea party A social gathering at which tea and light sandwiches or cakes are the principal refreshments.
tea·pot (tē′pot′) *n.* A vessel with a spout and handle in which tea is made and from which it is served.
tear[1] (târ) *v.* **tore, torn, tear·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pull apart, as cloth; separate by pulling; rip; rend. **2.** To make by rending or tearing: to *tear* a hole in a dress. **3.** To injure or lacerate, as skin. **4.** To divide; disrupt: a party *torn* by dissension. **5.** To distress or torment: The sight *tore* his heart. — *v.i.* **6.** To become torn or rent. **7.** To move with haste and energy. — **to tear into** *Informal* To charge into or attack without restraint. — *n.* **1.** A fissure made by tearing; a rent; an act of tearing. **2.** *Slang* A spree; frolic. **3.** A rushing motion: to start off with a *tear*. **4.** Any violent outburst, as of anger, enthusiasm, etc. [OE *teran*]
tear[2] (tir) *n.* **1.** A drop of the saline liquid secreted by the lachrymal gland, serving to moisten the eye, and stimulated to a flow by emotional distress. **2.** Something resembling or suggesting a tear. **3.** A drop of any liquid. **4.** A droplike portion, as of glass, amber, etc. **5.** *pl.* Sorrow; lamentation. — **in tears** Weeping; crying. — *v.i.* To shed or fill with tears. [OE *tēar*] — **tear′less** *adj.* — **tear′y** *adj.*
tear·drop (tir′drop′) *n.* A tear or tear-shaped object.
tear·ful (tir′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Weeping abundantly. **2.** Causing tears. — **tear′ful·ly** *adv.* — **tear′ful·ness** *n.*
tear gas (tir) Any of various chemicals that provoke a copious flow of tears, with irritation of the eyes.
tear·ing (târ′ing) *adj. Informal* **1.** Violent; hasty; headlong. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* Tremendous; mighty.
tear-jerk·er (tir′jûr′kər) *n. U.S. Slang* A story, play, etc., full of sentimental sadness.
tea·room (tē′rōōm′, -rŏŏm′) *n.* A restaurant serving tea and other refreshments: also called *teashop*.
tease (tēz) *v.* **teased, teas·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To annoy or harass with continual importunities, raillery, etc.; pester. **2.** To scratch or dress in order to raise the nap, as cloth with teasels. **3.** To comb or card, as wool or flax; also, to shred, as tobacco. **4.** To comb (hair) so as to form fluffy layers and give an effect of fullness. — *v.i.* **5.** To annoy a person in a facetious or petty manner. — *n.* **1.** One who or that which teases. **2.** The act of teasing, or the state of being teased. [OE *tæsan* to tease] — **teas′er** *n.* — **teas′ing·ly** *adv.*
tea·sel (tē′zəl) *n.* **1.** A coarse, prickly Old World herb of which the flower head is covered with hooked bracts. **2.** The rough bur of such a plant, or a mechanical substitute, used in dressing cloth. — *v.t.* **tea·seled** or **·selled, tea·sel·ing** or **·sel·ling** To raise the nap of with a teasel. Also **tea′zel, tea′zle.** [OE *tæsel*] — **tea′sel·er** or **tea′sel·ler** *n.*
tea·spoon (tē′spōōn′, -spŏŏn′) *n.* **1.** A small spoon used for stirring tea, etc. **2.** A teaspoonful.
tea·spoon·ful (tē′spōōn-fŏŏl′, -spŏŏn-) *n.* *pl.* **·fuls** As much as a teaspoon will hold, ½ of a tablespoon.
teat (tēt, tit) *n.* The protuberance on the breast or udder of most female mammals, through which the milk is drawn; a nipple; pap; dug. [< OF *tete* < Gmc.]
tea wagon A table on wheels for use in serving tea, etc.
Te·bet (tä·vät′, tä′vet) *n.* The fourth month of the Hebrew year. See (Hebrew) CALENDAR. Also **Te·beth′.**
tech·ne·ti·um (tek·nē′shē·əm) *n.* A chemical element (symbol Tc), artificially produced by the bombardment of molybdenum with neutrons or deuterons. It displaces the hypothetical element *masurium*. See ELEMENT. [< NL < Gk. *technētos* artificial]
tech·ni·cal (tek′ni·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to some particular art, science, or trade. **2.** Peculiar to or used in a specialized field of knowledge. **3.** Of or pertaining to the mechanical arts. **4.** Considered in terms of an accepted body of rules: a *technical* defeat. [< Gk. < *technē* art] — **tech′ni·cal·ly** *adv.* — **tech′ni·cal·ness** *n.*
tech·ni·cal·i·ty (tek′ni·kal′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being technical. **2.** The use of technical terms. **3.** A technical point peculiar to some profession, art, trade, etc. **4.** A petty distinction; quibble. Also **tech·nism** (tek′niz′əm).
technical knockout In boxing, a victory awarded when one fighter has been beaten so severely that the referee discontinues the fight.
tech·ni·cian (tek·nish′ən) *n.* One skilled in the handling of instruments or in the performance of tasks requiring specialized training.
Tech·ni·col·or (tek′ni·kul′ər) *n.* A motion-picture photographic process that reproduces the colors of the original scene: a trade name. Also **tech′ni·col′or.**
tech·nics (tek′niks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** Practical method; technique. **2.** The theory of an art or the arts; esp., the study of the techniques of an art. **3.** Technical rules, methods, etc. **4.** Technology. — *adj.* Technical.
tech·nique (tek·nēk′) *n.* Working methods or manner of performance, as in art, science, etc. [< F < Gk. See TECHNICAL.]
techno- *combining form* **1.** Art; skill; craft. **2.** Technical; technological. Also, before vowels, **techn-.** [< Gk. *technē* art, skill]
tech·noc·ra·cy (tek·nok′rə·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** A theory of society and government that advocates control by an organized body of experts to achieve minimum waste and maximum efficiency. — **tech′no·crat** (tek′nə·krat) *n.* — **tech′no·crat′ic** *adj.*
tech·no·log·i·cal (tek′nə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, associated with, produced or affected by technology. Also **tech′no·log′ic.** — **tech′no·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
technological unemployment Unemployment brought about by technical advances, as automation, etc.
tech·nol·o·gy (tek·nol′ə·jē) *n.* *pl.* **·gies** **1.** Theoretical knowledge of industry and the industrial arts. **2.** The application of science and of technical advances in industry, the arts, etc. **3.** The technical language of an art, science, etc. **4.** The means by which material things are produced, as in a particular civilization. — **tech·nol′o·gist** *n.*
ted (ted) *v.t.* **ted·ded, ted·ding** To turn over and strew about, or spread loosely for drying, as newly mown grass. [Prob. < Scand.] — **ted′der** *n.*
ted·dy bear (ted′ē) A toy bear, usu. covered with plush. Also **Teddy bear.** [after *Teddy*, a nickname of Theodore Roosevelt]
Te De·um (tē dē′əm) **1.** An ancient Christian hymn beginning with these words. **2.** The music to which this hymn is set. **3.** Any thanksgiving service in which this hymn is sung. [< L *Te Deum* (*laudamus*) (we praise) Thee, O God]
te·di·ous (tē′dē·əs) *adj.* Causing weariness; boring. [See TEDIUM.] — **te′di·ous·ly** *adv.* — **te′di·ous·ness** *n.*
— **Syn.** tiresome, tiring, fatiguing, wearisome, irksome, dull.
te·di·um (tē′dē·əm) *n.* The state of being tiresome or wearisome; tediousness. [< L *taedere* to vex, weary]
tee[1] (tē) *n.* **1.** A small peg with a concave top on which a golf ball is placed in making the first play to a hole. **2.** A designated area within which the golf tee must be placed. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **teed, tee·ing** To place (the golf ball) on a tee. — **to tee off** To strike (the golf ball) in starting play.
tee[2] (tē) *n.* In certain games, a mark toward which the balls, quoits, etc., are directed, as in curling. — **to a tee** As precisely as possible; exactly.
teem[1] (tēm) *v.i.* To be full, as if at the point of producing; to be full to overflowing; abound. [OE *tēam* progeny] — **teem′er** *n.* — **teem′ing** *adj.*
teem[2] (tēm) *v.i.* To come down heavily; pour: said of rain. [< ON *tæma* empty]
-teen *suffix* Plus ten: used in cardinal numbers from 13 to 19 inclusive: *fifteen*. [OE < *tīen* ten]
teen age The age from 13 to 19 inclusive; adolescence. — **teen-age** (tēn′āj), **teen′-aged′** (-ājd′) *adj.*
teen-ag·er (tēn′ā′jər) *n.* A person of teen age.
teens (tēnz) *n.pl.* **1.** The numbers that end in *-teen*. **2.** The years of one's age from 13 to 19 inclusive.
tee·ny (tē′nē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** *Informal* Tiny.
tee·pee (tē′pē) See TEPEE.
tee·ter (tē′tər) *v.i.* **1.** To walk or move with a tottering motion. **2.** To seesaw; waver; vacillate. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to teeter. — *n.* **1.** An oscillating motion. **2.** A seesaw. [< dial. E *titter*, prob. < ON *titra* to tremble, shiver]
teeth (tēth) Plural of TOOTH.
teethe (tēth) *v.i.* **teethed, teeth·ing** To cut or develop teeth.
teeth·ing ring (tē′thing) A ring of hard rubber, bone, plastic, etc., for a teething baby to bite on.
tee·to·tal (tē·tōt′l) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to total abstinence from intoxicants. **2.** Total; entire. [< TOTAL, with emphatic repetition of initial letter] — **tee·to′tal·ism** *n.*
tee·to·tal·er (tē·tōt′l·ər) *n.* One who abstains totally from alcoholic drinks. Also **tee·to′tal·ist,** *Brit.* **tee·to′tal·er.**
teg·u·ment (teg′yə·mənt) *n.* A covering or envelope; an integument. [< L < *tegere* to cover] — **teg·u·men·ta·ry** (teg′yə·men′tər·ē), **teg′u·men′tal** *adj.*
tel- Var. of TELO-[1].
tele- *combining form* **1.** Far off; at a distance: *telegraph*. **2.** Related to or transmitted by television: *telecast*. Also spelled *telo-*. Also, before vowels, **tel-.** [< Gk. *tēle* far]
tel·e·cast (tel′ə·kast, -käst) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·cast** or **·cast·ed, ·cast·ing** To broadcast by television. — *n.* A program broadcast by television.
tel·e·com·mu·ni·ca·tion (tel′ə·kə·myōō′nə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The art and science of communicating at a distance, as in radio, radar, television, telegraphy, telephony, etc. Also **tel′e·com·mu′ni·ca′tions.** **2.** Any message so transmitted.
tel·e·gram (tel′ə·gram) *n.* A message sent by telegraph.
tel·e·graph (tel′ə·graf, -gräf) *n.* Any of various devices, or systems, using a code; esp., one using coded impulses trans-

mitted by wire or radio. —*v.t.* **1.** To send (a message) by telegraph. **2.** To communicate with by telegraph. —*v.i.* **3.** To transmit a message by telegraph. —**te·leg·ra·pher** (tə·leg′rə·fər), **te·leg′ra·phist** *n.*

tel·e·graph·ic (tel′ə·graf′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the telegraph; transmitted by means of telegraphy. Also **tel′e·graph′i·cal.** —**tel′e·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

te·leg·ra·phy (tə·leg′rə·fē) *n.* **1.** The process of conveying messages by telegraph. **2.** The art or science of the construction and operation of telegraphs.

Te·lem·a·chus (tə·lem′ə·kəs) In Greek legend, son of Odysseus and Penelope.

te·lem·e·ter (tə·lem′ə·tər) *n.* Any of various electronic devices for indicating, measuring, recording, or integrating various quantities and for transmitting the data to a distant point.

te·lem·e·try (tə·lem′ə·trē) *n.* The theory and practice of using telemeters, esp. in relation to rockets, space probes, guided missiles, etc. Also **tel·e·me·ter·ing** (tel′ə·mē′tər·ing). —**tel′e·met′ric** (-met′rik) or **·ri·cal** *adj.* —**tel′e·met′ri·cal·ly** *adv.*

teleo- Var. of TELO-[1].

tel·e·ol·o·gy (tel′ē·ol′ə·jē, tē′lē-) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The branch of cosmology that treats of final causes. **2.** *Biol.* The doctrine that the phenomena of organic life and development can be fully explained only by the action of design and purpose and not by mechanical causes. Compare VITALISM. **3.** The explanation of nature in terms of utility or purpose, esp. divine purpose. [< NL < Gk. *telos* end + *logos* discourse] —**tel′e·o·log′i·cal** (-ə·loj′i·kəl) or **tel′e·o·log′ic** *adj.* —**tel′e·o·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* —**tel′e·ol′o·gist** *n.*

te·lep·a·thy (tə·lep′ə·thē) *n.* The supposed communication of one mind with another at a distance by other than normal sensory means. —**tel·e·path·ic** (tel′ə·path′ik) *adj.* —**tel′e·path′i·cal·ly** *adv.* —**te·lep′a·thist** *n.*

tel·e·phone (tel′ə·fōn) *n.* A device or system for transmitting sound over a wire or other communication channel. —*v.* **·phoned, ·phon·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To communicate with by telephone. **2.** To send by telephone, as a message. —*v.i.* **3.** To communicate by telephone. —**tel′e·phon′er** *n.* —**tel·e·phon·ic** (tel′ə·fon′ik) *adj.* —**tel′e·phon′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

te·leph·o·ny (tə·lef′ə·nē) *n.* The science of designing, constructing, and operating telephones.

tel·e·pho·to (tel′ə·fō′tō) *adj.* **1.** Designating a lens system used in connection with a camera to produce a large image of a distant object. **2.** Pertaining to telephotography.

tel·e·pho·to·graph (tel′ə·fō′tə·graf, -gräf) *n.* **1.** A picture transmitted by telephotography. **2.** A picture made with a telephoto lens. —**tel′e·pho′to·graph′ic** *adj.*

tel·e·pho·tog·ra·phy (tel′ə·fə·tog′rə·fē) *n.* **1.** The art of producing photographic images of distant objects on a larger scale than is possible with an ordinary camera. **2.** The facsimile reproduction of photographs or other pictures by radio or telegraphic communication; phototelegraphy.

Tel·e·prompt·er (tel′ə·promp′tər) *n.* A prompting device for television whereby a prepared script, unseen by the audience, is shown to a speaker or performer, enlarged line by line: a trade name. Also **tel′e·prompt′er.**

tel·e·ran (tel′ə·ran) *n. Telecom.* A system of air navigation that combines the principles of television and radar to transmit information gathered by ground stations to all aircraft within range. [< TELE(VISION) + R(ADAR) + A(IR) N(AVIGATION)]

tel·e·scope (tel′ə·skōp) *n.* An optical instrument for enlarging the image of a distant object, consisting of an object glass or concave mirror for collecting the light rays and a magnifying eyepiece for viewing the image. —*v.* **·scoped, ·scop·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To drive or slide together so that one part fits into another in the manner of the sections of a small telescope. **2.** To crush by driving something into or upon. —*v.i.* **3.** To crash into one another, as railroad cars.

tel·e·scop·ic (tel′ə·skop′ik) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the telescope. **2.** Visible only through a telescope. **3.** Farseeing. **4.** Having sections that slide within or over one another. Also **tel′e·scop′i·cal.** —**tel′e·scop′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

te·les·co·py (tə·les′kə·pē) *n.* The art of using or making telescopes. —**te·les′co·pist** *n.*

tel·e·type (tel′ə·tīp) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·typed, ·typ·ing** To communicate (with) by teletypewriter or Teletype. —**tel′e·typ′·er** *n.*

Tel·e·type (tel′ə·tīp) *n.* A teletypewriter: a trade name. Also **tel′e·type.**

tel·e·type·writ·er (tel′ə·tīp′rī′tər) *n.* A telegraph system transmitting by means of a typewriter keyboard in which each key produces a coded signal that activates a specific character in a typewriterlike receiver.

tel·e·view (tel′ə·vyōō) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To observe by means of television. —**tel′e·view′er** *n.*

tel·e·vise (tel′ə·vīz) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·vised, ·vis·ing** To transmit or receive by television.

tel·e·vi·sion (tel′ə·vizh′ən) *n.* **1.** The transmission of continuous visual images as a series of electrical impulses or a modulated carrier wave, restored to visual form on the cathode-ray screen of a receiver, often with accompanying sound. **2.** The television broadcasting industry. **3.** A television receiving set. Also called *TV.*

tel·fer (tel′fər) See TELPHER.

tell (tel) *v.* **told, tell·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To relate in detail; narrate, as a story. **2.** To communicate. **3.** To reveal: to *tell* secrets. **4.** To decide; ascertain: I cannot *tell* who is to blame. **5.** To express in words: to *tell* a lie. **6.** To give a command to; order: I *told* him to go home. **7.** To let know; inform. **8.** *Informal* To inform or assure emphatically: It's cold out, I *tell* you! **9.** To say (a rosary): to *tell* one's beads. —*v.i.* **10.** To give an account or description: usu. with *of.* **11.** To serve as indication or evidence: with *of.* **12.** To produce a marked effect: Every blow *told.* —**all told** In all. —**to tell off** **1.** To count and set apart. **2.** *Informal* To reprimand severely. —**to tell on** **1.** To tire; weary. **2.** *Informal* To inform against. [OE *tellan*] —**tell′a·ble** *adj.*

Tell (tel), **William** A legendary Swiss hero in the struggle for independence from Austria, forced to shoot an apple off his son's head with bow and arrow.

tell·er (tel′ər) *n.* **1.** One who relates or informs. **2.** A person who receives or pays out money, as in a bank. **3.** A person appointed to collect and count ballots in a legislative body or other assembly. —**tell′er·ship′** *n.*

tell·ing (tel′ing) *adj.* Producing a great effect; impressive; effective; striking. —**tell′ing·ly** *adv.*

tell-tale (tel′tāl′) *n.* **1.** One who improperly gives information concerning the private affairs of others; a tattler. **2.** That which conveys information, esp. in an involuntary way. **3.** An instrument or device for giving or recording information. —*adj.* That is or serves as a telltale.

tel·lu·ric (tə·lōōr′ik, tel·yōōr′-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the earth; terrestrial; earthly.

tel·lu·ri·um (te·lōōr′ē·əm, tel·yōōr′-) *n.* A rare nonmetallic element (symbol Te) resembling sulfur and selenium in chemical properties, occasionally found native as white crystals, but usu. combined with metals. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L *tellus* the earth]

telo-[1] *combining form* Final; complete; perfect: also, before vowels, *tel-.* Also *teleo-.* [< Gk. *telos* end]

telo-[2] Var. of TELE-.

tel·pher (tel′fər) *n.* A light car suspended from cables and usu. propelled by electricity. —*v.t.* To transport by telpher. Also spelled *telfer.* [< TEL(E)- + Gk. *pherein* to bear] —**tel′pher·ic** *adj.* —**tel′pher·age** (-ij) *n.*

tel·son (tel′sən) *n. Zool.* The last abdominal segment of the body of an arthropod, as of a lobster, shrimp, or scorpion. For illus. see SHRIMP. [< Gk. *telson* boundary]

Tel·star (tel′stär′) The first artificial satellite for global communication, launched from Cape Canaveral, July 10, 1962.

Tel·u·gu (tel′ōō·gōō) *n. pl.* **·gu** **1.** A Dravidian language used in NW Andhra Pradesh, India, and important in literary culture. **2.** One of a Dravidian people of Telugu speech. —*adj.* Of or pertaining to the Telugu or to Telugu.

te·mer·i·ty (tə·mer′ə·tē) *n.* Venturesome or foolish boldness; rashness. [< L *temere* rashly]

—**Syn.** *Temerity* is the quality of one who underestimates danger, or overrates his chances for success. *Audacity* refers (in its bad sense) to going beyond the decent restraints of social behavior. *Foolhardiness* characterizes the man who rushes into peril from lack of sense. —**Ant.** caution, wariness, timidity.

tem·per (tem′pər) *n.* **1.** Heat of mind or passion; disposition to become angry. **2.** Frame of mind; mood: to be in a bad *temper.* **3.** Composure of mind; self-command: to lose one's *temper.* **4.** *Metall.* The condition of a metal as regards hardness and elasticity, esp. when due to heating and sudden cooling. **5.** Something mixed with a substance to alter its properties or qualities. —*v.t.* **1.** To bring to a state of moderation or suitability, as by addition of another quality; moderate: to *temper* justice with mercy. **2.** To bring to the proper consistency, etc., by moistening and working: to *temper* clay. **3.** *Metall.* To bring (metal) to a required hardness and elasticity by heating and suddenly cooling. **4.** *Music* To adjust the tones of (an instrument) by temperament; tune. —*v.i.* **5.** To be or become tempered. [OE and OF < L *temperare* to combine in due proportion] —**tem′per·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* —**tem′per·a·ble** *adj.* —**tem′per·er** *n.*

—**Syn.** (noun) **2.** temperament, mood, humor. —(verb) moderate, modify, qualify.

tem·per·a (tem′pər·ə, *Ital.* tem′pā·rä) *n.* **1.** A painting medium consisting of an emulsion prepared from a mixture of water and egg yolks, glue, gum, or casein solutions, etc.;

also, a method of painting with such a medium. **2.** Paint prepared by adding pigment to the medium of tempera. Also called *distemper*. [< Ital. *temperare* to temper < L]

tem·per·a·ment (tem′pər·ə·mənt, -prə-) *n.* **1.** The physical and mental peculiarities of an individual; nature. **2.** An intense, moody, and often rebellious nature. **3.** *Music* The tuning of an instrument or scale so that each semitone is a twelfth of an octave: also **equal temperament.** [< L *temperamentum* proper mixture]

tem·per·a·men·tal (tem′pər·ə·men′təl, -prə-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to temperament. **2.** Sensitive; easily excited. **—tem′per·a·men′tal·ly** *adv.*

tem·per·ance (tem′pər·əns) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being temperate; habitual moderation. **2.** The principle or practice of total abstinence from intoxicants. [< OF < L < *temperare* to mix in due proportions]

tem·per·ate (tem′pər·it) *adj.* **1.** Observing moderation in the indulgence of an appetite, esp. in the use of intoxicating liquors. **2.** Moderate as regards temperature. **3.** Characterized by moderation; not excessive. **4.** Calm; restrained; self-controlled. **5.** *Music* Tempered: said of an interval or scale. [< L < *temperare* to mix in due proportions] **—tem′per·ate·ly** *adv.* **—tem′per·ate·ness** *n.*

tem·per·a·ture (tem′pər·ə·chər, -prə-) *n.* **1.** Condition as regards heat or cold. **2.** The degree of heat in a body or substance, as measured on the graduated scale of a thermometer. **3.** The degree of heat of an animal, esp. the human body; also, excess of this above the normal (which for the human body is 98.6° F, or about 37° C). [< L *temperatura* due measure]

tem·pered (tem′pərd) *adj.* **1.** Having temper or a specified disposition: used mainly in compounds: quick-*tempered*. **2.** *Music* Adjusted in pitch so as to produce or conform to temperament. **3.** Moderated by admixture. **4.** Having the right degree of hardness and elasticity.

tem·pest (tem′pist) *n.* **1.** A violent wind, usu. attended with rain, snow, or hail. **2.** A violent commotion or agitation; a fierce tumult. **—tempest in a teapot** A considerable uproar over a trivial matter. [< OF < L *tempestas* weather]

tem·pes·tu·ous (tem·pes′chōō·əs) *adj.* Stormy; turbulent; violent. **—tem·pes′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* **—tem·pes′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

tem·plate (tem′plit′) *n.* **1.** A pattern or gauge, as of wood or metal, used as a guide in shaping something accurately. **2.** In building, a stout stone or timber for distributing weight or thrust. Also **tem·plet** (tem′plit). [< F < L *templum* small timber]

tem·ple[1] (tem′pəl) *n.* **1.** A stately edifice consecrated to the worship of one or more deities. **2.** In the U.S., a Reform synagogue. **3.** In France, a Protestant church. **4.** Any place considered as occupied by God. **—the Temple** Any of three sacred edifices built in Jerusalem for the worship of Jehovah. [OE < L *templum* temple]

tem·ple[2] (tem′pəl) *n.* The region on each side of the head above the cheek bone. [OF, ult. < L *tempus* temple]

tem·po (tem′pō) *n. pl.* **·pos** or **·pi** (-pē) **1.** *Music* Relative speed at which a composition is rendered. **2.** Characteristic manner or style. [< Ital. < L *tempus* time]

tem·po·ral[1] (tem′pər·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to affairs of the present life; earthly. **2.** Pertaining or related to time. **3.** Temporary; transitory. **4.** Civil; lay; secular. [< L < *temporis* time] **—tem′po·ral·ly** *adv.* **—tem′po·ral·ness** *n.*

tem·po·ral[2] (tem′pər·əl) *adj. Anat.* Of, pertaining to, or situated at the temple or temples.

temporal bone *Anat.* A compound bone situated at either side of the head, and containing the organ of hearing.

tem·po·ral·i·ty (tem′pə·ral′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** *Usu. pl.* A temporal or material matter, interest, revenue, etc. **2.** The state of being temporal or temporary.

tem·po·ra·ry (tem′pə·rer′ē) *adj.* Lasting or intended to be used for a short time only; transitory. [< L < *tempus, temporis* time] **—tem′po·rar·i·ly** (tem′pə·rer′ə·lē, tem′pə·rer′-) *adv.* **—tem′po·rar′i·ness** *n.*

tem·po·rize (tem′pə·riz) *v.i.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** **1.** To act evasively so as to gain time or put off decision or commitment. **2.** To give real or apparent compliance to the circumstances; comply. **3.** To effect a compromise; negotiate: with *with* or *between*. Also *Brit.* **tem′po·rise.** [< F < L *tempus, temporis* time] **—tem′po·ri·za′tion** *n.* **—tem′po·riz′er** *n.* **—tem′po·riz′ing·ly** *adv.*

tempt (tempt) *v.t.* **1.** To attempt to persuade (a person) to do something evil or unwise. **2.** To be attractive to; invite: Your offers do not *tempt* me. **3.** To provoke or risk provoking: to *tempt* fate. [< OF < L *temptare, tentare* to test] **—tempt′a·ble** *adj.* **—tempt′er** *n.* **—tempt′ress** *n.fem.*

temp·ta·tion (temp·tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of tempting, or the state of being tempted. **2.** That which tempts.

tempt·ing (temp′ting) *adj.* Alluring; attractive; seductive. **—tempt′ing·ly** *adv.* **—tempt′ing·ness** *n.*

tem·pus fu·git (tem′pəs fyōō′jit) *Latin* Time flies.

ten (ten) *n.* **1.** The sum of nine and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 10, x, X. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing ten units, as a playing card, bill, etc. **—** *adj.* Being one more than nine. [OE *tien*] **—tenth** (tenth) *adj. & n.*

ten- Var. of TENO-.

ten·a·ble (ten′ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being held, maintained, or defended. [< F < L *tenere* to hold] **—ten′a·bil′i·ty, ten′a·ble·ness** *n.* **—ten′a·bly** *adv.*

te·na·cious (ti·nā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Having great cohesiveness of parts; tough. **2.** Adhesive; sticky. **3.** Holding or tending to hold strongly, as opinions, rights, etc. **4.** Stubborn; obstinate. **5.** Apt to retain; strongly retentive, as memory. [< L < *tenere* to hold, grasp, embrace] **—te·na′cious·ly** *adv.* **—te·na′cious·ness** *n.*

te·nac·i·ty (ti·nas′ə·tē) *n.* The state or quality of being tenacious.

ten·an·cy (ten′ən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The holding of lands, houses, offices, etc.; occupancy. **2.** The period of holding lands, houses, etc. **3.** The houses, lands, etc. so held.

ten·ant (ten′ənt) *n.* **1.** One who holds or possesses lands or property by the payment of rent or other fee. **2.** A dweller in any place; an occupant. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To hold as tenant; occupy. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To be a tenant. [< F, orig. ppr. of *tenir* to hold < L *tenere*] **—ten′ant·a·ble** *adj.* **—ten′ant·less** *adj.* **—ten′ant·ship** *n.*

tenant farmer One who farms land owned by another and pays rent, usu. in a share of the crops.

ten·ant·ry (ten′ən·trē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** Tenants collectively. **2.** The state of being a tenant; tenancy.

ten-cent store (ten′sent′) A five-and-ten-cent store.

Ten Commandments The set of injunctions given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, constituting the moral code of the Mosaic Law: also called *Decalogue*. *Ex.* xx 1–17.

tend[1] (tend) *v.i.* **1.** To have an aptitude, tendency, or disposition; incline. **2.** To have influence toward a specified result: Education *tends* to refinement. **3.** To go in a certain direction. [< OF < L *tendere* to extend, tend]

tend[2] (tend) *v.t.* **1.** To attend to the needs or requirements of; take care of; minister to: to *tend* a fire. **2.** To watch over; look after. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To be in attendance; serve or wait: with *on* or *upon*. **4.** *Informal* To give attention or care: with *to*. [Aphetic var. of ATTEND]

ten·den·cy (ten′dən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** An inclination toward some purpose, end, or result; bent; aptitude. **2.** That which tends to produce some specified effect. **3.** Bias; propensity. [< Med.L < *tendere* to extend, tend]

ten·den·tious (ten·den′shəs) *adj.* Having a tendency to favor a particular point of view; biased. Also **ten·den′cious.** [See TENDENCY.] **—ten·den′tious·ly** *adv.* **—ten·den′tious·ness** *n.*

ten·der[1] (ten′dər) *adj.* **1.** Yielding easily to force that tends to crush, bruise, break, or injure. **2.** Easily chewed or cut: said of food. **3.** Delicate or weak; not strong, rough, or hardy. **4.** Youthful and delicate: a *tender* age. **5.** Kind; affectionate; gentle. **6.** Capable of arousing sensitive feelings; touching: *tender* memories. **7.** Susceptible to spiritual or moral feelings: a *tender* conscience. **8.** Painful if touched: a *tender* sore. **9.** Of delicate effect or quality; soft: a *tender* light. **10.** Requiring deft or delicate treatment; ticklish; touchy: a *tender* subject. **—** *v.t.* To make tender; soften. [< OF < L *tener, teneris* soft] **—ten′der·ly** *adv.* **—ten′der·ness** *n.*

ten·der[2] (ten′dər) *v.t.* **1.** To present for acceptance, as a resignation; offer. **2.** *Law* To proffer, as money, in discharge of an obligation. **—** *n.* **1.** The act of tendering; an offer. **2.** *Law* A formal offer of satisfaction. **3.** That which is offered as payment: legal *tender*. [< F < L *tendere* to extend, tend] **—ten′der·er** *n.*

tend·er[3] (ten′dər) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* **a** A vessel used to bring supplies, passengers, etc. back and forth between a larger vessel and shore. **b** A vessel that services another at sea. **2.** A vehicle attached to the rear of a steam locomotive to carry fuel and water. **3.** One who ministers to. [< TEND[2]]

ten·der-foot (ten′dər·fōōt′) *n. pl.* **·foots** or **·feet** (-fēt) *U.S.* **1.** In the West, one not yet inured to the hardships of the plains, the mining camp, etc.; a greenhorn. **2.** Any inexperienced person. **3.** A boy scout in the beginning class or group.

ten·der-heart·ed (ten′dər·här′tid) *adj.* Having deep or quick sensibility, as to love, pity, etc.; compassionate. **—ten′der·heart′ed·ly** *adv.* **—ten′der·heart′ed·ness** *n.*

ten·der·ize (ten′də·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make tender, as meat.

ten·der·iz·er (ten′də·rī′zər) A substance for softening the tough fibers and connective tissues of meat.

ten·der·loin (ten′dər·loin′) *n.* The tender part of the loin of beef, pork, etc., lying close to the ventral side of the lumbar vertebrae. **—the tenderloin district** Any urban district noted for its night life, crime, etc.

ten·don (ten′dən) *n. Anat.* One of the bands of tough, fibrous connective tissue forming the termination of a muscle and serving to transmit its force to some other part; a sinew. [< Med.L < Gk. *tenōn* sinew < *tenein* to stretch]

ten·dril (ten′dril) *n. Bot.* One of the slender, filamentous organs that serve a climbing plant as a means of attachment to a wall, tree trunk, or other surface. [< F < *tendron* sprout] — **ten′dril·lar, ten′dril·ous** *adj.*

ten·e·brae (ten′ə·brē) *n.pl. Eccl. Usu. cap.* The matins and lauds sung on the afternoons or evenings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week. [< L, darkness]

ten·e·ment (ten′ə·mənt) *n.* **1.** An urban apartment building or rooming house that is poorly constructed or maintained, typically overcrowded and often part of a slum: also **tenement house.** **2.** A room or set of rooms designed for one family. **3.** *Law* Property held by one person of another, as land, houses, offices, etc. **4.** Any dwelling place; abode. [< OF < LL *tenementum* tenure] — **ten′e·men′tal** (-men′təl), **ten′e·men′ta·ry** (-men′tə·rē) *adj.*

ten·et (ten′it, tē′nit) *n.* An opinion, principle, dogma, etc., that a person or organization believes or maintains as true. — **Syn.** See DOCTRINE. [< L, he holds < *tenere* to hold]

ten·fold (ten′fōld′) *n.* An amount or number ten times as great as a given unit. — *adv.* So as to be ten times as many or as great. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of ten parts. **2.** Ten times as many or as great.

ten-gal·lon hat (ten′gal′ən) *U.S.* A wide-brimmed felt hat with a tall crown, traditionally worn by cowboys.

Ten·nes·se·an (ten′ə·sē′ən) *n.* A native or inhabitant of Tennessee. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Tennessee.

ten·nis (ten′is) *n.* A game played by striking a ball back and forth with rackets over a net stretched between two equal areas that together constitute a court. It has two forms, **court tennis,** played indoors, and **lawn tennis,** played out-of-doors on a court of grass, clay, concrete, etc. [< AF *tenetz* take, receive]

Ten·ny·so·ni·an (ten′ə·sō′nē·ən) *adj.* Relating to or characteristic of Alfred Tennyson, or his verse or style.

teno- *combining form Med.* Tendon; related to a tendon, or to tendons: also *ten-*. Also **tenonto-.** [< Gk. *tenōn* tendon]

ten·on (ten′ən) *n.* A projection on the end of a timber, etc., for inserting in a socket to form a joint. For illus. see MORTISE. — *v.t.* **1.** To form a tenon on. **2.** To join by a mortise and tenon. [< F < *tenir* to hold]

ten·or (ten′ər) *n.* **1.** The adult male voice intermediate in range between baritone and countertenor; also, a singer having such a voice, or a part to be sung by it. **2.** *Music* An instrument playing the part intermediate between the bass and the alto. **3.** Course of thought; general purport. **4.** A settled course or manner of progress. **5.** General character and tendency; nature. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a tenor. **2.** Having a relation to other instruments as the tenor bears to other musical parts. [< OF < L *tenor* course]

ten·pen·ny (ten′pen′ē, -pə·nē) *adj.* **1.** Valued at tenpence. **2.** Designating the size of nails three inches long. See PENNY.

ten·pin (ten′pin′) *n.* One of the pins used in tenpins.

ten-pins (ten′pinz′) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) A game played in a bowling alley in which the players attempt to bowl down ten pins set up at the far end of the alley.

tense[1] (tens) *adj.* **tens·er, tens·est** **1.** Stretched tight; taut. **2.** Under mental or nervous strain; strained. **3.** *Phonet.* Produced with the tongue and its muscles taut, as (ē) and (ōō). — *v.t. & v.i.* **tensed, tens·ing** To make or become strained or drawn tight. [< L *tendere* to stretch] — **tense′ly** *adv.* — **tense′ness** *n.*

tense[2] (tens) *n.* A form of a verb that relates it to time viewed either as finite past, present, or future, or as nonfinite. — **sequence of tenses** In inflected languages, the customary choice of tense for a verb that follows another in a sentence, particularly in reported or indirect discourse. [< OF < L *tempus* time, tense]

ten·si·ble (ten′sə·bəl) *adj.* Tensile.

ten·sile (ten′sil, *Brit.* ten′sīl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to tension. **2.** Capable of being drawn out or extended. **3.** Producing tones from stretched strings: said of instruments. [See TENSE[1].] — **ten·sil′i·ty** (ten·sil′ə·tē) *n.*

ensile strength *Physics* The resistance of a material to forces of rupture and stress in the direction of length: usually expressed in pounds per square inch.

ten·sion (ten′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of stretching or the condition of being stretched tight. **2.** Mental strain; intense nervous anxiety. **3.** Any strained relation, as between governments. **4.** *Physics* **a** Stress on a material caused by a force pulling or stretching in one direction. **b** The condition of a body when acted on by such a force. **5.** A device for regulating the tension of something. **6.** *Electr.* Electromotive force; also, electric potential. — **Syn.** See STRESS. — **ten′sion·al** *adj.*

ten·si·ty (ten′sə·tē) *n.* The state of being tense; tension.

ten·sive (ten′siv) *adj.* Of, like, or causing tension.

ten·sor (ten′sər, -sôr) *n. Anat.* A muscle that stretches a part. [< NL < L *tensus.* See TENSE[1].]

ten-strike (ten′strīk′) *n.* **1.** In bowling, a strike (def. 3). **2.** *U.S. Informal* A totally successful stroke or act.

tent (tent) *n.* A shelter of canvas or the like, supported by poles and fastened by cords to pegs driven into the ground. — *v.i.* To cover with or as with a tent. — *v.i.* To pitch a tent; camp out. [< F < LL *tenta,* orig. neut. pl. of *tentus,* pp. of *tendere* to stretch]

TENTS
a Pup. *b* Pyramid. *c* Wall.

ten·ta·cle (ten′tə·kəl) *n.* **1.** *Zool.* A protruding flexible process or appendage of invertebrate animals, functioning as an organ of touch or motion, as the arms of a cuttlefish. **2.** *Bot.* A sensitive glandular hair, as on the leaves of some plants. [< L < *tentare* to touch, try] — **ten·tac′u·lar** *adj.*

tent·age (ten′tij) *n.* **1.** The supply of tents available for any purpose. **2.** Tents collectively.

ten·ta·tive (ten′tə·tiv) *adj.* Provisional or conjectural; subject to change; experimental. [< Med.L < L *tentare* to try, probe] — **ten′ta·tive·ly** *adv.* — **ten′ta·tive·ness** *n.*

tent caterpillar Any of the larvae of several North American moths that spin silken webs to shelter the colony in which they live.

ten·ter (ten′tər) *n.* A frame or machine for stretching cloth to prevent shrinkage while drying. — *v.t.* **1.** To stretch on or as on a tenter. — *v.i.* **2.** To be or admit of being so stretched. [< L *tentus* extended]

ten·ter-hook (ten′tər·hŏŏk′) *n.* A sharp hook for holding cloth while being stretched on a tenter. — **to be on tenter-hooks** To be in a state of anxiety or suspense.

ten·u·ous (ten′yōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Thin; slim; delicate; also, weak; flimsy; unsubstantial. **2.** Having slight density; rare. [< L *tenuis* thin] — **ten′u·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ten′u·ous·ness, ten·u·i·ty** (ten·yōō′ə·tē, ti·nōō′-) *n.*

ten·ure (ten′yər) *n.* **1.** A holding, as of land. **2.** The act of holding in general, or the state of being held. **3.** The term during which a thing is held. **4.** The conditions or manner of holding. **5.** Permanent status granted to an employee, usu. after a trial period. [< F < L *tenere* to hold] — **ten·u·ri·al** (ten·yōōr′ē·əl) *adj.* — **ten·u′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

te·nu·to (te·nōō′tō) *adj. Music* Sustained; held for the full time. [< Ital. < L *tenere* to hold]

te·pee (tē′pē) *n.* A conical tent of the North American Plains Indians, usu. covered with skins: also spelled *teepee.* [< Dakota < *ti* to dwell + *pi* used for]

tep·id (tep′id) *adj.* Moderately warm; lukewarm, as a liquid. [< L *tepere* to be lukewarm] — **te·pid·i·ty** (tə·pid′ə·tē), **tep′id·ness** *n.* — **tep′id·ly** *adv.*

te·qui·la (tə·kē′lə) *n.* **1.** A Mexican alcoholic liquor distilled from the juices yielded by the roasted stems of an agave plant. **2.** The plant itself. [after *Tequila,* Jalisco, Mexico]

ter- *combining form* Three; third; threefold; three times: *tercentenary.* [< L *ter* thrice]

ter·a·tism (ter′ə·tiz′əm) *n.* A monstrosity; esp., a malformed human or animal fetus. [< Gk. *teras* monster]

terato- *combining form* A wonder; monster. Also, before vowels, **terat-.** [< Gk. *teras* wonder]

ter·bi·um (tûr′bē·əm) *n.* A metallic element (symbol Tb) belonging to the lanthanide series, found in rare-earth minerals. See ELEMENT. [< NL < *Ytterby,* town in Sweden] — **ter′bic** *adj.*

ter·cen·te·nar·y (tûr·sen′tə·ner′ē, tûr′sen·ten′ər·ē) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a period of 300 years or to a 300th anniversary. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** A 300th anniversary. Also *tricentennial.* Also **ter·cen·ten·ni·al** (tûr′sen·ten′ē·əl).

ter·cet (tûr′sit, tûr·set′) *n.* **1.** A group of three lines rhyming together or connected with adjacent triplets by rhyme. **2.** *Music* A triplet. [< F < Ital. < L *tertius* third]

ter·gi·ver·sate (tûr′jə·vər·sāt′) *v.i.* **·sat·ed, ·sat·ing** **1.** To be evasive; equivocate. **2.** To change sides, attitudes, etc.; apostatize. [< L < *tergum* back + *versare* to turn] — **ter′gi·ver·sa′tion** *n.* — **ter′gi·ver·sa′tor** *n.*

term (tûrm) *n.* **1.** A word or expression used to designate some definite thing: a scientific *term.* **2.** Any word or expression conveying some conception or thought: to speak in general *terms.* **3.** *pl.* The conditions or stipulations according to which something is to be done or acceded to: the *terms* of sale. **4.** *pl.* Mutual relations: usu. preceded by *on* or *upon*: England was on friendly *terms* with France. **5.** *Math.* **a** The numerator or denominator of a fraction. **b** One of the quantities of an algebraic expression that are connected by the plus and minus signs. **c** One of the quantities that com-

pose a series or progression. **6.** *Logic* Either the subject or predicate of a proposition. **7.** A fixed period or definite length of time: a *term* of office. **8.** One of the periods of the school year. **9.** *Law* **a** One of the prescribed periods during which a court may hold a session. **b** A specific extent of time for which an estate is granted. **c** An interval allowed a debtor to meet his obligation. **10.** *Med.* The time for childbirth. **— at term** At the end of a definite time. **— in terms of** With reference to; concerning. **— to bring to terms** To force to accede or agree. **— to come to terms** To reach an agreement. **—** *v.t.* To designate by means of a term; name or call. [< OF < L *terminus* limit] **— term/less** *adj.*

ter·ma·gant (tûr′mə·gənt) *n.* A scolding or abusive woman; shrew. **—** *adj.* Violently abusive and quarrelsome; vixenish. [after *Termagant,* an imaginary Moslem deity of overbearing character] **— ter′ma·gan·cy** *n.*

term·er (tûr′mər) *n. Informal* A prisoner serving a certain term: a first *termer.*

ter·mi·na·ble (tûr′mə·nə·bəl) *adj.* That may be terminated; limitable; not perpetual. **— ter′mi·na·bil′i·ty, ter′mi·na·ble·ness** *n.* **— ter′mi·na·bly** *adv.*

ter·mi·nal (tûr′mə·nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or forming a boundary, limit, or end: a *terminal* railroad station. **2.** Pertaining to the delivery or storage of freight or baggage: *terminal* charges. **3.** Pertaining to a term or name. **4.** Situated at the end of a series or part. **5.** *Bot.* Borne at the end of a stem or branch. **6.** Of, pertaining to, or occurring in or at the end of a period of time. **7.** Ending in death: said of a disease. **—** *n.* **1.** That which terminates; a terminating point or part; end. **2.** *Electr.* A point at which a circuit element, as a battery, generator, resistor, capacitor, transistor, etc., may be connected to other elements. **3.** A railroad terminus. [< LL < L *terminus* boundary] **— ter′mi·nal·ly** *adv.*

ter·mi·nate (tûr′mə·nāt) *v.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To put an end or stop to. **2.** To form the conclusion of; finish. **3.** To bound or limit. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To have or come to an end. [< L *terminus* limit] **— ter′mi·na′tive** *adj.* **— ter′mi·na′tor** *n.* **— ter′mi·na·to′ry** (-nə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

ter·mi·na·tion (tûr′mə·nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of setting bounds or limits. **2.** The act of ending or concluding. **3.** That which bounds or limits; close; end. **4.** Outcome; result; conclusion. **5.** The final letters or syllable of a word; a suffix. **— ter′mi·na′tion·al** *adj.*

ter·mi·nol·o·gy (tûr′mə·nol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** The technical terms used in a science, art, trade, etc.; nomenclature. [< L *terminus* + -LOGY] **— ter′mi·no·log′i·cal** (-nə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* **— ter′mi·no·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ter·mi·nus (tûr′mə·nəs) *n. pl.* **·nus·es** or **·ni** (-nī) **1.** The final point or goal; end. **2.** The farthermost station on a railway. **3.** A boundary or border. [< L]

ter·mite (tûr′mīt′) *n.* Any of various small, whitish social insects native in warm regions, several species of which are very destructive of wooden structures, furniture, etc.: also, loosely, *white ant.* [< L *termes*]

tern (tûrn) *n.* Any of several birds allied to the gulls, but having a smaller bill and body, with wings more pointed, and the tail usu. deeply forked. [< Scand.]

ter·na·ry (tûr′nər·ē) *adj.* Formed or consisting of three; grouped in threes. **—** *n. pl.* **·ries** A group of three; a triad. [< L *terni* by threes]

ter·nate (tûr′nāt) *adj.* Arranged in threes. [< NL < L *terni* by threes] **— ter′nate·ly** *adv.*

ter·pene (tûr′pēn) *n. Chem.* Any of a class of isomeric hydrocarbons, $C_{10}H_{16}$, contained chiefly in the essential oils of coniferous plants. [< *terp*(*entin*), earlier form of TURPENTINE + -ENE]

Terp·sich·o·re (tûrp·sik′ə·rē) The Muse of dancing. [< Gk. < *terpsis* enjoyment + *choros* dance] **— Terp·si·cho·re·an** (tûrp′si·kə·rē′ən) *adj.*

terp·si cho·re·an (tûrp′si·kə·rē′ən) *adj.* Of or relating to dancing: also **terp′si·cho·re′al.** **—** *n. Informal* A dancer.

ter·race (ter′is) *n.* **1.** An artificial, raised, level space, as of lawn, having one or more vertical or sloping sides; also, such levels collectively. **2.** A raised level supporting a row of houses, or the houses occupying such a position. **3.** The flat roof of an Oriental or Spanish house. **4.** An unroofed, usu. paved area near a house. **5.** An open gallery. **—** *v.t.* **·raced, ·rac·ing** To form into or provide with a terrace or terraces. [< OF. < Ital. < L *terra* earth]

ter·ra cot·ta (ter′ə kot′ə) **1.** A hard, durable clay, reddish brown in color and usu. unglazed, widely used as a structural material and in pottery, tiles, building façades, etc. **2.** Its brownish orange color. [< Ital., cooked earth]

ter·ra fir·ma (ter′ə·fûr′mə) Solid ground. [< L]

ter·rain (te·rān′, ter′ān) *n.* A piece or plot of ground; esp., a region or territory viewed with regard to its suitability for some particular purpose. [< F < L < *terra* earth]

Ter·ra·my·cin (ter′ə·mī′sin) *n.* Proprietary name for an antibiotic isolated from a soil mold and used in the treatment of a wide variety of bacterial infections. Also **ter′ra·my′cin.**

ter·ra·pin (ter′ə·pin) *n.* Any of several North American edible tortoises of fresh and brackish waters; esp., the diamond back. [< Algonquian]

ter·rar·i·um (te·rār′ē·əm) *n. pl.* **·rar·i·ums** or **·rar·i·a** (-rār′ē·ə) A place or enclosure for keeping land animals, plants, etc. [< L *terra* earth + -ARIUM, on analogy with *aquarium*]

ter·res·tri·al (tə·res′trē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or consisting of earth or land. **2.** Of, belonging to, or representing the earth. **3.** *Biol.* Living on or growing in the earth or land. **4.** Belonging to or consisting of land, as distinct from water, trees, etc. **5.** Worldly; mundane. **—** *n.* An inhabitant of the earth. [< L *terra* land] **— ter·res′tri·al·ly** *adv.* **— ter·res′tri·al·ness** *n.*

ter·ret (ter′it) *n.* One of two metal rings projecting from the saddle of a harness, through which the reins are passed. [ME < F *touret,* dim. of *tour* turn]

terri- *combining form* Earth; ground. [< L *terra* earth]

ter·ri·ble (ter′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Of a nature to excite terror; appalling. **2.** *Informal* Characterized by excess; severe; extreme. **3.** Inspiring awe. **4.** *Informal* Inferior. [< F < L *terrere* to terrify] **— ter′ri·ble·ness** *n.* **— ter′ri·bly** *adv.*

ter·ri·er (ter′ē·ər) *n.* Any of various small, active, wiry dogs of several breeds, formerly used to hunt burrowing animals. [< OF < L *terra* earth]

ter·rif·ic (tə·rif′ik) *adj.* **1.** *Informal* **a** Extreme; intense; tremendous. **b** Wonderful; great; splendid. **2.** Arousing or calculated to arouse great terror or fear. **— ter·rif′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ter·ri·fy (ter′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To fill with extreme terror. [< L < *terrere* to frighten + *facere* to make]

ter·ri·to·ri al (ter′ə·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a territory or territories. **2.** Limited to or within the jurisdiction of a particular territory or region. **3.** Designating military forces intended for territorial defense. **4.** Belonging to a particular locality. **5.** *Often cap.* Organized or intended primarily for national defense: the British *Territorial* Army. **— ter′ri·to′ri·al·ism** *n.* **— ter′ri·to′ri·al·ist** *n.* **— ter′ri·to′ri·al′i·ty** (-al′ə·tē) *n.* **— ter′ri·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

Ter·ri·to·ri·al (ter′ə·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē) *adj.* Of any or all of the Territories of the U.S., Great Britain, etc. **—** *n.* A member of the Territorial Army in Great Britain.

ter·ri·to·ry (ter′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The domain over which a sovereign state exercises jurisdiction. **2.** Any considerable tract of land; a region; also, a sphere, province. **3.** An area assigned for a special purpose. [< L *terra* earth]

Ter·ri·to·ry (ter′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *n. U.S.* A region having a certain degree of self-government but not having the status of a State, as American Samoa.

ter·ror (ter′ər) *n.* **1.** An overwhelming impulse of fear; extreme fright or dread. **2.** A person or thing that causes extreme fear. **3.** *Informal* An intolerable nuisance. [< F < L *terrere* to frighten]

ter·ror·ism (ter′ə·riz′əm) *n.* **1.** The act of terrorizing or the state of being terrorized. **2.** Unlawful acts of violence committed in an attempt to overthrow a government. **3.** A system of government that rules by intimidation. **— ter′ror·ist** *n.* **— ter′ror·is′tic** *adj.*

ter·ror·ize (ter′ə·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To reduce to a state of terror; terrify. **2.** To coerce through intimidation. **— ter′ror·i·za′tion** *n.* **— ter′ror·iz′er** *n.*

ter·ry (ter′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A pile fabric in which the loops are uncut: also **terry cloth.** [Prob. < F *tirer* to draw]

terse (tûrs) *adj.* **ters·er, ters·est** Short and to the point; concise: a *terse* comment. [< L < *tergere* to rub off, rub down] **— terse′ly** *adv.* **— terse′ness** *n.*

—Syn. *Terse, concise, pithy,* and *succinct* characterize speech or writing that says much in relatively few words. *Terse* emphasizes the finish and cogency of the result; *concise* suggest that all unnecessary words have been pruned away. *Pithy* describes something both brief and forceful, while *succinct* characterizes that which is highly compact because all extraneous detail has been removed. **— Ant.** diffuse, prolix, wordy.

ter·tial (tûr′shəl) *Ornithol. adj.* Tertiary. **—** *n.* A tertiary feather. [< L *tertius* third]

ter·tian (tûr′shən) *adj.* Recurring every other day, or if reckoned inclusively, every third day. **—** *n. Pathol.* A tertian disease or fever. [< L *tertius* third]

ter·ti·ar·y (tûr′shē·er′ē, -shə·rē) *adj.* **1.** Third in point of time, number, degree, etc. **2.** *Ornithol.* Denoting one of the flight feathers attached to a bird's wing: also called *tertial.* **—** *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** *Ornithol.* A tertiary feather. [< L < *tertius* third]

Ter·ti·ar·y (tûr′shē·er′ē, -shə·rē) *Geol. adj.* Of the earlier of the two geological periods or systems comprising the Cenozoic era, following the Cretaceous and succeeded by the Quaternary. **—** *n.* The Tertiary period or system, characterized by the rise of mammals. See table for GEOLOGY.

tes·sel·late (tes′ə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To construct in the style of checkered mosaic; lay or adorn with squares or tiles. [< L < dial. Gk. (Ionic) *tesseres* four] **— tes′sel·lat′ed** *adj.* **— tes′sel·la′tion** *n.*

test[1] (test) *v.t.* **1.** To subject to a test or trial; try. **2.** *Chem.* **a** To assay or refine (a precious metal). **b** To examine by means of some reagent. — *v.i.* **3.** *Chem.* **a** To undergo testing. **b** To show specified qualities or properties under testing. — *n.* **1.** Subjection to conditions that disclose the true character of a person or thing in relation to some particular quality. **2.** An examination made for the purpose of proving or disproving some matter in doubt: a sobriety *test.* **3.** A series of questions, problems, etc., intended to measure the extent of knowledge, aptitudes, intelligence, and other mental traits. **4.** A criterion or standard of judgment. **5.** *Chem.* **a** A reaction by means of which the presence and identity of a compound or one of its constituents may be determined. **b** The agent or result of such a reaction. [< OF, vessel used in assaying metals < L *testum* earthen vessel] — **test'a·ble** *adj.* — **test'er** *n.*

test[2] (test) *n.* **1.** *Zool.* A rigid external case or covering of many invertebrates, as a sea urchin or mollusk; a shell: also called *testa.* **2.** *Bot.* A testa. [< L *testa* shell]

tes·ta (tes'tə) *n. pl.* **·tae** (-tē) **1.** *Bot.* The outer, usu. hard and brittle coat or integument of a seed: also called *test.* **2.** *Zool.* A test. [See TEST[2].]

tes·ta·ceous (tes·tā'shəs) *adj.* **1.** Of or derived from shells or shellfish. **2.** Having a hard shell. [< L < *testa* shell]

tes·ta·ment (tes'tə·mənt) *n.* **1.** *Law* The written declaration of one's last will: chiefly in the phrase **last will and testament.** **2.** In Biblical use, a covenant. [< F < L < *testis* witness] — **tes'ta·men'tal** *adj.*

Tes·ta·ment (tes'tə·mənt) *n.* **1.** One of the two volumes of the Bible, distinguished as the *Old* and the *New Testament.* **2.** A volume containing the New Testament.

tes·ta·men·ta·ry (tes'tə·men'tər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Derived from, bequeathed by, or set forth in a will. **2.** Appointed or provided by, or done in accordance with, a will. **3.** Pertaining to a will, or to the administration or settlement of a will.

tes·tate (tes'tāt) *adj.* Having made a will before decease. [< L *testis* witness]

tes·ta·tor (tes·tā'tər, tes'tā·ter) *n.* **1.** The maker of a will. **2.** One who has died leaving a will. [< L] — **tes·ta'trix** (-triks) *n.fem.*

tes·tes (tes'tēz) Plural of TESTIS.

tes·ti·cle (tes'ti·kəl) *n. Biol.* One of the two male sex glands enclosed in the scrotum and in which the spermatozoa and certain secretions are formed: also called *testis.* [< L, dim. of *testis* testicle]

tes·ti·fy (tes'tə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To make solemn declaration of truth or fact. **2.** *Law* To give testimony; bear witness. **3.** To serve as evidence or indication: Her rags *testified* to her poverty. — *v.t.* **4.** To bear witness to; affirm positively. **5.** *Law* To state or declare on oath or affirmation. **6.** To be evidence or indication of. **7.** To make known publicly; declare. [< L < *testis* witness + *facere* to make] — **tes'ti·fi·ca'tion** (-fə·kā'shən) *n.* — **tes'ti·fi'er** *n.*

tes·ti·mo·ni·al (tes'tə·mō'nē·əl) *n.* **1.** A formal token or statement of regard. **2.** A written acknowledgment of services or worth; also, a letter of recommendation. — *adj.* Pertaining to or constituting testimony or a testimonial.

tes·ti·mo·ny (tes'tə·mō'nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** A statement or affirmation of a fact, as before a court. **2.** Evidence; proof; also, the aggregate of proof offered in a case. **3.** The act of testifying; attestation. **4.** Public declaration regarding some experience. [< L < *testis* witness]

— **Syn.** *Testimony* is the oral statements made by a witness under examination. A *deposition* or *affidavit* is *testimony* put into writing; *depositions* are made under formal questioning, and may be subject to cross-examination, while an *affidavit* is a sworn document that may be accepted when the testifier cannot appear in court in person.

tes·tis (tes'tis) *n. pl.* **·tes** (-tēz) A testicle. [< L]

tes·tos·ter·one (tes·tos'tə·rōn) *n. Biochem.* A male sex hormone, $C_{19}H_{28}O_2$, isolated as a white crystalline substance from the testes, and also made synthetically. [< TESTIS + STER(OL) + -ONE]

test pilot An aviator who tests aircraft of new design.

test tube A glass tube, open at one end and usu. with a rounded bottom, used in making chemical or biological tests.

tes·tu·do (tes·tōō'dō, -tyōō'-) *n. pl.* **·di·nes** (-də·nēz) **1.** A shed or screen used by the Romans for the protection of soldiers in siege operations. **2.** A protecting cover formed by soldiers in ranks by overlapping their shields above their heads. [< L < *testa* shell]

tes·ty (tes'tē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** Irritable in manner or disposition; touchy. [< AF *testif* heady < OF < L *testa* skull] — **tes'ti·ly** *adv.* — **tes'ti·ness** *n.*

te·tan·ic (ti·tan'ik) *adj.* Relating to or productive of tetanus. Also **te·tan'i·cal.** — *n.* A drug capable of causing convulsions, as strychnine or nux vomica.

tet·a·nus (tet'ə·nəs) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* An acute infectious disease caused by a bacillus and characterized by rigid spasmodic contraction of various voluntary muscles, esp. those of the neck and jaw. Compare LOCKJAW. **2.** *Physiol.* A state of contraction in a muscle excited by a rapid series of shocks. [< L < Gk. *tetanos* spasm]

tetarto- *combining form* Four; fourth. Also, before vowels, **tetart-.** [< Gk. *tetartos* fourth < *tettares* four]

tetch·y (tech'ē) *adj.* **tetch·i·er, tetch·i·est** Peevishly sensitive; irritable; touchy. [< OF *teche* mark, quality] — **tetch'i·ly** *adv.* — **tetch'i·ness** *n.*

tête-à-tête (tāt'ə·tāt', *Fr.* tet·à·tet') *adj.* Confidential, as between two persons only. — *n.* **1.** A confidential interview between two persons; a private chat. **2.** An S-shaped sofa on which two persons may face each other. — *adv.* In or as in intimate conversation. [< F, lit. head to head]

teth·er (teth'ər) *n.* **1.** Something used to check or confine, as a rope for fastening an animal. **2.** The range, scope, or limit of one's powers or field of action. — **at the end of one's tether** At the extreme end or limit of one's resources, patience, etc. — *v.t.* To fasten or confine by a tether. [ME *tethir* < Scand.]

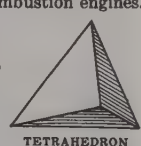
tetra- *combining form* Four; fourfold. Also, before vowels, **tetr-.** [< Gk.]

tet·ra·chord (tet'rə·kôrd) *n. Music* Four contiguous tones, of which the extreme tones are a perfect fourth apart. [< Gk. < *tetras* group of four + *chordē* string] — **tet'ra·chor'dal** *adj.*

tet·rad (tet'rad) *n.* A group or collection of four. [< Gk. *tetras, -ados* group of four]

tet·ra·eth·yl lead (tet'rə·eth'il led) *Chem.* A colorless, heavy, flammable, poisonous, liquid hydrocarbon $Pb(C_2H_5)_4$, used as an antiknock agent in internal-combustion engines.

tet·ra·he·dron (tet'rə·hē'drən) *n. pl.* **·drons** or **·dra** (-drə) *Geom.* A polyhedron bounded by four plane triangular faces. [< Gk. < *tetra-* four + *hedra* base] — **tet'ra·he'dral** *adj.*



TETRAHEDRON

te·tral·o·gy (te·tral'ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** A group of four dramas, including three tragedies and one satyr play, presented together at the festivals of Dionysus at Athens. **2.** Any series of four related dramatic, operatic, or literary works. [< Gk. < *tetra-* four + *logos* word]

te·tram·e·ter (te·tram'ə·tər) *n.* **1.** In prosody, a line of verse consisting of four metrical feet: Füll fā | thŏm five | thў fā | thĕr lies. **2.** Verse consisting of lines of four metrical feet. — *adj.* Consisting of four metrical feet or of lines containing four metrical feet. [< LL < Gk. < *tetra-* four + *metron* measure]

tet·rarch (tet'rärk, tē'trärk) *n.* **1.** The governor of one of four divisions of a country or province. **2.** A tributary prince under the Romans; a subordinate ruler. **3.** In ancient Greece, an army commander of a subdivision of a phalanx. [< LL < L < Gk. < *tetra-* four + *archos* ruler]

tet·rar·chy (tet'rär·kē, tē'trär-) *n. pl.* **·chies** **1.** The rule, territory, or jurisdiction of a tetrarch. **2.** Government by a group of four; also, the four members of such a group. Also **tet'rar·chate** (-kāt, -kit).

tet·ra·stich (tet'rə·stik) *n.* A poem or stanza of four lines. [< TETRA- + Gk. *stichos* row, line] — **tet'ra·stich'ic** *adj.*

tet·ra·va·lent (tet'rə·vā'lənt) *adj. Chem.* Quadrivalent.

Teu·ton (tōōt'n, tyōōt'n) *n.* **1.** One of the Teutones. **2.** One belonging to any of the Teutonic peoples; esp., a German.

Teu·to·nes (tōō'tə·nēz, tyōō'-) *n.pl.* An ancient German tribe that dwelt in Jutland north of the Elbe.

Teu·ton·ic (tōō·ton'ik, tyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or designating the peoples of northern Europe, formerly the Angles, Saxons, Danes, Normans, Goths, etc., now embracing also the English, Germans, Dutch, etc. **2.** Of or pertaining to the Germanic languages. **3.** Of or pertaining to the Teutones. — *n.* The Germanic subfamily of languages.

Teu·ton·ism (tōōt'n·iz'əm, tyōōt'n-) *n.* **1.** A custom or mode of expression peculiar to Germans or Teutons; Germanism. Also **Teu·ton·i·cism** (tōō·ton'ə·siz'əm, tyōō-). **2.** A belief in the superiority of the Teutonic peoples. **3.** Teutonic character and civilization. — **Teu'ton·ist** *n.*

Teu·ton·ize (tōōt'n·īz, tyōōt'n-) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make or become Teutonic or German. — **Teu'ton·i·za'tion** *n.*

Texas fever A destructive cattle disease caused by a blood parasite transmitted by a tick.

Texas leaguer *U.S. Informal* In baseball, a fly ball that falls between an infielder and an outfielder for a base hit.

text (tekst) *n.* **1.** The body of matter on a written or printed page, as distinguished from notes, commentary, illustrations, etc. **2.** The actual or original words of an author. **3.** A written or printed version of the matter of an author's works: the folio *text* of Shakespeare. **4.** Any one of various recensions that are taken to represent the authentic words, or por-

tion of the words, of the original Scriptures. **5.** A verse of Scripture, particularly when cited as the basis of a discourse or sermon. **6.** Any subject of discourse; a topic. **7.** A textbook. [< OF < L *textus* fabric < *texere* to weave]

text·book (tekst′bo͝ok′) *n.* A book used as a standard work or basis of instruction in any branch of knowledge.

tex·tile (teks′til, -tīl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to weaving or woven fabrics. **2.** Such as may be woven; manufactured by weaving. — *n.* **1.** A woven fabric. **2.** Material capable of being woven. [< L < *textus* fabric.]

tex·tu·al (teks′cho͞o·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, contained in, or based on the text of a book. **2.** Word for word; literal. **3.** Versed in texts. — **tex′tu·al·ly** *adv.*

tex·tu·al·ism (teks′cho͞o·əl·iz′əm) *n.* Rigid adherence to a text. — **tex′tu·al·ist** *n.*

tex·ture (teks′chər) *n.* **1.** The arrangement or character of the threads, etc., of a woven fabric. **2.** The mode of union or disposition of elementary constituent parts, as in a photograph, surface of paper, etc. **3.** The structure of the surface of a painting, sculpture, etc.; also, the apparent surface structure of an object or part represented in a work of art, as skin, fur, etc. **4.** Any woven fabric; a web. — *v.t.* ·tured, ·tur·ing To give a particular texture to. [< L < *textus* fabric] — **tex′tur·al** *adj.* — **tex′tur·al·ly** *adv.*

tex·tured (teks′chərd) *adj.* **1.** Having a distinctive texture. **2.** Having (a specified kind of) texture: used in combination: *rough-textured.*

-th[1] *suffix of nouns* **1.** The act or result of the action expressed in the root word: *growth.* **2.** The state of being what is indicated in the root word: *health.* [OE *-thu, -th*]

-th[2] *suffix* Used in ordinal numbers: *tenth.* Also, after vowels, *-eth,* as in *fortieth.* [OE *-tha, -the*]

-th[3] See -ETH[1].

Thai (tī) *n.* **1.** The people collectively of Thailand, Laos, and parts of Burma: preceded by *the.* **2.** A family of languages spoken by these people, considered by some to be a branch of the Sino-Tibetan family and by others to be affiliated with the Austronesian Polynesian family. **3.** The language of Thailand. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Thai, their culture, or their languages. Also spelled *Tai.*

tha·lam·ic (thə·lam′ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a thalamus, esp. to the thalamus of the brain.

thal·a·mus (thal′ə·məs) *n. pl.* **·mi** (-mī) **1.** *Anat.* A large, ovoid mass of gray matter at the base of the brain, the chief center for transmission of sensory impulses to the cerebral cortex: also called *optic thalamus.* **2.** *Bot.* The receptacle of a flower. [< L < Gk. *thalamos* chamber]

tha·las·sic (thə·las′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the seas, as distinguished from the oceans. **2.** Pelagic; oceanic. [< F < Gk. *thalassa* sea]

thalasso- *combining form* The sea; of the sea. Also, before vowels, **thalass-**, **thalassi-**. [< Gk. *thalassa* sea]

tha·ler (tä′lər) See TALER.

thal·i·do·mide (thə·lid′ə·mīd) *n. Chem.* An organic compound, $C_{13}H_{10}N_2O_4$, originally a mild sedative and later withdrawn because its use by pregnant women was suspected of causing serious malformations in newborn children.

thal·li·um (thal′ē·əm) *n.* A soft, white, crystalline metallic element (symbol Tl), whose salts are used in rat poison, insecticides, and in making optical glass. See ELEMENT. [< NL < Gk. *thallos* green shoot; from the bright green line in its spectrum that led to its discovery]

thal·lo·phyte (thal′ə·fīt) *n.* Any of various plants belonging to a division including forms without true roots, stems, or leaves, comprising the bacteria, fungi, algae, and lichens. — **thal′lo·phyt′ic** (-fit′ik) *adj.*

thal·lus (thal′əs) *n. pl.* **·lus·es** or **·li** (-lī) *Bot.* A plant body without true root, stem, or leaf, as in thallophytes. [< L, shoot < Gk. < *thallein* to bloom]

Tham·muz (täm′mōōz, tam′uz) See TAMMUZ.

than (thən, *unstressed* thən) *conj.* **1.** When, as, or if compared with: after an adjective or adverb to express comparison between what precedes and what follows: I am stronger *than* he (is). **2.** Except; but: used after *other, else,* etc.: no other *than* you. [OE *thonne* then]

◆ *Than* is usu. taken as a conjunction; as such, it may be followed by the nominative or the objective, depending on the nature of the ellipsis: You struck him harder *than I* (struck him) or You struck him harder *than* (you struck) *me.* A minority of grammarians and writers have accepted *than* as a preposition, in which case it is regularly followed by the objective: He is stronger *than me.*

thanato- *combining form* Death; of or pertaining to death. Also, before vowels, **thanat-**. [< Gk. *thanatos* death]

than·a·top·sis (than′ə·top′sis) *n.* A meditation upon death. [< THANAT(O)- + Gk. *opsis* appearance, sight]

thane (thān) *n.* **1.** A warrior companion of an English king before the Conquest. **2.** A man who ranked above an ordinary freeman or ceorl (churl) but below an earl or nobleman. **3.** *Scot.* The chief of a clan. Also *thegn.* [OE *thegn*]

thank (thangk) *v.t.* **1.** To express gratitude to. **2.** To hold responsible; blame: often used ironically. — **thank you** I thank you. [OE *thancian* < *thanc* thanks, thought]

thank·ful (thangk′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Appreciative of favors received; grateful. **2.** Expressing thanks. — **thank′ful·ly** *adv.* — **thank′ful·ness** *n.*

thank·less (thangk′lis) *adj.* **1.** Not feeling or showing gratitude; ungrateful. **2.** Not gaining or likely to gain thanks; unappreciated. — **thank′less·ly** *adv.* — **thank′less·ness** *n.*

thanks (thangks) *n.pl.* Expressions of gratitude; grateful acknowledgment. — *interj.* Thank you. — **thanks to 1.** Thanks be given to. **2.** Because of.

thanks·giv·ing (thangks′giv′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of giving thanks, as to God; an expression of gratitude. **2.** A public celebration in recognition of divine favor.

Thanksgiving Day **1.** *U.S.* The fourth Thursday in November, set apart as an annual festival of thanksgiving. **2.** *Canadian* The second Monday in October, a statutory holiday. Also **Thanksgiving.**

that (that, *unstressed* thət) *pl. for adj. and pron. def. 1* **those** (thōz) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to some person or thing previously mentioned, understood, or specifically designated. **2.** Denoting something more remote, or something contrasted with another thing: distinguished from *this*: This house is brown, *that* one is red. — *pron.* **1.** As a demonstrative, the person or thing implied, mentioned, or understood; the person or thing there or as distinguished from one already designated: *That* is the dress I like; Keep this and discard *that.* **2.** As a relative pronoun, who, whom, or which: the person *that* I saw. — *adv.* **1.** To that extent: I can't see *that* far. **2.** *Informal* In such a manner or degree; so: He's *that* simple, he can hardly read. — *conj.* **1.** As a fact: introducing a fact: I tell you *that* it is so. **2.** As a result: introducing a result, consequence, or effect: He bled so profusely *that* he died. **3.** At which time; when: It was only yesterday *that* I saw him. **4.** So that: I tell you *that* you may know. **5.** For the reason that; because. **6.** Introducing an exclamation: O *that* he would come: — **so that 1.** To the end that. **2.** With the result that. [OE *thæt*, neut. of *sē* the, that]

thatch (thach) *n.* **1.** A covering of reeds, straw, etc., arranged on a roof so as to shed water. **2.** Anything resembling such a covering. **3.** Any of various palms whose leaves are used for thatching. — *v.t.* To cover with or as with thatch. [OE *thæc* cover] — **thatch′er** *n.* — **thatch′y** *adj.*

thatch·ing (thach′ing) *n.* **1.** The act or process of covering a roof with thatch. **2.** Material used for thatch.

thaumato- *combining form* A wonder; a miracle. Also, before vowels, **thaumat-**. [< Gk. *thauma, -atos* wonder]

thau·ma·tur·gy (thô′mə·tûr′jē) *n.* Magic; the working of wonders or miracles. — **thau′ma·tur′gic** or **·gi·cal** *adj.*

thaw (thô) *v.i.* **1.** To melt or dissolve; become liquid or semiliquid, as snow or ice. **2.** To rise in temperature so as to melt ice and snow: said of weather and used impersonally. **3.** To become less cold and unsociable. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to thaw. — *n.* **1.** The act of thawing, or the state of being thawed. **2.** Warmth of weather above the freezing point, following a colder period. **3.** A state of warmer feeling or expression. [OE *thawian*] — **thaw′er** *n.*

the[1] (*stressed* thē; *unstressed before a consonant* thə; *unstressed before a vowel* thē *or* thi) *definite article or adj. The* is opposed to the indefinite article *a* or *an,* and is used, esp. before nouns, to render the modified word more particular or individual. It is used specifically: **1.** When reference is made to a particular person, thing, or group: He left *the* room. **2.** To give an adjective substantive force, or render a notion abstract: *the* doing of the deed; *the* quick and *the* dead. **3.** Before a noun to make it generic: *The* dog is a friend of man. **4.** With the force of a possessive pronoun: He kicked me in *the* (my) leg. **5.** To give distributive force: equivalent to *a, per, each,* etc.: a dollar *the* volume. **6.** To designate a particular one as emphatically outstanding: usu. stressed in speech and italicized in writing: He is *the* officer for the command. [OE, later form of *sē*]

the[2] (thə) *adv.* By that much; by so much; to this extent: used to modify words in the comparative degree: *the* more, *the* merrier. [OE *thȳ*, instrumental case of *sē* the[1]]

the- Var. of THEO-.

the·a·ter (thē′ə·tər) *n.* **1.** A building especially adapted to present dramas, operas, motion pictures, etc.; playhouse. **2.** The theatrical world and everything relating to it. **3.** A room or hall arranged with seats that rise as they recede from a platform, esp. adapted to lectures, demonstrations, etc. **4.** Any place of semicircular form with seats rising by easy gradations. **5.** Any place or region that is the scene of events: a *theater* of operations in war. Also *esp. Brit.* **the′a·tre.** [< OF < L < Gk. < *theasthai* to behold]

the·a·ter-go·er (thē′ə·tər·gō′ər) *n.* One who goes often or regularly to the theater. Also *esp. Brit.* **the′a·tre·go′er.**

the·a·ter-in-the-round (thē′ə·tər·in·thə·round′) *n.* Arena theater.

the·at·ri·cal (thē·at′ri·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the theater or to dramatic performances. **2.** Designed for show, dis-

play, or effect; showy; artificial. **3.** Suited to dramatic presentation. **4.** Resembling the manner of actors; histrionic. Also **the·at′ric.** — *n.pl.* Dramatic performances, esp. by amateurs. — **the·at′ri·cal·ly** *adv.* — **the·at′ri·cal·ness** *n.*

the·at·ri·cal·ism (thē·at′ri·kəl·iz′əm) *n.* Theatrical or melodramatic manner or style.

the·at·rics (thē·at′riks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) **1.** The staging of plays. **2.** The art of creating effects appropriate to dramatic performances.

Thebes (thēbz) **1.** The ancient capital of Upper Egypt; Luxor and Karnak occupy part of its site on the Nile. **2.** The chief city of ancient Boeotia, Greece: also **The·bae** (thē′bē). — **The·ban** (thē′bən) *adj. & n.*

the·ca (thē′kə) *n. pl.* **·cae** (-sē) **1.** *Biol.* A protective sheath or case for an organ or part, as of the spinal cord, a follicle, an insect pupa, etc. **2.** *Bot.* A spore case, sac, or capsule. [< L < Gk. *thēkē* case] — **the′cal** *adj.* — **the·cate** (thē′kit, -kāt)

thee (thē) *pron.* **1.** *Archaic* The objective case of the pronoun *thou.* **2.** Thou: used by some Quakers with a verb in the third person singular: *Thee* knows my mind. [OE *thē*, orig. dative, later accusative case of *thū* thou]

theft (theft) *n.* **1.** The act or crime of thieving; larceny. **2.** *Rare* That which is stolen. [OE *thēoft*, *thīefth*]

— **Syn. 1.** *Theft* is the general term for the crime of stealing. In law, *larceny* includes many forms of stealing, but not embezzlement and swindling. *Burglary* is the crime of breaking into and entering another's home, place of business, or other property with intent to commit a felony. *Robbery* is stealing from the person, or in the presence of, the victim.

thegn (thān) See THANE.

the·ine (thē′ēn, -in) *n. Chem.* The alkaloid found in the tea plant, chemically identical with caffeine. Also **the′in** (-in). [< F < NL *thea* tea < dial. Chinese *t'e*]

their (thâr) *pronominal adj.* The possessive case of the pronoun *they*, used attributively: *their* homes. [ME < ON *theirra* of them]

theirs (thârz) *pron.* **1.** The possessive case of the pronoun *they*, used predicatively: That house is *theirs.* **2.** The one or ones belonging or relating to them: our country and *theirs.* — **of theirs** Belonging or pertaining to them.

the·ism (thē′iz·əm) *n.* **1.** Belief in, or in the existence of, God, a god, or gods. **2.** Belief in a personal God as creator and supreme ruler of the universe, who transcends his creation but works in and through it in revealing himself to men. **3.** Belief in one god; monotheism. [< Gk. *theos* god] — **the′ist** *n.* — **the·is′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.* — **the·is′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

them (them, *unstressed* thəm) *pron.* The objective case of the pronoun *they.* [ME *theim* < ON, to them]

the·mat·ic (thē·mat′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, constituting, or pertaining to a theme or themes. **2.** *Ling.* Constituting a stem. Also **the·mat′i·cal.** — **the·mat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

thematic vowel *Ling.* A vowel added to a root to form a stem.

theme (thēm) *n.* **1.** A topic to be discussed or developed in speech or writing; a subject of discourse. **2.** Any topic. **3.** A brief composition, esp. one written as an exercise as part of a course of instruction. **4.** *Music* **a** A melody that is subjected to variation or elaboration; subject. **b** A musical feature, as a chordal sequence, rhythm, melody, etc. that forms the basis of a composition. [< OF < L < Gk. *the-*, stem of *tithenai* to place]

theme song 1. A melody used throughout a dramatic presentation to establish or maintain a mood. **2.** A strain of music that identifies a radio program, a dance band, etc.

them·selves (them′selvz′, *unstressed* thəm-) *pron.* A form of the third person plural pronoun, used: **1.** As a reflexive or as object of a preposition in a reflexive sense: They laughed at *themselves.* **2.** As an emphatic or intensive form of *they*: They *themselves* are at fault. **3.** As a designation of a normal, proper, or usual state: They were not *themselves* then.

hen (then) *adv.* **1.** At that time. **2.** Soon or immediately afterward; next in space or time. **3.** At another time: often introducing a sequential statement following *now, at first,* etc. **4.** For that reason; as a consequence. **5.** In that case. — *adj.* Being or acting in, or belonging to, that time: the *then* secretary of state. — *n.* A specific time already mentioned or understood; that time. [OE *thanne*]

hence (thens) *adv.* **1.** From that place. **2.** From the circumstance, fact, or cause; therefore. **3.** From that time; after that time. [ME < OE *thanon* from there + -s³]

hence·forth (thens′fôrth′, -fôrth′, thens′fôrth′, -fôrth′) *adv.* From that time on; thereafter.

hence·for·ward (thens′fôr′wərd) *adv.* **1.** Thenceforth. **2.** From that place or time forward. Also **thence′for′wards.**

heo- *combining form* God; of or pertaining to God, a god, or gods. Also, before vowels, *the-.* [< Gk. *theos* a god]

he·oc·ra·cy (thē·ok′rə·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** A state, polity, or group of people that claims a deity as its ruler. **2.** Government of a state by a priesthood claiming divine authority, as in the Papacy. [< Gk. < *theos* god + *krateein* to rule] — **the·o·crat·ic** (thē′ə·krat′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

the·o·crat (thē′ə·krat) *n.* **1.** A theocratic or divine ruler. **2.** An advocate of theocracy.

the·od·o·lite (thē·od′ə·līt) *n.* In surveying, an instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles by means of a small telescope turning on a horizontal and a vertical axis. [An arbitrary formation] — **the·od′o·lit′ic** (-lit′ik) *adj.*

the·o·lo·gi·an (thē′ə·lō′jē·ən, -jən) *n.* One versed in theology, esp. that of the Christian church.

the·o·log·i·cal (thē′ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to theology or to divine revelation. Also **the′o·log′ic.** — **the′o·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

the·ol·o·gize (thē·ol′ə·jīz) *v.* **·gized, ·giz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To devise or fit (something) into a system of theology. — *v.i.* **2.** To reason theologically. Also *Brit.* **the·ol′o·gise.**

the·ol·o·gy (thē·ol′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The study of religion, culminating in a synthesis or philosophy of religion; also, a critical survey of religion, esp. of the Christian religion. **2.** A body of doctrines as set forth by a particular church or religious group. [< OF < LL < Gk. < *theos* god + *logos* discourse]

the·oph·a·ny (thē·of′ə·nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** A manifestation or appearance of a deity or of the gods to man. [< L < Gk. < *theos* god + *phainein* to show]

the·o·rem (thē′ər·əm, thir′əm) *n.* **1.** A proposition demonstrably true or acknowledged as such. **2.** *Math.* **a** A proposition setting forth something to be proved. **b** A proposition that has been proved or assumed to be true. **c** A rule or statement of relations formulated in symbols. [LL < Gk. *theōrēma* sight, theory < *theōrein* to look at] — **the·o·re·mat·ic** (thē′ər·ə·mat′ik), **the′o·rem′ic** (-ə·rem′ik) *adj.*

the·o·ret·i·cal (thē′ə·ret′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or consisting of theory. **2.** Relating to knowledge or science without reference to its application. **3.** Existing only in theory; hypothetical. **4.** Addicted to theorizing; impractical; visionary. Also **the′o·ret′ic.** — **the′o·ret′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

the·o·re·ti·cian (thē′ər·ə·tish′ən) *n.* One who deals with the speculative, hypothetical, or ideal rather than with the practical and executive aspects of a subject.

the·o·ret·ics (thē′ə·ret′iks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The theoretical aspect of a science.

the·o·rist (thē′ər·ist) *n.* One who theorizes.

the·o·rize (thē′ə·rīz) *v.i.* **·rized, ·riz·ing** To form or express theories; speculate. Also *Brit.* **the′o·rise.** — **the′o·ri·za′tion** *n.* — **the′o·riz′er** *n.*

the·o·ry (thē′ər·ē, thir′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A plan or scheme existing in the mind only; a speculative or conjectural view of something. **2.** An integrated group of the fundamental principles underlying a science or its practical applications: the atomic *theory.* **3.** Abstract knowledge of any art as opposed to the practice of it. **4.** A closely reasoned set of propositions, derived from and supported by established evidence and intended to serve as an explanation for a group of phenomena: the quantum *theory.* — **Syn.** See DOCTRINE, HYPOTHESIS. [< LL < Gk. *theoria* view, speculation]

the·os·o·phy (thē·os′ə·fē) *n. pl.* **·phies** **1.** Any of various religious systems that aim at establishing a direct relation between the individual soul and the divine principle through contemplation and speculation. **2.** *Often cap.* The doctrines of a modern religious sect (**Theosophical Society**), resembling those of Buddhism and Brahmanism. [< Med.L < Gk. < *theos* god + *sophos* wise] — **the·o·soph·ic** (thē′ə·sof′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **the′o·soph′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **the·os′o·phist** *n.*

ther·a·peu·tic (ther′ə·pyōō′tik) *adj.* **1.** Having healing qualities; curative. **2.** Pertaining to therapeutics. Also **ther′a·peu′ti·cal.** [< NL < Gk. < *therapeuein* take care of < *therapōn* an attendant] — **ther′a·peu′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

ther·a·peu·tics (ther′ə·pyōō′tiks) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of medical science dealing with the treatment of disease. — **ther′a·peu′tist** *n.*

ther·a·py (ther′ə·pē) *n. pl.* **·pies** **1.** The treatment of disease: often used in combination: *chemotherapy.* **2.** Treatment, activity, etc., intended to remedy or alleviate a disorder or undesirable condition. **3.** Healing or curative quality. — **ther′a·pist** *n.*

there (thâr) *adv.* **1.** In, at, or about that place: opposed to *here.* Also used to indicate or emphasize: John *there* is a good student. **2.** To, toward, or into that place; thither. **3.** At that stage or point of action or time. — *n.* That place: Are you from *there,* too? — *interj.* An exclamation of triumph, relief, etc.: *There!* It's finished. ◆ The adverb *there* cannot, in standard English, appear in the adjective position, as that *there* girl. That girl *there* is the accepted order. *There* is very often used as an expletive introducing a clause or sentence,

the subject usu. following the verb: *There* once were three bears. It is also used as an equivalent of the pronoun *that* in expressions of encouragement, approval, etc.: *There's* a good boy. [OE *thǣr*]

there·a·bout (*th*âr′ə·bout′) *adv.* Near that number, quantity, degree, place, or time. Also **there′a·bouts′**.

there·af·ter (*th*âr′af′tər, -äf′-) *adv.* Afterward; from that time on.

there·at (*th*âr′at′) *adv.* At that event, place, or time; at that incentive; upon that.

there·by (*th*âr′bī′) *adv.* **1.** Through the agency of that. **2.** Connected with that. **3.** Conformably to that. **4.** *Archaic* Nearby; thereabout.

there·for (*th*âr′fôr′) *adv.* For this, that, or it.

there·fore (*th*âr′fôr′, -fōr′) *adv. & conj.* For that or this reason; on that ground or account; consequently: He did not run fast enough; *therefore* he lost the race.

there·from (*th*âr′frum′, -from′) *adv.* From this, that, or it; from this or that time, place, state, event, or thing.

there·in (*th*âr′in′) *adv.* **1.** In that place. **2.** In that time, matter, or respect.

there·in·af·ter (*th*âr′in·af′tər, -äf′-) *adv.* In a subsequent part of that (book, document, speech, etc.).

there·in·to (*th*âr′in·tōō′) *adv.* Into this, that, or it.

there·of (*th*âr′uv′, -ov′) *adv.* **1.** Of or relating to this, that, or it. **2.** From or because of this or that cause or particular.

there·on (*th*âr′on′, -ôn′) *adv.* **1.** On this, that, or it. **2.** Thereupon; thereat.

there's (*th*ârz) There is.

there·to (*th*âr′tōō′) *adv.* **1.** To this, that, or it. **2.** In addition; furthermore. Also **there′un·to′** (-un·tōō′).

there·to·fore (*th*âr′tə·fôr′, -fōr′) *adv.* Before this or that; previously to that.

there·un·der (*th*âr′un′dər) *adv.* **1.** Under this or that. **2.** Less in number; fewer than that. **3.** In accordance with that; by that authority.

there·up·on (*th*âr′ə·pon′, -ə·pôn′) *adv.* **1.** Upon that; upon it. **2.** Following upon or in consequence of that. **3.** Immediately following; at once.

there·with (*th*âr′with′, -with′) *adv.* **1.** With this, that, or it. **2.** Thereupon; thereafter; immediately afterward.

there·with·al (*th*âr′with·ôl′) *adv.* With all this or that; besides.

therm- Var. of THERMO-.

therm. Thermometer.

ther·mal (thûr′məl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, determined by, or measured by heat. **2.** Caused by, using, or producing heat. **3.** Hot or warm. Also **ther′mic**. — **ther′mal·ly** *adv.*

thermo- *combining form* Heat; of or caused by heat. Also, before vowels, *therm-*. [< Gk. *thermos* heat, warmth]

ther·mo·couple (thûr′mə·kup′əl) *n.* A device for temperature measurement that depends upon the electric current or potential produced when joined conductors of two different metals have their ends at different temperatures. Also **thermoelectric couple.**

ther·mo·dy·nam·ics (thûr′mō·dī·nam′iks, -di-) *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The branch of physics dealing with the relations between heat and other forms of energy. — **ther′mo·dy·nam′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **ther′mo·dy·nam′i·cist** (-ə·sist) *n.*

ther·mo·e·lec·tric (thûr′mō·i·lek′trik) *adj.* **1.** Designating or associated with changes of electrical potential between two dissimilar metals in contact with each other as temperature varies. **2.** Designating or associated with the ability of an electric current to cause a flow of heat in a wire. Also **ther′mo·e·lec′tri·cal.** — **ther′mo·e·lec′tri·cal·ly** *adv.*

ther·mo·e·lec·tric·i·ty (thûr′mō·i·lek′tris′ə·tē) *n.* Electricity generated by thermoelectric phenomena.

ther·mom·e·ter (thər·mom′ə·tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring temperature, usu. by means of a graduated glass capillary tube with a bulb containing a liquid, as mercury or alcohol, that expands or contracts as the temperature rises or falls. [< THERMO- + METER]

ther·mom·e·try (thər·mom′ə·trē) *n.* **1.** The measurement of temperature. **2.** The design and construction of thermometers. — **ther·mo·met·ric** (thûr′mō·met′rik) or **·ri·cal** *adj.* — **ther′mo·met′ri·cal·ly** *adv.*

ther·mo·nu·cle·ar (thûr′mō·nōō′klē·ər, -nyōō′-) *adj. Physics* Pertaining to or characterized by reactions involving the fusion of atomic nuclei at very high temperatures, esp. in stars and in the hydrogen bomb.

ther·mo·pile (thûr′mō·pīl) *n.* A group of thermocouples acting jointly to produce an electric current, esp. when used with a galvanometer to measure heat.

ther·mo·plas·tic (thûr′mō·plas′tik) *adj.* Plastic in the presence of or under the application of heat, as certain synthetic molding materials. — *n.* A thermoplastic substance.

Ther·mop·y·lae (thər·mop′ə·lē) A narrow mountain pass in Greece; scene of a battle, 480 B.C., in which the Spartans under the command of Leonidas held off the Persians under Xerxes and finally died to the last man rather than yield.

ther·mos bottle (thûr′məs) A bottle that keeps the contents hot or cold, consisting of two containers with a vacuum between, the whole usu. enclosed in a metal cylinder. [< Gk. *thermos* hot]

ther·mo·set·ting (thûr′mō·set′ing) *adj.* Having the property of assuming a fixed shape after being molded under heat, as certain plastics and urea resins.

ther·mo·stat (thûr′mə·stat) *n.* A device for the automatic regulation of temperature, used for actuating fire alarms, starting or stopping heating plants, etc. [< THERMO- + Gk. *statos* standing] — **ther′mo·stat′ic** *adj.* — **ther′mo·stat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

ther·mot·ro·pism (thər·mot′rə·piz′əm) *n. Biol.* The property whereby growing plants or other organisms turn toward or away from a source of heat. — **ther·mo·trop·ic** (thûr′mō·trop′ik) *adj.*

the·sau·rus (thə·sôr′əs) *n. pl.* **·sau·ri** (-sôr′ī) **1.** A book containing a store of words, esp., of synonyms and antonyms arranged in categories. **2.** A storehouse; treasury. [< L < Gk. *thesauros* treasure house]

these (*th*ēz) *adj. & pron.* Plural of THIS.

The·seus (thē′sōōs, -sē·əs) In Greek mythology, the king of Athens, celebrated for killing the Minotaur and for unifying Attica with Athens as its capital. See ARIADNE, PHAEDRA.

the·sis (thē′sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) **1.** A proposition. **2.** A formal proposition, advanced and defended by argumentation. **3.** A formal treatise on a particular subject; esp., a dissertation presented by a candidate for an academic degree. **4.** *Logic* An affirmative proposition; a premise or postulate. [< L < Gk. < *tithenai* to put, place]

Thes·pi·an (thes′pē·ən) *adj.* Of or relating to drama; dramatic; tragic. — *n.* An actor or actress. [after *Thespis*, Greek poet and actor, 6th century B.C.]

Thes·sa·lo·ni·an (thes′ə·lō′nē·ən) *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of ancient Thessalonica. **2.** *pl.* (*construed as sing.*) Either of two books in the New Testament consisting of epistles written by St. Paul to the Christians of Thessalonica. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Thessalonica.

the·ta (thā′tə, thē′tə) *n.* **1.** The eighth letter in the Greek alphabet (Θ, ϑ, θ). See ALPHABET. **2.** *Math.* A symbol for an angle of unknown value. [< Gk. *thēta*]

thew (thyōō) *n.* **1.** A sinew or muscle, esp., when strong or well-developed. **2.** *pl.* Bodily strength. [ME < OE *thēaw* habit, characteristic quality] — **thew′y** *adj.*

they (*th*ā) *pron. pl., possessive* **their** or **theirs**, *objective* **them** **1.** The nominative plural of *he*, *she*, and *it*, used of the persons, beings, or things previously mentioned or understood. **2.** People in general: *They* say this is his best book. [ME *thei*, *that* < ON *their*, pl. of *sā* this, that]

they'd (*th*ād) **1.** They had. **2.** They would.

they'll (*th*āl) They will.

they're (*th*âr) They are.

they've (*th*āv) They have.

thi- Var. of THIO-.

thi·a·mine (thī′ə·mēn, -min) *n. Biochem.* A white crystalline compound, $C_{12}H_{18}ON_4SCl_2$, vitamin B_1, found in various natural sources and also made synthetically. Also **thi′a·min** (-min). [< THI- + -AMINE]

Thi·bet·an (ti·bet′ən) See TIBETAN.

thick (thik) *adj.* **1.** Having relatively large depth or extent from one surface to its opposite; not thin. **2.** Having a specified dimension of this kind, whether great or small: an inch *thick*. **3.** Arranged compactly; close: a *thick* forest; also, following at brief intervals; frequent, as blows, raindrops, etc. **4.** Set or furnished closely or abundantly with objects; abounding. **5.** Having considerable density or consistency; dense; heavy. **6.** Having the component particles closely packed together, as smoke, fog, etc. **7.** Dull; stupid. **8.** Indistinct; muffled: a *thick* sound; also, guttural; husky. **9.** *Informal* Very friendly; intimate. **10.** *Brit. Informal* Excessive; beyond what is tolerable. — *adv.* So as to be thick; thickly: bread sliced *thick*. — **to lay it on thick** *Informal* **1.** To overstate; exaggerate. **2.** To flatter excessively. — *n.* **1.** The dimension of thickness; the thickest part. **2.** The thickest or most intense time or place of anything: the *thick* of the fight. — **through thick and thin** Through good times and bad; loyally. [OE *thicce*] — **thick′ish** *adj.* — **thick′ly** *adv.* — **thick′ness** *n.*

thick·en (thik′ən) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To make or become thick or thicker. **2.** To make or become more intricate or intense: The plot *thickens*. — **thick′en·er** *n.*

thick·en·ing (thik′ən·ing) *n.* **1.** The act of making or becoming thick. **2.** Something added to a liquid to increase its consistency. **3.** A thickened place or part.

thick·et (thik′it) *n.* A thick, dense growth, as of underbrush; a coppice. [OE < *thicce* thick]

thick·head (thik′hed′) *n.* A stupid person; numskull. — **thick′head′ed** *adj.* — **thick′head′ed·ness** *n.*

thick·set (thik′set′) *adj.* **1.** Having a short, thick body; stout. **2.** Planted closely together. — *n.* A thicket.

thick-skinned (thik′skind′) *adj.* **1.** Having a thick skin: pachydermatous. **2.** Insensitive; callous to hints or insults.

thick-wit·ted (thik′wit′id) *adj.* Stupid; obtuse; dense.
thief (thēf) *n. pl.* **thieves** (thēvz) One who takes something belonging to another; one who steals. [OE *thēof*]
thieve (thēv) *v.* **thieved, thiev·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take by theft; steal. — *v.i.* **2.** To be a thief; commit theft. [OE *thēofian*] — **thiev′ish** *adj.* — **thiev′ish·ly** *adv.* — **thiev′ish·ness** *n.*
thiev·er·y (thēv′vər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** The practice or act of thieving; theft.
thigh (thī) *n.* The leg between the hip and the knee of man or the corresponding portion in other animals. ◆ Collateral adjective: *femoral.* [OE *thēoh*]
thigh·bone (thī′bōn′) *n.* The femur.
thill (thil) *n.* Either of the shafts of a vehicle, between which a horse is harnessed. [OE *thille* board]
thim·ble (thim′bəl) *n.* **1.** A caplike cover with a pitted surface, worn in sewing to protect the end of the finger that pushes the needle. **2.** *Mech.* A sleeve through which a bolt passes. **3.** *Naut.* **a** A metal antichafing ring forming a guard over a loop or eye in a sail. **b** The metal piece about which a rope is bent and spliced. [OE < *thūma* thumb]
thim·ble·ful (thim′bəl·fo͝ol) *n.* **1.** As much as a thimble will hold. **2.** Any very small quantity.
thim·ble·rig (thim′bəl·rig′) *n.* A swindling trick in which a pea is shifted from one to another of three inverted cups. — *v.t.* **·rigged, ·rig·ging** To cheat by or as by thimblerig. — **thim′ble·rig′ger** *n.*
thin (thin) *adj.* **thin·ner, thin·nest** **1.** Having opposite surfaces relatively close to each other; being of little depth or width; not thick. **2.** Lacking roundness or plumpness of figure; slender. **3.** Having the parts or particles scattered or diffused; sparse: *thin* ranks, *thin* gas. **4.** Small in number: The audience was *thin.* **5.** Having little substance: *thin* clothing. **6.** Having little or no consistency, as a liquid. **7.** Lacking in essential ingredients: *thin* blood. **8.** Having little volume or richness, as a voice. **9.** Not abundantly supplied; scant: a *thin* table. **10.** Having little intensity; pale: *thin* colors. **11.** *Photog.* Not having sufficient contrast to print well: said of a negative. **12.** Feeble; superficial: *thin* wit. — *adv.* So as to be thin; thinly: butter spread *thin.* — *v.t.* & *v.i.* **thinned, thin·ning** To make or become thin or thinner. [OE *thynne*] — **thin′ly** *adv.* — **thin′ner** *n.* — **thin′ness** *n.*
thine (thīn) *pron. Archaic* **1.** The possessive case of the pronoun *thou*: used predicatively. **2.** The one or ones belonging or relating to thee: thou and *thine.* — *pronominal adj.* Thy: used before a vowel or *h*: *thine* eyes. [OE *thīn,* genitive of *thū* thou]
thing (thing) *n.* **1.** That which exists as a separate entity; an inanimate object. **2.** That which is designated, as contrasted with the word or symbol used to denote it. **3.** A matter or circumstance; an affair; concern: *Things* have changed. **4.** An act or deed; transaction. **5.** A statement; utterance: to say the right *thing.* **6.** An idea; opinion: Stop putting *things* in her head. **7.** A quality; attribute; characteristic. **8.** An organic being: usu. with a qualifying word: Every living *thing* dies. **9.** An object that is not or cannot be described or particularized: The *thing* disappeared in the shadows. **10.** A person, regarded in terms of pity, affection, or contempt: that poor *thing.* **11.** *pl.* Possessions. **12.** The proper or befitting act or result: with *the*: That was not the *thing* to do. **13.** The important point: with *the*: The *thing* we learned from the war was this. — **to see things** To have hallucinations. [OE, thing, cause, assembly]
thing·a·ma·bob (thing′ə·mə·bob′) *n. Informal* A thing the specific name of which is unknown or forgotten; a dingus. Also **thing′um·a·bob′, thing′um·bob, thing′a·ma·jig.**
think[1] (thingk) *v.* **thought** (thôt), **think·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To produce or form in the mind; conceive mentally. **2.** To examine in the mind; determine by reasoning: to *think* a plan through. **3.** To believe; consider: I *think* him guilty. **4.** To expect; anticipate: They did not *think* to meet us. **5.** To remember; recollect: I cannot *think* what he said. **6.** To bring about by thinking: to *think* oneself sick. **7.** To intend: Do they *think* to rob me? — *v.i.* **8.** To use the mind in exercising judgment, forming ideas, etc.; reason. **9.** To have a particular opinion or feeling: I don't *think* so. — **to think better of** **1.** To abandon or change a course of action. **2.** To form a better opinion of. — **to think fit (proper, right,** etc.) To regard as worth doing. — **to think nothing of** **1.** To consider of no importance; ignore. **2.** To consider easy to do. — **to think of** **1.** To bring to mind; remember. **2.** To invent; imagine. **3.** To have a specified opinion or attitude toward; regard. **4.** To be considerate of; have regard for. — **to think out** To devise, invent, or solve by thinking. — **to think over** To reflect upon. — **to think the world of** **1.** To have a high opinion of. **2.** To love very much. — **to think twice** To consider carefully. — **to think up** To devise, arrive at, or invent by thinking. — *n.* An act of thinking; a thought. [OE *thencean*] — **think′a·ble** *adj.* — **think′er** *n.*
think[2] (thingk) *v.i.* **thought** (thôt), **think·ing** To seem; appear: now obsolete except in the combinations *methinks, methought.* [OE *thyncan* to seem]
think·ing (thingk′ing) *adj.* **1.** Exercising the mental capacities. **2.** Capable of such exercise; rational. — *n.* **1.** Mental action; thought. **2.** The product of such action, as an idea. — **think′ing·ly** *adv.*
thin-skinned (thin′skind′) *adj.* **1.** Having a thin skin. **2.** Easily hurt or offended; sensitive.
thio- *combining form Chem.* Containing sulfur; denoting a compound of sulfur, esp., one in which sulfur has displaced oxygen. Also, before vowels, sometimes *thi-.* [< Gk. *theion* sulfur]
thi·o·pen·tal sodium (thī′ō·pen′tal) A yellowish white powder, $C_{11}H_{17}N_2O_2SNa$, of the barbiturate group, used intravenously as a general anesthetic: also called *sodium pentothal.* Also *Chiefly Brit.* **thi′o·pen′tone sodium.**
thi·o·sul·fate (thī′ō·sul′fāt) *n. Chem.* A salt of thiosulfuric acid.
thi·o·sul·fu·ric acid (thī′ō·sul·fyo͝or′ik) *Chem.* An unstable acid, $H_2S_2O_3$, known chiefly by its salts, which have extensive applications in bleaching and photography.
third (thûrd) *adj.* **1.** Next after the second: the ordinal of *three.* **2.** Being one of three equal parts. **3.** Pertaining to the forward gears with the third highest ratio in an automobile transmission. — *n.* **1.** That which follows the second. **2.** One of three equal parts. **3.** A unit of time or of an arc, equal to one sixtieth of a second. **4.** *Music* **a** The interval between a tone and another tone two steps from it in a diatonic scale. **b** A tone separated by this interval from any other, considered in relation to that other; esp., the third above the keynote. **5.** In baseball, the third base. **6.** *Mech.* The forward gears with the third highest ratio in an automobile transmission. — *adv.* In the third order, rank, or place: also, in formal discourse, **third′ly.** [OE *thridda* < *thrī* three]
third base In baseball, the third base reached by the runner, at the left-hand angle of the infield.
third base·man (bās′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A baseball player stationed at or near third base.
third class **1.** In the U.S. postal system, a classification of mail that includes all miscellaneous printed matter but not newspapers and periodicals legally entered as second class. **2.** A classification of accommodations on some ships and trains, usu. the cheapest and least luxurious available. — **third-class** (thûrd′klas, -kläs) *adj.* & *adv.*
third degree **1.** *Informal* Severe or brutal examination of a prisoner by the police for the purpose of securing information. **2.** The third stage, order, step, etc., of something.
third estate The third political class of a kingdom, following the nobility and the clergy.
third rail A rail that supplies current to the trains of an electric railway. — **third-rail** (thûrd′rāl′) *adj.*
third-rate (thûrd′rāt′) *adj.* **1.** Of the third rate or class. **2.** Of poor quality; very inferior.
thirst (thûrst) *n.* **1.** An uncomfortable feeling of dryness in the throat and mouth, accompanied by an increasingly urgent desire for liquids. **2.** The physiological condition that produces this feeling. **3.** Any longing or craving. — *v.i.* **1.** To be thirsty. **2.** To have an eager desire or craving. [OE *thurst, thyrstan*] — **thirst′er** *n.*
thirst·y (thûrs′tē) *adj.* **thirst·i·er, thirst·i·est** **1.** Affected with thirst. **2.** Lacking moisture; arid; parched. **3.** Eagerly desirous. **4.** *Informal* Causing thirst. [OE *thurstig*] — **thirst′i·ly** *adv.* — **thirst′i·ness** *n.*
thir·teen (thûr′tēn′) *n.* **1.** The sum of twelve and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 13, xiii, XIII. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing thirteen units. — *adj.* Being one more than twelve. [OE *thrēotīne*] — **thir′teenth′** *adj.* & *n.*
thir·ty (thûr′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The sum of twenty and ten: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 30, xxx, XXX. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing thirty units. — *adj.* Being ten more than twenty. [OE *thrītig*] — **thir′ti·eth** *adj.* & *n.*
thir·ty-sec·ond (thûr′tē·sek′ənd) *adj.* **1.** Being the second after the thirtieth. **2.** Being one of thirty-two equal parts. — *n.* A thirty-second note.
thirty-second note *Music* A note having a time value, equal to one thirty-second of a whole note: also, *Chiefly Brit., demisemiquaver.*
thir·ty-two·mo (thûr′tē·to͞o′mō) *n. pl.* **·mos** **1.** The page size (3½ x 4¾ inches) of a book made up of printer's sheets folded into thirty-two leaves. **2.** A book consisting of pages of this size. Also written **32mo** — *adj.* Consisting of pages of this size.
Thirty Years' War See table for WAR.

this (thĭs) *pl. for adj. and pron. def. 2* **these** (thēz) *adj.* **1.** That is near or present, either actually or in thought: *This* house is for sale; I shall be there *this* evening. **2.** That is understood or has just been mentioned: *This* offense justified my revenge. **3.** Denoting something nearer than or contrasted with something else: distinguished from *that*: *This* tree is still alive, but that one is dead. **4.** These: used of a number or collection considered as a whole: He has been dead *this* ten years. — *pron.* **1.** The person or thing near or present, being understood or just mentioned: *This* is where I live. **2.** The person or thing nearer than or contrasted with something else: opposed to *that*: *This* is a better painting than that. **3.** The idea, statement, etc., about to be made clear: I will say *this*: he is a hard worker. — *adv.* To this degree: I was not expecting you *this* soon. [OE]

this·tle (thĭs′əl) *n.* **1.** One of various prickly plants of the composite family, with cylindrical or globular heads of purple flowers; esp., the **bull thistle**, the national emblem of Scotland. **2.** Any of several other prickly plants. [OE *thistel*] — **this′tly** *adj.*

this·tle·down (thĭs′əl·doun′) *n.* The ripe silky fibers from the dry flower of a thistle.

thith·er (thĭth′ər, thĭth′-) *adv.* To or toward that place; in that direction. — *adj.* Situated or being on the other side; farther: the *thither* bank of the river. [OE *thider*]

thith·er·to (thĭth′ər·to͞o′, thĭth′-) *adv.* Up to that time.

thith·er·ward (thĭth′ər·wərd, thĭth′-) *adv.* In that direction; toward that place. Also **thith′er·wards.**

tho (thō) See THOUGH.

thole (thōl) *n. Naut.* A peg or pair of pegs serving as a fulcrum for an oar in rowing. Also **thole pin.** [OE *thol* pin]

Thom·as (tom′əs) One of the twelve apostles, known for his doubting disposition: called **Saint Thomas.** Also *Didymus. John* xx 25.

Tho·mism (tō′miz·əm, thō′-) *n.* The system of dogmatic theology of St. Thomas Aquinas and his followers that formed the basis of 13th-century scholasticism. — **Tho′·mist** *adj. & n.* — **Tho·mis′tic** or **·ti·cal** *adj.*

Thomp·son submachine gun (tomp′sən) A type of .45 caliber submachine gun: a trade name: also called *Tommy gun.*

thong (thông, thong) *n.* **1.** A narrow strip of leather, as for tying or fastening. **2.** A whiplash. [OE *thwang*]

Thor (thôr, tôr) In Norse mythology, the god of war, thunder, and strength. — *n.* An intermediate range, liquid-fueled ballistic missile of the U.S. Air Force.

tho·rac·ic (thō·ras′ik, thō-) *adj.* Of, relating to, or situated in or near the thorax. [< F < NL < Gk. *thōrax* chest]

thoraco- *combining form Med. & Surg.* The thorax or the chest; of or related to the thorax. Also, before vowels, **thorac-.** [< Gk. *thōrax* chest]

tho·rax (thôr′aks, thō′raks) *n. pl.* **tho·rax·es** or **tho·ra·ces** (thôr′ə·sēz, thō′rə-) **1.** *Anat.* The part of the body between the neck and the abdomen, enclosed by the ribs and containing the lungs, heart, etc.; the chest. **2.** The corresponding part in other animals. **3.** *Entomol.* The middle region of the body of an insect. [< L < Gk. *thōrax*]

tho·ri·um (thôr′ē·əm, thō′rē-) *n.* A gray, radioactive, metallic element (symbol Th), found only in small quantities in certain rare minerals. See ELEMENT. [after *Thor*]

thorn (thôrn) *n.* **1.** A hard, leafless spine or sharp-pointed process from a branch. **2.** One of various other sharp processes, as the spine of a porcupine. **3.** Any of various thorn-bearing shrubs or trees; esp., a rosaceous plant, as the hawthorn. **4.** Anything or anyone that causes discomfort, pain, or annoyance. **5.** The name of the Old English rune *þ*; also, the corresponding Icelandic character. It was used originally to represent both voiceless and voiced *th*, as in *thin, then*, but finally only the voiceless sound. — *v.t.* To pierce or prick with a thorn. [OE] — **thorn′less** *adj.*

thorn apple **1.** The jimsonweed. **2.** The fruit of the hawthorn; a haw.

thorn·y (thôr′nē) *adj.* **thorn·i·er, thorn·i·est** **1.** Full of thorns; spiny. **2.** Sharp like a thorn. **3.** Presenting difficulties or trials; painful; vexatious. — **thorn′i·ness** *n.*

tho·ron (thôr′on, thō′ron) *n.* A gaseous, radioactive isotope of radon, produced during the disintegration of thorium. [< NL < THOR(IUM) + -ON]

thor·ough (thûr′ō) *adj.* **1.** Carried to completion; thoroughgoing: a *thorough* search; also, persevering, accurate, and painstaking: a very *thorough* worker. **2.** Marked by careful attention throughout; complete. **3.** Completely (such and such); through and through: a *thorough* nincompoop. **4.** Painstakingly conforming to a standard. **5.** *Rare* Going or passing through. — *adv. & prep. Obs.* Through. Also *Rare* **thor′o.** [Emphatic var. of THROUGH] — **thor′·ough·ly** *adv.* — **thor′ough·ness** *n.*

thor·ough·bred (thûr′ō·bred′, thûr′ə-) *n.* **1.** Pure and unmixed stock. **2.** *Informal* A person of culture and good breeding. — *adj.* **1.** Bred from pure stock. **2.** Possessing the traits of a thoroughbred; elegant; graceful.

thor·ough·fare (thûr′ō·fâr′, thûr′ə-) *n.* A road or street through which the public has unobstructed passage; highway. [ME < OE *thurh* through + *faru* going]

thor·ough·go·ing (thûr′ō·gō′ing, thûr′ə-) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by extreme thoroughness or efficiency. **2.** Unmitigated: a *thoroughgoing* scoundrel.

those (thōz) *adj. & pron.* Plural of THAT. [OE *thās*, pl. of *this*]

thou (thou) *pron., possessive* **thy** or **thine,** *objective* **thee**; *pl. nominative* **you, ye,** *possessive* **your** or **yours,** *objective* **you, ye** *Archaic* The nominative singular pronoun of the second person: formerly a familiar form, it has been replaced by the more formal singular *you*, and is no longer used except in religious, elevated, or poetic language. [OE *thū*]

though (thō) *conj.* **1.** Notwithstanding the fact that: introducing a clause expressing an actual fact. **2.** Conceding or granting that; even if. **3.** And yet; still; however: introducing a modifying clause or statement: I am well, *though* I do not feel very strong. **4.** Notwithstanding what has been done or said; nevertheless. ◆ As used in this sense, *though* is sometimes regarded as a conjunctive adverb. Also spelled *tho.* [Prob. fusion of OE *thēah* and ON *thō*]

thought[1] (thôt) *n.* **1.** The act or process of using the mind actively and deliberately; meditation; cogitation. **2.** The product of thinking; an idea, concept, judgment, etc. **3.** Intellectual activity of a specific kind: Greek *thought.* **4.** Consideration; attention. **5.** Intention or plan: All *thought* of returning was abandoned. **6.** Expectation: He had no *thought* of finding her there. — **Syn.** See IDEA. [OE *thōht*]

thought[2] (thôt) Past tense and past participle of THINK.

thought·ful (thôt′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Full of thought; meditative. **2.** Showing, characterized by, or promotive of thought: a *thoughtful* book. **3.** Attentive; careful; esp., considerate of others. — **thought′ful·ly** *adv.* — **thought′ful·ness** *n.*

thought·less (thôt′lis) *adj.* **1.** Manifesting lack of thought or care; heedless. **2.** Lacking capacity for thought; stupid. — **thought′less·ly** *adv.* — **thought′less·ness** *n.*

thou·sand (thou′zənd) *n.* The product of ten and a hundred; ten hundreds, written as 1,000 or M: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a thousand in number. [OE *thūsend*] — **thou′sandth** *adj. & n.*

thou·sand-fold (thou′zənd·fōld′) *n.* An amount or number a thousand times as great as a given unit. — *adv.* So as to be a thousand times as many or as great. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of one thousand parts. **2.** One thousand times as many or as great.

Thra·cian (thrā′shən) *adj.* Pertaining to Thrace or its people. — *n.* **1.** One of the people of Thrace. **2.** The Indo-European language of the ancient Thracians.

thrall (thrôl) *n.* **1.** A person in bondage; a slave; serf. **2.** The condition of bondage; thralldom. [OE *thræl* < ON]

thrall·dom (thrôl′dəm) *n.* **1.** The state of being a thrall. **2.** Any sort of bondage or servitude. Also **thral′dom.**

thrash (thrash) *v.t.* **1.** To beat as if with a flail; flog; whip. **2.** To defeat utterly. — *v.i.* **3.** To move or swing about with flailing, violent motions. — **to thrash out** To discuss fully and to a conclusion. — *n.* The act of thrashing. [Dial. var. of THRESH]

thrash·er[1] (thrash′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which thrashes or threshes. **2.** A thresher (def. 2), a shark.

thrash·er[2] (thrash′ər) *n.* Any of several long-tailed American songbirds resembling the thrushes and related to the mockingbirds. [< dial. E *thresher* < THRUSH[1]]

thrash·ing (thrash′ing) *n.* A sound beating or whipping.

thread (thred) *n.* **1.** A very slender cord composed of two or more filaments, as of flax, cotton, or silk, twisted together; also, such twisted fibers used in sewing. **2.** A filament of any ductile substance, as of metal, glass, etc. **3.** A fine stream or beam: a *thread* of light. **4.** A fine line of color. **5.** Anything conceived of as serving to give sequence to the whole, as the course of existence represented by the ancient Greeks as a thread spun and cut off by the three Fates. **6.** *Mech.* The spiral ridge of a screw. — *v.t.* **1.** To pass a thread through the eye of (a needle). **2.** To arrange or string on a thread, as beads. **3.** To cut a thread on or in, as a screw. **4.** To make one's way through or over: to *thread* a maze. **5.** To make (one's way) carefully. — *v.i.* **6.** To make one's way carefully. **7.** To drop from a spoon in a fine thread, as boiling syrup. [OE *thræd*] — **thread′er** *n.*

thread·bare (thred′bâr′) *adj.* **1.** Worn so that the threads show, as a rug or garment. **2.** Clad in worn garments. **3.** Commonplace; hackneyed. — **thread′bare′ness** *n.*

thread·y (thred′ē) *adj.* **thread·i·er, thread·i·est** **1.** Resembling a thread; stringy. **2.** Consisting of, containing, or covered with thread. **3.** *Med.* Weak and feeble: said of the pulse. **4.** Weak and thin like a thread: a *thready* voice.

threat (thret) *n.* **1.** A declaration of an intention to inflict injury or pain. **2.** An indication of impending danger or harm. **3.** A person or thing regarded as endangering the lives, peace of mind, etc., of others; menace. [OE *thrēat*]

threat·en (thret′n) *v.t.* **1.** To utter threats against. **2.** To be menacing or dangerous to. **3.** To be ominous or porten-

tous of. **4.** To utter threats of (injury, vengeance, etc.). — *v.i.* **5.** To utter threats. **6.** To have a menacing aspect; lower: The rising waters seemed to *threaten*. [OE *thrēatnian* to urge, compel] — **threat′en·er** *n.* — **threat′en·ing·ly** *adv.*

three (thrē) *n.* **1.** The sum of two and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 3, iii, III. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing three units. — *adj.* Being one more than two; ternary. [OE *thrīe*]

three-base hit (thrē′bās′) In baseball, a base hit that enables the batter to reach third base; a triple.

three-D (thrē′dē′) *adj.* Three-dimensional. — *n.* A three-dimensional representation; esp., a motion picture that gives the illusion of depth. Often written **3-D.**

three-deck·er (thrē′dek′ər) *n.* **1.** A vessel having three decks or gun decks. **2.** Any structure having three levels. **3.** A sandwich made with three slices of bread.

three-fold (thrē′fōld′) *n.* An amount or number three times as great as a given unit. — *adv.* So as to be three times as many or as great. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of three parts. **2.** Three times as many or as great.

three-mile limit (thrē′mīl′) A distance of three nautical miles from the shoreline seaward, allowed by international law for territorial jurisdiction.

three·pence (thrip′əns, threp′-, thrup′-) *n. Brit.* **1.** The sum of three pennies. **2.** A small coin of Great Britain, worth three pennies: also **threepenny bit.**

three-pen·ny (thrip′ə·nē, threp′-, thrup′-, thrē′pen′ē) *adj. Brit.* **1.** Worth or costing threepence. **2.** Of little value.

three-ply (thrē′plī′) *adj.* Consisting of three thicknesses, strands, layers, etc.

three-point landing (thrē′point′) **1.** *Aeron.* A perfect airplane landing. **2.** Any successful outcome.

three-ring circus (thrē′ring′) **1.** A circus in which separate acts are carried on simultaneously in three ringlike enclosures. **2.** Any situation characterized by simultaneous activities, esp. of bewildering variety.

three·score (thrē′skôr′, -skōr′) *adj. & n.* Sixty.

three·some (thrē′səm) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of three. **2.** Performed by three. — *n.* **1.** A group of three persons. **2.** That which is played by three persons.

three-square (thrē′skwâr′) *adj.* Having a triangular cross section, as some files.

threm·ma·tol·ogy (threm′ə·tol′ə·jē) *n.* The science of breeding domestic animals and plants. [< Gk. *thremma*, *-matos* nursling + -LOGY]

thren·o·dy (thren′ə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** An ode or song of lamentation; a dirge. Also **thren′ode** (-ōd). [< Gk. < *thrēnos* lament + *ōidē* song] — **thre·no·di·al** (thri·nō′dē·əl), **thre·nod·ic** (thri·nod′ik) *adj.* — **thren′o·dist** *n.*

thresh (thresh) *v.t.* **1.** To beat stalks of (ripened grain) with a flail or machine so as to separate the grain from the straw or husks. — *v.i.* **2.** To thresh grain. **3.** To move or thrash about. — *n.* The act of threshing. [OE *therscan*]

thresh·er (thresh′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which threshes; esp., a machine for threshing. **2.** A large shark of warm seas, having the dorsal lobe of the tail extremely long: also **thresher shark.**

thresh·old (thresh′ōld, -hōld, -əld) *n.* **1.** The plank, timber, or stone lying under the door of a building. **2.** The entrance, entering point, or beginning of anything. **3.** *Physiol. & Psychol.* **a** The point at which a stimulus just produces a response. **b** The minimum degree of stimulation necessary for conscious perception: the *threshold* of consciousness. [OE *therscold*]

threw (thrōō) Past tense of THROW.

thrice (thrīs) *adv.* **1.** Three times. **2.** In a threefold manner. **3.** Extremely; very. [ME < OE *thriwa* + -s²]

thrift (thrift) *n.* **1.** Care and wisdom in the management of one's resources; frugality. **2.** Vigorous growth, as of a plant. **3.** Any of a genus of tufted herbs, growing on mountains and the seashore and having white or pink flowers. [< ON] — **thrift′less** *adj.*

thrift·y (thrif′tē) *adj.* **thrift·i·er, thrift·i·est** **1.** Displaying thrift or good management; economical; frugal. **2.** Prosperous; thriving. **3.** Growing vigorously. — **thrift′i·ly** *adv.* — **thrift′i·ness** *n.*

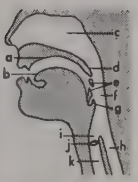
thrill (thril) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to feel a sudden wave of emotion; move to great or tingling excitement. **2.** To cause to vibrate or tremble. — *v.i.* **3.** To feel a sudden wave of emotion or excitement. **4.** To vibrate or tremble. — *n.* **1.** A tremor of feeling or excitement. **2.** A pulsation. [Var. of dial. *thirl*] — **thrill′ing** *adj.* — **thrill′ing·ly** *adv.*

thrill·er (thril′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which thrills. **2.** *Informal* A sensational book, play, or motion picture.

thrive (thrīv) *v.i.* **throve** (thrōv) or **thrived, thrived** or **thriv·en** (thriv′ən), **thriv·ing** **1.** To prosper; be successful. **2.** To grow with vigor; flourish. [< ON *thrīfast*, orig. reflexive of *thrīfa* to grasp] — **thriv′er** *n.* — **thriv′ing·ly** *adv.*

thro (thrōō) See THROUGH. Also **thro'.**

throat (thrōt) *n.* **1.** The passage leading from the back of the mouth to the stomach and lungs. **2.** The front of the neck, extending from below the chin to the collarbones. **3.** Any narrow passage resembling the throat, as the entrance to a chimney. — **to jump down one's throat** *Informal* To criticize or berate one severely. — **to ram (something) down one's throat** *Informal* To force one to accept or hear something against his will. — **to stick in one's throat** To be difficult to utter, as from unwillingness or fear. [OE *throte*]



HUMAN THROAT
a Palate. *b* Tongue. *c* Nasal cavity. *d* Uvula. *e* Tonsils. *f* Pharynx. *g* Epiglottis. *h* Esophagus. *i* Larynx. *j* Vocal cords. *k* Trachea.

throat·y (thrō′tē) *adj.* **throat·i·er, throat·i·est** Uttered in the throat; guttural. — **throat′i·ly** *adv.* — **throat′i·ness** *n.*

throb (throb) *v.i.* **throbbed, throb·bing** **1.** To beat rapidly or violently, as the heart from exertion or excitement. **2.** To pulsate. **3.** To feel or show great emotion. — *n.* **1.** The act or state of throbbing. **2.** A pulsation or beat, esp. one caused by excitement or emotion. [? Imit.] — **throb′ber** *n.* — **throb′bing·ly** *adv.*

throe (thrō) *n.* **1.** A violent pang or pain. **2.** *pl.* The pains of childbirth or of death. **3.** *pl.* Any agonizing or violent activity. [ME *throwe*, prob. fusion of OE *thrōwian* to suffer and *thrāwan* to twist, throw]

throm·bin (throm′bin) *n. Biochem.* The enzyme present in blood serum that reacts with fibrinogen to form fibrin in the process of clotting. [< THROMBUS]

throm·bo·cyte (throm′bə·sīt) *n.* A blood platelet. [< Gk. *thrombos* clot + -CYTE]

throm·bo·sis (throm·bō′sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (sēz) *Pathol.* Local coagulation of blood in the heart or blood vessels, forming an obstruction to circulation. — **throm·bot′ic** (-bot′ik) *adj.*

throm·bus (throm′bəs) *n. pl.* **·bi** (-bī) *Pathol.* The blood clot formed in thrombosis. [< NL < Gk. *thrombos* clot]

throne (thrōn) *n.* **1.** The royal chair occupied by a sovereign on state occasions. **2.** The chair of state of a pope or of some other dignitary, as a cardinal, bishop, etc. **3.** Royal estate or dignity; sovereign power. **4.** One who occupies a throne. — *v.t. & v.i.* **throned, thron·ing** To place or sit on a throne; exalt. [< OF < L < Gk. *thronos* seat]

throng (thrông, throng) *n.* **1.** A multitude of people crowded closely together. **2.** Any numerous collection. — *v.t.* **1.** To crowd into; jam. **2.** To press or crowd upon. — *v.i.* **3.** To collect or move in a throng. [OE *gethrang*]

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** crowd, concourse, mob, host, horde, press.

thros·tle (thros′əl) *n.* The song thrush. [OE]

throt·tle (throt′l) *n. Mech.* **a** A valve controlling the supply of steam to a steam engine, or of vaporized fuel to the cylinders of an internal-combustion engine: also **throttle valve. b** The lever that operates the throttle: also **throttle lever.** — *v.t.* **·tled, ·tling** **1.** To press or constrict the throat of; strangle; choke. **2.** To silence, stop, or suppress by or as by choking. **3.** *Mech.* **a** To reduce or shut off the flow of steam or fuel (in a steam or internal-combustion engine). **b** To reduce the speed of by means of a throttle. — *v.i.* **4.** To choke. [Dim. of ME *throte*] — **throt′tler** *n.*

through (thrōō) *prep.* **1.** Into one side, end, or point, and out of the other. **2.** Covering, entering, or penetrating all parts of; throughout. **3.** From the first to the last of; during the time or period of. **4.** In the midst of; among. **5.** By way of: He departed *through* the door. **6.** By means of; by the instrumentality or aid of. **7.** Having reached the end of, esp. with success: He got *through* his examinations easily. **8.** On account of; because or as a result of. — *adv.* **1.** From one end, side, surface, etc., to or beyond another. **2.** From beginning to end. **3.** To a termination or conclusion, esp. a successful one: to pull *through*. **4.** Completely; entirely: He is wet *through*. — **through and through** Thoroughly. — *adj.* **1.** Going from beginning to end without stops or with very few stops: a *through* train. **2.** Extending from one side or surface to another. **3.** Unobstructed; open; clear: a *through* road. **4.** Arrived at an end; finished. **5.** At the end of all relations or dealings: He is *through* with school. Also spelled *thro*, *thru*. [OE *thurh*]

through·out (thrōō·out′) *adv.* Through or in every part: The house was searched *throughout*. — *prep.* All through; everywhere in: *throughout* the nation.

through·way (thrōō′wā′) See THRUWAY.

throve (thrōv) Past tense of THRIVE.

throw (thrō) *v.* **threw** (thrōō), **thrown, throw·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To launch through the air by means of a sudden straightening or whirling of the arm. **2.** To propel or hurl. **3.** To put hastily or carelessly: He *threw* a coat over his shoulders. **4.**

To direct or project (light, a glance, etc.). **5.** To bring to a specified condition or state by or as by throwing: to *throw* the enemy into a panic. **6.** To cause to fall; overthrow: The horse *threw* its rider. **7.** In wrestling, to force the shoulders of (an opponent) to the ground. **8.** To cast (dice). **9.** To make (a specified cast) with dice. **10.** To cast off or shed; lose. **11.** *Informal* To lose purposely, as a race, contest, etc., in accordance with a prearranged plan. **12.** To give birth to (young): said of domestic animals. **13.** To move, as a lever or switch, in connecting or disconnecting a circuit, mechanism, etc. **14.** *Slang* To give (a party, etc.). **15.** In card games, to play or discard. **16.** In ceramics, to shape on a potter's wheel. **17.** To spin (filaments, as of silk) into thread. — *v.i.* **18.** To cast or fling something. — **to throw away** **1.** To discard. **2.** To waste; squander. — **to throw back** **1.** To return by throwing. **2.** To revert to ancestral characteristics. — **to throw cold water on** To discourage. — **to throw in** **1.** To cause (gears or a clutch) to mesh or engage. **2.** To contribute; add. **3.** To join with others. — **to throw in the towel** (or **sponge**) *Slang* To accept defeat; surrender. — **to throw off** **1.** To cast aside; reject; spurn. **2.** To rid oneself of. **3.** To do or utter in an offhand manner. **4.** To disconnect, as a machine. — **to throw oneself at** To strive to gain the affections or love of. — **to throw oneself into** To engage or take part in vigorously. — **to throw oneself on** (or **upon**) To entrust oneself to; rely on. — **to throw open** **1.** To open suddenly or completely, as a door. **2.** To free from restrictions or obstacles. — **to throw the book at** *Slang* **1.** To sentence to the maximum penalty. **2.** To reprimand or castigate severely. — **to throw out** **1.** To put forth; emit. **2.** To cast out or aside; discard; reject. **3.** To utter as if accidentally: to *throw out* hints. **4.** In baseball, to retire (a runner) by throwing the ball to the base toward which he is advancing. — **to throw over** **1.** To overturn. **2.** To discard. — **to throw (something) up to (someone)** *Informal* To mention or repeat as a reproach. — **to throw together** To put together hastily or roughly. — **to throw up** **1.** To construct hastily. **2.** To give up; relinquish. **3.** To vomit. — *n.* **1.** An act of throwing or hurling; a fling. **2.** The distance over which a missile may be thrown: a stone's *throw*. **3.** A cast of dice, or the resulting number. **4.** *Mech.* The radius of the circle described by a crank, cam, or the like. **5.** A scarf used for draping an easel or picture frame; also, a woman's scarf. **6.** *Geol.* **a** A faulting, or dislocation of rock strata. **b** The amount of vertical displacement produced by dislocation of strata. [OE *thrāwan* to turn, twist, curl] — **throw'er** *n.*

throw·a·way (thrō'ə·wā') *n.* A free broadside or leaflet handed out for advertising or propaganda purposes.

throw·back (thrō'bak') *n.* **1.** Reversion to an ancestral type or condition; also, an example of such reversion. **2.** A throwing back.

thru (thrōō) See THROUGH.

thrum[1] (thrum) *v.* **thrummed, thrum·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To play on or finger (a stringed instrument) idly and without expression. **2.** To drum or tap monotonously or listlessly. **3.** To recite or repeat in a droning, monotonous way. — *v.i.* **4.** To thrum a stringed instrument. **5.** To sound when played thus, as a guitar. — *n.* Any monotonous drumming. [Imit.]

thrum[2] (thrum) *n.* **1.** The fringe of warp threads remaining on a loom beam after the web has been cut off; also, one of such threads. **2.** Any loose thread or fringe, or a tuft of filaments or fibers; a tassel. — *v.t.* **thrummed, thrum·ming** **1.** To cover or trim with thrums or similar appendages. **2.** *Naut.* To insert bits of rope yarn in (canvas) to produce a rough surface or mat to be used to prevent chafing. [OE *-thrum* ligament, as in *tungethrum* the ligament of the tongue]

thrush[1] (thrush) *n.* Any of numerous migratory birds having a long and slightly graduated tail, long wings, and spotted underparts, as the hermit thrush, wood thrush, and the song thrush of Europe. ◆ Collateral adjective: *turdine*. [OE *thryscе*]

thrush[2] (thrush) *n.* *Pathol.* A vesicular disease of the mouth, lips, and throat of infants caused by a fungus. [*Cf.* Dan, *trōske*, Sw. *trosk* mouth disease]

thrust (thrust) *v.* **thrust, thrust·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To push or shove with force or sudden impulse. **2.** To pierce or stab, as with a sword or dagger. **3.** To put (a person) forcibly into some condition or situation. **4.** To interpose; put in: to *thrust* in a remark. — *v.i.* **5.** To make a sudden push against something. **6.** To force oneself on or ahead: push one's way: with *through*, *into*, *on*, etc. — *n.* **1.** A sudden, forcible push, esp. with a pointed weapon. **2.** A vigorous attack. **3.** *Archit.* A stress or strain tending to push a member of a structure outward or sidewise: the *thrust* of an arch. **4.** *Mech.* The driving force exerted by a steam engine, motor, propeller, jet engine, etc. **5.** Salient force or meaning: the *thrust* of his remarks. [< ON *thrysta*] — **thrust'er** *n.*

thru·way (thrōō'wā') *n.* *U.S.* A long-distance express highway: also spelled *throughway*.

thud (thud) *n.* **1.** A dull, heavy sound, as of a hard body striking upon a comparatively soft surface. **2.** The blow causing such a sound; a thump. — *v.i.* **thud·ded, thud·ding** To make a thud. [OE *thyddan* to strike, thrust, press]

thug (thug) *n.* **1.** A cutthroat or ruffian. **2.** Formerly, one of an organization of religious, professional assassins in northern India. [< Hind. *thag* < Skt. *sthaga* swindler] — **thug'ger·y** *n.* — **thug'gish** *adj.*

Thu·le (thōō'lē) In ancient geography, the northernmost limit of the habitable world.

thu·li·um (thōō'lē·əm) *n.* A metallic element (symbol Tm) of the erbium group in the lanthanide series. See ELEMENT. [after *Thule*]

thumb (thum) *n.* **1.** The short, thick digit next to the forefinger of the human hand. **2.** The corresponding digit in certain other animals, esp. primates. **3.** The division in a glove or mitten that covers the thumb. — **all thumbs** *Informal* Clumsy with the hands. — **thumbs down** *Informal* No; nix: from a sign used to indicate negation or disapproval. — **under one's thumb** Under one's influence or power. — *v.t.* **1.** To press, rub, soil, or wear with the thumb in handling, as the pages of a book. **2.** To perform clumsily with or as with the thumbs. **3.** To run through the pages of (a book, manuscript, etc.) rapidly and perfunctorily. **4.** *Informal* To solicit (a ride in an automobile) by signaling with the thumb. — *v.i.* **5.** To hitchhike. — **to thumb one's nose** To show defiance or disgust by raising the thumb to the nose with the fingers extended. [OE *thūma*]

thumb-in·dex (thum'in'deks) *v.t.* To provide with a thumb index.

thumb index A series of scalloped indentations cut along the right-hand edge of a book and labeled to indicate its various sections.

thumb-nail (thum'nāl') *n.* **1.** The nail of the thumb. **2.** Anything as small and essentially complete as a thumbnail. — *adj.* Small and essentially complete: a *thumbnail* sketch.

thumb·screw (thum'skrōō') *n.* **1.** A screw to be turned by thumb and fingers. **2.** An instrument of torture for compressing the thumb or thumbs: also **thumb'kin** (-kin).

thumb·tack (thum'tak') *n.* *U.S.* A broad-headed tack that may be pushed in with the thumb.

thump (thump) *n.* **1.** A blow with a blunt or heavy object. **2.** The sound made by such a blow; a dull thud. — *v.t.* **1.** To beat or strike so as to make a heavy thud or thuds. **2.** *Informal* To beat or defeat severely. — *v.i.* **3.** To strike with a thump. **4.** To make a thump or thumps; pound or throb. [Imit.] — **thump'er** *n.*

thump·ing (thum'ping) *adj.* **1.** That thumps. **2.** *Informal* Huge; whopping.

thun·der (thun'dər) *n.* **1.** The sound that accompanies lightning, caused by the sudden heating and expansion of the air along the path of the electrical discharge. **2.** Any loud, rumbling or booming noise, suggestive of thunder. **3.** A denunciation or threat; a vehement utterance. — **to steal one's thunder** To take for one's own use anything popular or effective originated by another: said esp. of an argument. — *v.i.* **1.** To give forth a peal or peals of thunder: used impersonally: It *thunders*. **2.** To make a noise like thunder. **3.** To utter vehement denunciations or threats. — *v.t.* **4.** To utter or express with a noise like or suggestive of thunder. [OE *thunor*] — **thun'der·er** *n.*

thun·der·bolt (thun'dər·bōlt') *n.* **1.** An electric discharge accompanied by a clap of thunder. **2.** An imaginary molten ball or bolt hurled by the lightning flash. **3.** One who or that which acts with or as with the force and speed or destructiveness of lightning.

thun·der·clap (thun'dər·klap') *n.* **1.** A sharp, violent detonation of thunder. **2.** Anything having the violence or suddenness of a clap of thunder.

thun·der·cloud (thun'dər·kloud') *n.* A dark, heavy mass of cloud highly charged with electricity.

thun·der·head (thun'dər·hed') *n.* *Meteorol.* A rounded mass of cumulus cloud, either silvery white or dark with silvery edges, often developing into a thundercloud.

thun·der·ing (thun'dər·ing) *adj.* **1.** Giving forth, or accompanied by, thunder. **2.** Resembling thunder in force or effect; extremely violent. **3.** *Informal* Unusually great or extreme; superlative. — **thun'der·ing·ly** *adv.*

thun·der·ous (thun'dər·əs) *adj.* Producing a noise like thunder. Also **thun'drous** (-drəs). — **thun'der·ous·ly** *adv.*

thun·der·peal (thun'dər·pēl') *n.* A clap of thunder.

thun·der·show·er (thun'dər·shou'ər) *n.* A shower of rain with thunder and lightning.

thun·der·storm (thun'dər·stôrm') *n.* A local storm accompanied by lightning and thunder.

thun·der·struck (thun'dər·struk') *adj.* **1.** Struck by lightning. **2.** Amazed, astonished, or confounded, as with fear, surprise, etc. Also **thun'der·strick'en** (-strik'ən).

thun·der·y (thun'dər·ē) *adj.* *Informal* **1.** Indicative of or accompanied by thunder. **2.** Ominous.

thu·ri·ble (thōōr'ə·bəl, thûr'-) *n.* A censer. [< L < *thus*, *thuris* frankincense]

Thu·rin·gi·an (thŏŏ·rin′jē·ən) *adj. Geol.* Denoting the upper division of the Permian in Europe. — *n.* One of a Teutonic tribe occupying central Germany until the sixth century.

Thurs·day (thûrz′dē, -dā) *n.* The fifth day of the week. [Fusion of OE *Thunres dæg* day of Thunor and ON *Thórsdagr* day of Thor; trans. of LL *dies Jovis* day of Jove]

thus (ŧhus) *adv.* **1.** In this, that, or the following way of manner. **2.** To such degree or extent; so: *thus* far. **3.** In these circumstances or conditions; therefore. [OE]

thwack (thwak) *v.t.* To strike with something flat; whack. — *n.* A blow with a flat or blunt instrument. [Prob. OE *thaccian* to smack; infl. in form by *whack*] — **thwack′er** *n.*

thwart (thwôrt) *v.t.* To prevent the accomplishment of, as by interposing an obstacle; also, to prevent (one) from accomplishing something; foil; frustrate; balk. — *n.* **1.** An oarsman's seat extending across a boat. **2.** A crosspiece or transverse member in a boat. — *adj.* Lying, moving, or extending across something; transverse. — *adv. & prep.* Athwart; across. [< ON *thvert*, neut. of *thverr* transverse] — **thwart′er** *n.*

thy (ŧhī) *pronominal adj. Archaic* The possessive case of the pronoun *thou*, used attributively: *Thy* kingdom come. [Apocopated var. of THINE]

thyme (tīm) *n.* Any of various small shrubby plants of the mint family, having aromatic leaves and used in cookery. [< F < L < Gk. *thymon*] — **thym′y** *adj.*

thym·ic[1] (tī′mik) *adj.* Pertaining to or derived from thyme.

thy·mic[2] (thī′mik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or derived from the thymus.

thy·mus (thī′məs) *n. Anat.* A glandular organ of man and some other vertebrates, found behind the top of the breastbone. [< NL < Gk. *thymos*]

thyro- *combining form Med. & Surg.* The thyroid; of or related to the thyroid. Also, before vowels, **thyr-**. Also **thyreo-**. [< Gk. *thyreoeidēs* thyroid]

thy·roid (thī′roid) *adj. Physiol.* Relating or pertaining to the thyroid cartilage or the thyroid gland. — *n.* **1.** The thyroid cartilage or gland. **2.** The dried and powdered thyroid gland of certain domesticated food animals, used in the treatment of hypothyroid disorders. [< Gk. < *thyreos* large shield + *eidos* form]

thyroid cartilage *Anat.* The largest cartilage of the larynx, composed of two blades whose juncture in front forms the Adam's apple.

thyroid gland *Anat.* An endocrine gland situated in front of and on each side of the trachea, and secreting thyroxin, important in the regulation of metabolism and body growth.

thy·rox·in (thī·rok′sin) *n. Biochem.* An odorless, crystalline amino acid, $C_{15}H_{11}O_4NI_4$, obtained as the hormone of the thyroid gland and also made synthetically, used to treat thyroid disorders. Also **thy·rox′ine** (-sēn, -sin). [< THYR(O)- + OX(Y)- + -IN] — **thy·rox·in·ic** (thī′rok·sin′ik) *adj.*

thyr·soid (thûr′soid) *adj. Bot.* Resembling or shaped like a thyrsus. Also **thyr·soi·dal** (thûr·soid′l).

thyr·sus (thûr′səs) *n. pl.* **·si** (-sī) A staff wreathed in ivy and crowned with a pine cone or a bunch of ivy leaves, as carried by Dionysus and the satyrs. [< L < Gk. *thyrsos*]

thy·self (ŧhī·self′) *pron. Archaic* A form of the second person singular pronouns *thee* and *thou*, used: **1.** As a reflexive: Know *thyself*. **2.** As an emphatic or intensive form: I love thee for *thyself*.

ti (tē) *n. Music* In solmization, a syllable representing the seventh tone of the diatonic scale. [See GAMUT]

ti·ar·a (tī·ăr′ə, tē·ăr′ə, -ar′ə) *n.* **1.** The pope's triple crown; also, the papal dignity. Compare MITER. **2.** An ornamental, semicircular band of jewels, etc., worn by women for formal occasions. [< L < Gk. *tiara* Persian headdress]

Ti·bet·an (ti·bet′n) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Tibet, the Tibetans, or to their language, religion, or customs. — *n.* **1.** One of the native Mongoloid people of Tibet, now intermixed with Chinese and various peoples of India. **2.** The Sino-Tibetan language of Tibet. Also *Thibetan*.

tib·i·a (tib′ē·ə) *n. pl.* **tib·i·ae** (tib′ē·ē) or **tib·i·as** **1.** *Anat.* The inner and larger of the two bones of the leg below the knee; the shin bone. **2.** The corresponding bone in the hind limb of other animals. [< L] — **tib′i·al** *adj.*

tic (tik) *n.* An involuntary spasm or twitching of muscles, usu. of the face and sometimes of neurotic origin. [< F]

tick[1] (tik) *n.* **1.** A light, recurring sound made by a watch, clock, or similar mechanism. **2.** A mark, as a dot or dash, used in checking off something. — *v.i.* **1.** To make a recurrent clicking sound, as a running watch or clock. — *v.t.* **2.** To mark or check with ticks. [Prob. imit.]

tick[2] (tik) *n.* **1.** One of numerous flat, bloodsucking arachnids that attack the skin of man and other animals. **2.** Any of certain two-winged or wingless insects, parasitic on sheep, horses, cattle, bats, and other animals. [OE *ticia*]

tick[3] (tik) *n.* **1.** The stout outer covering of a mattress or pillow. **2.** *Informal* Ticking. [Earlier *teke*, *tyke*, ult. < L < Gk. *thēke* case]

tick[4] (tik) *n. Brit. Informal* Credit; trust: to buy something on *tick*. [Short for TICKET]

tick·er (tik′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which ticks. **2.** A telegraphic instrument that records stock quotations on a paper ribbon. **3.** *Slang* A watch. **4.** *Slang* The heart.

ticker tape A paper ribbon that receives the printed information on a ticker. — **tick·er-tape** (tik′ər·tāp′) *adj.*

tick·et (tik′it) *n.* **1.** A card showing that the holder is entitled to something, as transportation in a public vehicle, admission to a theater, etc. **2.** A label or tag for attachment or identification. **3.** A certificate or license, as of an airplane pilot or the captain of a ship. **4.** In politics: **a** A list of candidates of a single party on a ballot. **b** The group of candidates running for the offices of a party. **5.** *Informal* A legal summons, as for a traffic violation. — *v.t.* **1.** To fix a ticket to; label. **2.** To present or furnish with a ticket or tickets. [< MF < OF < *estiquer* to stick < OLG *stekan*]

ticket of leave Formerly, in Great Britain and Australia, a written permit granted to a penal convict to be at large before the expiration of his sentence.

tick·ing (tik′ing) *n.* A strong, closely woven cotton or linen fabric, used for ticks, awnings, etc. [< TICK[3] + -ING[1]]

tick·le (tik′əl) *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To touch or scratch (someone) so as to produce a sensation resulting in spasmodic laughter or twitching; titillate. **2.** To arouse or excite agreeably; please: Compliments *tickle* our vanity. **3.** *Informal* To amuse or entertain; delight. **4.** To move, stir, or get by or as by tickling. — *v.i.* **5.** To have or experience a thrilling or tingling sensation. — *n.* **1.** The act of tickling or of being tickled; also the sensation produced. **2.** *Canadian* In Newfoundland, a narrow strait. [ME *tikelen*]

tick·ler (tik′lər) *n.* One who or that which tickles. **2.** A memorandum book or file, as of bills or notes due, etc.

tick·lish (tik′lish) *adj.* **1.** Sensitive to tickling. **2.** Liable to be upset or easily offended. **3.** Attended with risk; difficult; delicate. — **tick′lish·ly** *adv.* — **tick′lish·ness** *n.*

tick-tack-toe (tik′tak·tō′) *n.* A game for two players who alternately put circles or crosses in the spaces of a figure formed by two parallel lines crossing at right angles two other parallel lines, each player trying to get a row of three circles or three crosses before his opponent does: also called *tit-tat-toe*. Also **tick′tack·too′** (-tōō′), **tic′tac·toe′** (-tō′).

tick·tock (tik′tok′) *n.* The sound of a clock or watch. — *v.i.* To make this sound. [Imit.]

tid·al (tīd′l) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or influenced by the tides. **2.** Dependent on the rise of the tide as to time of starting or leaving: a *tidal* steamship.

tidal wave **1.** Any great incoming rise of waters along a shore, caused by windstorms at sea or by excessively high tides. **2.** A great movement in popular feeling, opinion, action, etc. **3.** A tsunami.

tid·bit (tid′bit′) *n.* A choice bit, as of food. Also, *Brit.*, *titbit*. [< dial. E *tid* small object + BIT[1]]

tid·dly·winks (tid′lē·wingks′) *n.* A game in which the players attempt to snap little disks of bone, ivory, or the like, from a plane surface into a cup. Also **tid·dle·dy·winks** (tid′l·dē·wingks′). [Prob. < *tiddly* child's word for *little*]

tide (tīd) *n.* **1.** The periodic rise and fall of the surface waters of the oceans, caused by the attraction of moon and sun. In each lunar day of 24 hours and 51 minutes there are two high tides and two low tides, alternating at equal intervals of flood and ebb. **2.** Anything that rises and falls like the tide; also, the time at which something is most flourishing. **3.** A natural drift or tendency of events, opinions, etc. **4.** Season; time; esp., a season of the ecclesiastical year: used chiefly in combination: *Christmastide*. — *v.* **tid·ed, tid·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To ebb and flow like the tide. **2.** To float with the tide. — *v.t.* **3.** To carry or help like a boat buoyed up by the tide: Charity *tided* us over the depression. **4.** To survive; endure, as a difficulty: with *over*: to *tide* over hard times. [OE *tīd* period, season] — **tide′less** *adj.*

tide·land (tīd′land′) *n.* Land alternately covered and uncovered by the tide.

tide·rip (tīd′rip′) *n.* Riptide. [< TIDE[1] + RIP[2]]

tide·wait·er (tīd′wā′tər) *n.* A customs officer who boards vessels entering port, to enforce customs regulations.

tide·wa·ter (tīd′wô′tər, -wot′ər) *n.* **1.** Water that inundates land at high tide. **2.** Water affected by the tide on the seacoast or in a river. **3.** Any area, as a seacoast, whose waters are affected by tides. — *adj.* Pertaining to the tidewater; also, situated on the seacoast: the *tidewater* country.

ti·dings (tī′dingz) *n.pl.* (*sometimes construed as sing.*) A report or information; news. [OE *tīdung*]

ti·dy (tī′dē) *adj.* **·di·er, ·di·est** **1.** Marked by neatness and order; trim. **2.** Of an orderly disposition. **3.** *Informal*

Moderately large; considerable: a *tidy* sum. **4.** *Informal* Tolerable; fairly good. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·died, ·dy·ing** To make (things) tidy; put (things) in order. — *n. pl.* **·dies** A light, detachable covering, as of lace or embroidery, to protect the back or arms of a chair or sofa. [ME < OE *tid* time] — **ti′di·ly** *adv.* — **ti′di·ness** *n.*

tie (tī) *v.* **tied, ty·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To fasten with cord, rope, etc., the ends of which are then drawn into a knot. **2.** To draw the parts of together or into place by a cord or band fastened with a knot: to *tie* one's shoes. **3.** To form (a knot). **4.** To form a knot in, as string. **5.** To fasten, attach, or join in any way. **6.** To restrain or confine; bind. **7.** In sports, games, etc.: **a** To equal (a competitor) in score or achievement. **b** To equal (a competitor's score). **8.** *Informal* To unite in marriage. **9.** *Music* To unite by a tie. — *v.i.* **10.** To make a tie or connection. **11.** To make the same score; be equal. — **to tie down** To hinder; restrict. — **to tie in** *Informal* To have a certain relationship or connection; often with *with*. — **to tie (something) in** *Informal* To bring into a certain relationship or connection. — **to tie up** **1.** To fasten with rope, string, etc. **2.** To moor (a vessel). **3.** To block; hinder. **4.** To have or be already committed, in use, etc., so as to be unavailable. — *n.* **1.** A string, cord, etc., with which something is tied. **2.** Any bond or obligation, mental, moral, or legal: *ties* of affection. **3.** An exact equality in number, as of a score, votes, etc.; esp., a contest which neither side wins; a draw. **4.** A necktie. **5.** A structural member fastening parts of a framework together and receiving tensile stress. **6.** *Music* A curved line placed over or under two musical notes of the same pitch on the staff to make them represent one tone length. **7.** *pl.* Low shoes fastened with lacings. **8.** *U.S.* One of a set of timbers laid crosswise on the ground as supports for railroad tracks; a sleeper. [OE *tiegan* to bind]

tie·back (tī′bak) *n.* A piece of fabric, metal, etc., by which curtains are draped or tied back at the sides.

tie beam A timber that serves as a tie in a roof, etc. For illus. see ROOF.

tie-in (tī′in′) *n.* A connection; association; relation.

tie-in sale A sale in which the buyer, in order to get the article he wants, is required to buy a second article.

tier (tir) *n.* A rank or row of things, as seats, placed one above another. — *v.t. & v.i.* To place or rise in tiers. [Earlier *tire* < OF, sequence < *tirer* to draw, elongate]

tierce (tirs) *n.* **1.** A former liquid measure equivalent in the U.S. to 42 wine gallons; a third of a pipe or butt. **2.** A cask holding this amount. **3.** *Often cap. Eccl.* Prescribed prayers constituting the third of the seven canonical hours: often called *undersong*. [< OF *tierce, terce* a third < L *tertia*]

tie-up (tī′up′) *n.* **1.** A situation, resulting from a strike, mechanical breakdown, etc., in which progress or operation is impossible. **2.** *Informal* A connection or relation.

tiff (tif) *n.* **1.** A peevish display of irritation; a pet; huff. **2.** A light quarrel; a spat. — *v.i.* To be in or have a tiff. [Origin unknown]

ti·ger (tī′gər) *n.* **1.** A large carnivorous feline of Asia, with vertical black wavy stripes on a tawny body and black bars or rings on the limbs and tail. **2.** One of several other animals resembling the tiger. **3.** A fierce, cruel person. [OE *tiger* or OF *tigre*, both < L < Gk. *tigris*]

ti·ger-eye (tī′gər-ī′) *n.* A gemstone showing a changeable luster. Also **ti′gers-eye′**.

ti·ger·ish (tī′gər·ish) *adj.* Of or resembling the tiger or its habits; predacious; bloodthirsty: also **ti′grish** (-grish).

tiger lily A tall cultivated lily, with nodding orange flowers spotted with black.

tiger moth A stout-bodied moth with striped or spotted wings.

tight (tīt) *adj.* **1.** So closely held together or constructed as to be impervious to fluids, air, etc.: a *tight* vessel. **2.** Firmly fixed or fastened in place; secure. **3.** Fully stretched; taut: *tight* as a drum. **4.** Closely drawn, packed, fastened, etc.: a *tight* weave. **5.** Strict; stringent: to keep a *tight* rein over us. **6.** Fitting closely; esp., fitting too closely. **7.** *Informal* Difficult to cope with; troublesome: a *tight* spot. **8.** *Informal* Parsimonious; tightfisted. **9.** Characterized by a feeling of constriction: a *tight* cough. **10.** *Slang* Drunk; intoxicated. **11.** Evenly matched: said of a contest. **12.** *Econ.* **a** Difficult to obtain. **b** Straitened from lack of money or commodities: a *tight* market. **13.** Yielding very little or no profit: said of a bargain. **14.** *Dial.* Well-built; compact. **15.** *Dial.* Neat; tidy. — *adv.* **1.** Firmly; securely. **2.** Closely; with much constriction. — **to sit tight** To remain firm in one's position; refrain from taking action. [ME *thight*] — **tight′ly** *adv.* — **tight′ness** *n.*

-tight *combining form* Impervious to: *watertight*.

tight·en (tīt′n) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become tight or tighter. — **tight′en·er** *n.*

tight-fist·ed (tīt′fis′tid) *adj.* Stingy; parsimonious.

tight-lipped (tīt′lipt′) *adj.* **1.** Having the lips held tightly together. **2.** Unwilling to talk; reticent or secretive.

tight·rope (tīt′rōp′) *n.* A rope or cable stretched out tight above the ground, on which acrobats do balancing acts, etc.

tights (tīts) *n.pl.* Skintight garments, commonly for the legs and lower torso, worn by dancers, acrobats, etc.

tight·wad (tīt′wod′) *n. U.S. Slang* A parsimonious person; miser. [< TIGHT + WAD¹]

ti·gress (tī′gris) *n.* **1.** A female tiger. **2.** A cruel, fierce woman.

til·bur·y (til′ber·ē) *n. pl.* **·bur·ies** A form of gig for two persons. [after *Tilbury*, a 19th c. London coachmaker]

til·de (til′də, -dē) *n.* A sign (˜); used esp., in Spanish over *n* to represent the palatal nasal (roughly equivalent to *ny*) as in *cañón*. [< Sp. < L *titulus* superscription, title]

tile (tīl) *n.* **1.** A thin piece of baked clay or other material, as asbestos, linoleum, etc., used for covering roofs, floors, etc., and as an ornament. **2.** A short earthenware pipe, used in forming sewers. **3.** Tiles collectively; tiling. **4.** Any of the counters used in mahjong. **5.** *Informal* A high silk hat. — *v.t.* **tiled, til·ing** To cover with tiles. [OE, ult. < L < *tegere* to cover] — **til′er** *n.*

til·ing (tī′ling) *n.* **1.** The act, operation, or system of using tiles for roofing, drainage, etc. **2.** Tiles collectively. **3.** Something made of or faced with tiles.

till¹ (til) *v.t. & v.i.* To work (soil) for the production of crops, as by plowing, harrowing, hoeing, sowing, etc.; cultivate. [OE *tilian* to strive, acquire] — **till′a·ble** *adj.*

till² (til) *prep.* **1.** To the time of; until. **2.** Before: with the negative: I can't go *till* noon. — *conj.* **1.** Up to such time as; until: *till* death do us part. **2.** Before: with the negative: They couldn't go *till* he came. [OE *til* < ON, to]

till³ (til) *n.* A drawer or tray in which money or valuables are kept, as at a bank, store, etc. [Origin uncertain]

till·age (til′ij) *n.* The cultivation of land. [< TILL¹ + -AGE]

till·er¹ (til′ər) *n.* One who or that which tills. [< TILL¹]

till·er² (til′ər) *n. Naut.* A lever to turn a rudder when steering. [< OF < Med.L *telarium* weaver's beam]

tilt (tilt) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to rise at one end or side; incline at an angle; slant; tip. **2.** To aim or thrust, as a lance. **3.** To charge or overthrow in a tilt or joust. — *v.i.* **4.** To slope; lean. **5.** To engage in a joust. — **Syn.** See TIP¹. — *n.* **1.** A slant; slope. **2.** The act of inclining, or the state of being inclined. **3.** A medieval sport in which mounted knights, charging with lances, endeavored to unseat each other. **4.** Any similar encounter, as a quarrel. **5.** A thrust or blow, as with a lance. **6.** A seesaw. — **at full tilt** At full speed. [ME < OE *tealt* unsteady] — **tilt′er** *n.*

tilth (tilth) *n.* **1.** The act of tilling; cultivation of soil; tillage. **2.** Cultivated land. [OE < *tilian* to till]

tim·bal (tim′bəl) *n.* A kettledrum. [< F < Sp. < Arabic *at-tabl* a drum]

tim·bale (tim′bəl, *Fr.* taṁ·bál′) *n.* **1.** A custardlike dish made of chicken, fish, cheese, or vegetables, cooked in a drum-shaped mold. **2.** A small cup made of fried pastry, in which food may be served. [< F. See TIMBAL.]

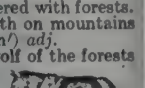
tim·ber (tim′bər) *n.* **1.** Wood suitable for building or structural purposes. **2.** Growing or standing trees; also, woodland. **3.** A single piece of prepared wood for use in a structure. **4.** *Naut.* Any principal beam of a vessel. **5.** Personal character, talent, potentiality: presidential *timber*. — *v.t.* To provide or shore with timber. [OE] — **tim′bered** *adj.*

timber hitch *Naut.* A knot by which a rope is fastened around a spar.

tim·ber-land (tim′bər·land′) *n.* Land covered with forests.

timber line The upper limit of tree growth on mountains and in arctic regions. — **tim′ber-line′** (-līn′) *adj.*

timber wolf The large gray or brindled wolf of the forests of the northern U.S. and Canada: also called *lobo*.



TIMBER WOLF (About 4 feet long)

tim·bre (tim′bər, tam′-; *Fr.* taṁ′br') *n.* The attribute of a sound distinguishing one vowel from another, the tone of one musical instrument from another, etc.; quality; tone color. [< F < OF < L *tympanum* kettledrum]

tim·brel (tim′brəl) *n.* An ancient instrument resembling a tambourine. [< OF. See TIMBRE.]

time (tim) *n.* **1.** The general concept, relation, or fact of continuous or successive existence, capable of division into measurable portions, and comprising the past, present, and future. **2.** Duration with reference to finite existence as distinguished from eternity. **3.** A system of measuring duration: solar *time*. **4.** A definite portion of duration; esp., a specific hour, day, season, year, etc.: The *time* is 2:35; Autumn is my favorite *time*. **5.** The moment or period in which something takes place, has taken place, or will take place: at the *time* of his marriage. **6.** That moment or portion of duration allotted to or sufficient for some special action, purpose, or event: *time* enough to catch the train. **7.** The period of duration generally allotted to human life. **8.** Leisure: no *time* to read. **9.** An instance or occasion of re-

currence or repetition: next *time*; three *times* a day. **10.** A fit or proper moment or occasion: a *time* to plant. **11.** The period of pregnancy or gestation; also, the moment of childbirth. **12.** The moment of death. **13.** A period considered with reference to one's personal experience: to have a good *time*. **14.** *Usu. pl.* An era marked by some cultural, historical, or other special characteristics: ancient *times*; the *time* of Charlemagne. **15.** *Usu. pl.* The present period or era or the period or era under consideration. **16.** *Usu. pl.* A period of duration having some specific quality: *Times* are hard. **17.** *Informal* A period of imprisonment. **18.** The period during which work has been done or remains to be done by a worker; also, the pay given for this. **19.** *Music* Loosely, meter, tempo, or the duration of a note. See METER. **20.** Speed or rate of movement in marching, dancing, etc.: double *time*. **21.** *Usu. pl.* In arithmetic, an instance of being multiplied or added: How many *times* does three go into nine? **— against time** With an imminent time limit; as quickly as possible. **— ahead of time** Before the time stated or due; early. **— at the same time 1.** At the same moment or period. **2.** Despite that; however; nevertheless. **— at times** Now and then; occasionally. **— behind the times** Old-fashioned. **— behind time** After the time stated or due; late. **— for the time being** Temporarily. **— from time to time** Now and then; occasionally. **— in good time 1.** Quickly; fast. **2.** At the appropriate time; when properly due. **— in the nick of time** At just the right or critical moment. **— in time 1.** While time permits or lasts; before it is too late. **2.** In the progress of time; ultimately. **3.** In the proper rhythm, tempo, etc. **— on time 1.** Promptly; according to schedule. **2.** To be paid for, later or in installments. **— time and again** Frequently; repeatedly: also **time after time.** **— to gain time 1.** To run fast: said of a timepiece. **2.** To prolong an act or occasion so as to consider, decide, etc. **— to keep time 1.** To indicate time correctly, as a clock. **2.** To make rhythmic movements in unison with others. **3.** To render or conduct a musical composition in the desired tempo or rhythm. **— to lose time 1.** To run slow: said of a clock. **2.** To waste or miss more opportunities; delay advancement. **—** *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to time. **2.** Devised so as to operate at a specified time: a *time* bomb. **3.** Of purchases, paid for in installments or at a future date. **—** *v.t.* **timed, tim·ing 1.** To regulate as to time. **2.** To cause to correspond in time: They *timed* their steps to the music. **3.** To arrange the time or occasion for. **4.** To mark the rhythm or measure of. **5.** To ascertain or record the speed or duration of: to *time* a race. [OE *tīma*]

time·card (tīm′kärd′) *n.* A card for recording the time of arrival and departure of an employee.

time clock A clock equipped for automatically recording times of arrival and departure.

time exposure *Photog.* **1.** A film exposure made for a relatively long interval. **2.** A picture made by such an exposure.

time-hon·ored (tīm′on′ərd) *adj.* Observed or honored because of long usage or existence. Also *Brit.* **time′-hon′oured.**

time·keep·er (tīm′kē′pər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which keeps time. **2.** One who declares the time in a race, game, athletic match, etc., or records the hours worked by employees. **3.** A railroad train starter. **4.** A timepiece.

time·less (tīm′lis) *adj.* **1.** Independent of or unaffected by time; unending; eternal. **2.** Not limited to any special time or era. **— time′less·ly** *adv.* **— time′less·ness** *n.*

time·ly (tīm′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Being or occurring in good or suitable time; opportune; seasonable; well-timed. **—** *adv.* Opportunely; seasonably; early. **— time′li·ness** *n.*

time-out (tīm′out′) *n.* In sports, a short recess requested by a team during play. Also **time out.**

time·piece (tīm′pēs′) *n.* Something that records or measures time, as a clock or watch.

tim·er (tī′mər) *n.* **1.** A timekeeper. **2.** A stopwatch, as for timing a race. **3.** A device attached to an internal-combustion engine so as to time the spark automatically. **4.** A clockwork or other device that signals the lapse of a time period, controls an operation, etc.

time·serv·er (tīm′sûr′vər) *n.* One who yields to the demands or opinions of the time, occasion, or authorities, without reference to principle. **— time′serv′ing** *adj. & n.*

time signature *Music* A symbol placed on a musical staff to indicate the meter.

time·ta·ble (tīm′tā′bəl) *n.* A tabular schedule of the times at which certain things are to take place, as arrivals and departures of trains, times of high and low tides, etc.

time-test·ed (tīm′tes′tid) *adj.* Having worth or efficiency proved by use over an extended period.

time·work (tīm′wûrk′) *n.* Work paid for on the basis of a set wage per hour, day, week, etc. **— time′work′er** *n.*

time-worn (tīm′wôrn′, -wōrn′) *adj.* **1.** Showing the ravages or effects of time. **2.** Trite; overused.

time zone One of the 24 sectors of 15° each, or a time interval of one hour, into which the earth is divided for reckoning standard time from the meridian of Greenwich.

tim·id (tim′id) *adj.* **1.** Shrinking from danger or risk; fearful. **2.** Lacking self-confidence; shy. **3.** Characterized by fear or shyness: a *timid* voice. [< L < *timere* to fear] **— ti·mid·i·ty** (ti·mid′ə·tē), **tim′id·ness** *n.* **— tim′id·ly** *adv.*

tim·ing (tī′ming) *n.* The act or art of regulating the speed of performance, utterance, a blow, stroke, etc., so as to insure maximum effectiveness; also, the effect so produced.

tim·or·ous (tim′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Fearful of danger; timid. **2.** Indicating or produced by fear. [< OF < Med.L < L *timor, -oris* fear] **— tim′or·ous·ly** *adv.* **— tim′or·ous·ness** *n.*

tim·o·thy (tim′ə·thē) *n.* A perennial fodder grass having long, cylindrical spikes. Also **timothy grass.** [after *Timothy* Hanson, who took the seed to the Carolinas about 1720]

Tim·o·thy (tim′ə·thē) A convert and companion of the apostle Paul. **—** *n.* Either of two books in the New Testament consisting of two epistles addressed to Timothy and attributed to Saint Paul.

tim·pa·ni (tim′pə·nē) *n. pl.* of **tim·pa·no** (-nō) Kettledrums: also spelled *tympani*. [< Ital. < L *tympanum* drum] **— tim′pa·nist** *n.*

tim·pa·num (tim′pə·nəm) See TYMPANUM.

tin (tin) *n.* **1.** A white, malleable, metallic element (symbol Sn) of low tensile strength: also called *stannum*. See ELEMENT. **2.** Tin plate. **3.** A container or box made of tin. **4.** *Brit.* A can. **—** *v.t.* **tinned, tin·ning 1.** To coat or cover with tin. **2.** To pack or put up in tins. **—** *adj.* Made of a tin. [OE]

tin·a·mou (tin′ə·mōō) *n.* Any of certain South American birds resembling the partridge and hunted as game birds. [< F < Carib *tinamu*]

tinc·ture (tingk′chər) *n.* **1.** A solution, usu., in alcohol, of some medicinal substance: *tincture* of iodine. **2.** A tinge of color; tint. **3.** A slight additional flavor, quality, etc. **—** *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing 1.** To impart a slight hue or tinge to. **2.** To imbue with flavor, odor, etc. **3.** To imbue with a specified quality. [< L *tingere* to dye, color]

tin·der (tin′dər) *n.* Any readily combustible substance, as charred linen or touchwood, that will ignite on contact with a spark. [OE *tynder*] **— tin′der·y** *adj.*

tin·der·box (tin′dər·boks′) *n.* **1.** A portable metallic box containing tinder. **2.** Anything highly flammable, explosive, touchy, etc.

tine (tīn) *n.* A spike or prong, as of a fork or of an antler. [OE *tind*] **— tined** *adj.*

tin·foil (tin′foil′) *n.* Tin or an alloy of tin made into thin sheets for use as wrapping material, etc. Also **tin foil.**

ting (ting) *n.* A single high metallic sound, as of a small bell. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* To give forth or cause to give forth a ting. [Imit.]

ting-a-ling (ting′ə·ling′) *n.* The sound of a little bell.

tinge (tinj) *v.t.* **tinged, tinge·ing** or **ting·ing 1.** To imbue with a faint trace of color; tint. **2.** To impart a slight characteristic quality of some other element to. **—** *n.* **1.** A faint trace of added color. **2.** A quality or peculiar characteristic imparted to something. [< L *tingere* to dye]

tin·gle (ting′gəl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.i.* **1.** To experience a prickly, stinging sensation, as from cold, or from a sharp blow. **2.** To cause such a sensation. **—** *v.t.* **3.** To cause to tingle. **—** *n.* A prickly, stinging sensation; a tingling. [Appar. var. of TINKLE] **— tin′gler** *n.* **— tin′gly** *adj.*

tin·horn (tin′hôrn′) *U.S. Slang n.* One who is cheaply and noisily pretentious; esp., a flashy, small-time gambler.

tink·er (ting′kər) *n.* **1.** An itinerant mender of domestic tin utensils, as pots and pans. **2.** Loosely, one who does repairing work of any kind; a jack-of-all-trades. **3.** A clumsy workman; a botcher. **4.** The act of roughly repairing; hasty workmanship. **—** *v.i.* **1.** To work as a tinker. **2.** To work in a clumsy makeshift fashion. **3.** To potter; fuss. **—** *v.t.* **4.** To mend as a tinker. **5.** To repair inexpertly. [Var. of earlier *tinekere* worker in tin]

tinker's damn *Slang* The smallest, most contemptible bit: not worth a *tinker's damn*. Also **tinker's dam.** [< TINKER + DAMN; with ref. to the reputed profanity of tinkers]

tin·kle (ting′kəl) *v.* **·kled, ·kling** *v.i.* **1.** To produce slight, sharp, metallic sounds, as a small bell. **—** *v.t.* **2.** To cause to tinkle. **3.** To summon or signal by a tinkling. **—** *n.* A tinkling sound. [Imit.] **— tin′kly** *adj.* **— tink′ling** *n.*

tin·ner (tin′ər) *n.* **1.** A miner employed in tin mines. **2.** A maker of or dealer in tinware; a tinsmith.

tin·ny (tin′ē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est 1.** Pertaining to, composed of, or abounding in tin. **2.** Resembling tin in lack of durability. **3.** Having a thin sound like that of tin being struck. **— tin′ni·ly** *adv.* **— tin′ni·ness** *n.*

tin-pan alley (tin′pan′) **1.** A section of a city, esp., of New York, frequented by musicians and song writers and occu-

pied by publishers of popular music. **2.** The composers and publishers of popular music, collectively.

tin-plate (tin′plāt′) *v.t.* **-plat·ed, -plat·ing** To plate with tin. — **tin′-plat′er** *n.*

tin plate Sheet iron or steel plated with tin.

tin·sel (tin′səl) *n.* **1.** Very thin, glittering bits of cheap metals used as decoration. **2.** A yarn containing gold or silver thread. **3.** Anything sparkling and showy, with little real worth. **4.** A fabric in which such spangles or bits of metal are woven. — *adj.* **1.** Made of, resembling, or covered with tinsel. **2.** Superficially brilliant; tawdry. — *v.t.* **·seled** or **·selled, sel·ing** or **·sel·ling 1.** To decorate with or as with tinsel. **2.** To give a showy or gaudy appearance to. [< MF < OF < L *scintilla* spark]

tin·smith (tin′smith′) *n.* One who works with tin or tin plate: also called *whitesmith.*

tint (tint) *n.* **1.** A variety of color; tincture; esp., a slight admixture of a different color; tinge. **2.** A gradation of a color made by dilution with white. **3.** Any pale or delicate hue. **4.** In engraving, an effect of light, shade, texture, etc., produced by the spacing of lines or by hatching. — *v.t.* **1.** To give a tint to; tinge. **2.** In engraving, to form a tint upon. [< L < *tingere* to dye, color] — **tint′er** *n.*

tin·tin·nab·u·la·tion (tin′ti·nab′yə·lā′shən) *n.* The pealing, tinkling, or ringing of bells. [< L < *tintinnare* to ring]

tin·type (tin′tīp′) *n.* A photograph taken on a sensitized film supported on a thin sheet of enameled tin or iron.

tin·ware (tin′wâr′) *n.* Articles made of tin plate.

ti·ny (tī′nē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** Very small; minute; wee. [< obs. *tine* small amount, bit + -Y³; ult. origin unknown]

-tion *suffix of nouns* **1.** Action or process of: *rejection.* **2.** Condition or state of being: *completion.* **3.** Result of: *connection.* Also *-ation, -cion, -ion, -sion, -xion.* [< F < OF < L *-tio, -tionis*]

tip¹ (tip) *n.* A slanting or inclined position; a tilt. — *v.* **tipped, tip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to lean by lowering or raising one end or side; tilt. **2.** To overturn or upset: often with *over.* **3.** To raise or touch (one's hat) in greeting. — *v.i.* **4.** To become tilted; slant. **5.** To overturn; topple: with *over.* [ME *tipen* to overturn; origin uncertain] — **tip′per** *n.*

— **Syn. 1, 3.** Tilt, slant, slope.

tip² (tip) *n.* **1.** A small gift of money for services rendered, given to a servant, waiter, etc. **2.** A friendly, helpful hint; esp., information presumed to increase a better's or speculator's chance of winning. — *v.* **tipped, tip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To give a small gratuity to. **2.** *Informal* To give secret information to, as in betting: often with *off.* — *v.i.* **3.** To give tips. [Orig. < thieves' cant, ? < TIP⁴] — **tip′per** *n.*

tip³ (tip) *n.* **1.** The point or extremity of anything tapering; end: the *tip* of the tongue. **2.** A piece or part made to form the end of anything, as a nozzle, ferrule, etc. **3.** The top or summit, as of a mountain. — *v.t.* **tipped, tip·ping 1.** To furnish with a tip. **2.** To form the tip of. **3.** To cover or adorn the tip of. [Prob. < MDu., point]

tip⁴ (tip) *v.t.* **tipped, tip·ping 1.** To strike lightly, or with something light; tap. **2.** In baseball, to strike (the ball) a light, glancing blow. — *n.* A tap; light blow. [Earlier *tippe*]

tip·off (tip′ôf′, -of′) *n. Informal* A hint or warning.

tip·pet (tip′it) *n.* **1.** An outdoor covering for the neck, or neck and shoulders, hanging well down in front. **2.** *Eccl.* A long scarf worn by Anglican clergymen. **3.** Formerly, a long, dangling part of a sleeve, hood, etc. [Prob. dim. of TIP³]

tip·ple (tip′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·pled, ·pling** To drink (alcoholic beverages) frequently and habitually. — *n.* Alcoholic liquor. — **tip′pler** *n.*

tip·ster (tip′stər) *n. Informal* One who sells tips, as for betting on a race. [< TIP³]

tip·sy (tip′sē) *adj.* **tip·si·er, tip·si·est 1.** Partially intoxicated; high. **2.** Apt to tip over; shaky; also, crooked; askew. [< TIP¹] — **tip′si·ly** *adv.* — **tip′si·ness** *n.*

tip·toe (tip′tō′) *v.i.* **·toed, ·toe·ing** To walk on tiptoe; go stealthily or quietly. — *n.* The tip of a toe. — **on tiptoe 1.** On one's tiptoes. **2.** Eagerly expectant. **3.** Stealthily; quietly. — *adj.* **1.** Standing or walking on tiptoe. **2.** Stealthy. **3.** Eager; excited. — *adv.* On tiptoe.

tip·top (tip′top′) *n.* **1.** The highest point; the very top. **2.** *Informal* The highest quality or degree. — *adj.* **1.** Located at the very top. **2.** *Informal* Best of its kind; first-rate. — *adv.* In a tiptop manner. [< TIP³ + TOP¹] — **tip′top′per** *n.*

ti·rade (tī′rād, tə·rād′) *n.* A prolonged declamatory outpouring, as of censure. [< F < Ital. *tirare* to fire, pull]

tire¹ (tīr) *v.* **tired, tir·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To reduce the strength of, as by toil; weary; fatigue. **2.** To reduce the interest or patience of, as with tediousness. — *v.i.* **3.** To become weary or exhausted. **4.** To lose patience, interest, etc. — **to tire of** To become weary of or impatient with. — **to tire out** To weary completely. [OE *tiorian*]

tire² (tīr) *n.* **1.** A pneumatic, doughnut-shaped structure, as of rubber, forming the outer part of the wheels of vehicles, serving to absorb shock and provide traction. **2.** A band or hoop of metal, etc. fixed tightly around the rim of a wheel. — *v.t.* **tired, tir·ing** To furnish with a tire; put a tire on. [Aphetic var. of ATTIRE]

tired (tīrd) *adj.* Weary; exhausted; jaded; fatigued. — **tired′ly** *adv.* — **tired′ness** *n.*

tire·less (tīr′lis) *adj.* Proof against fatigue; untiring. — **tire′less·ly** *adv.* — **tire′less·ness** *n.*

tire·some (tīr′səm) *adj.* Tending to tire, or causing one to tire; tedious. — **tire′some·ly** *adv.* — **tire′some·ness** *n.*

ti·ro (tī′rō) See TYRO.

'tis (tiz) *Archaic or Poetic* It is.

Tish'ah b'Ab (tish′ə·bäb′) *n.* In Judaism, a day of fasting, held on the 9th of Ab (July-August), to commemorate the destruction of the Temple.

Tish·ri (tish·rē′, tish′rē) *n.* The first month of the Hebrew calendar. Also **Tis·ri.** See (Hebrew) CALENDAR. [< Hebrew < Aramaic *tishrī* < *sherā* to begin]

tis·sue (tish′ōō) *n.* **1.** *Biol.* One of the elementary aggregates of cells and their products, developed by plants and animals for the performance of a particular function: connective *tissue.* **2.** A light, absorbent piece of paper, usu. consisting of two or more layers, used as a disposable towel, handkerchief, etc. **3.** Tissue paper. **4.** A tissuelike typewriting paper, as onionskin, commonly used for making carbon copies. **5.** A connected or interwoven series; chain: a *tissue* of lies. **6.** Any light or gauzy textile fabric. [< OF < *tistre* to weave]

tissue paper Very thin, unsized, almost transparent paper for wrapping delicate articles, protecting engravings, etc.

tit¹ (tit) *n.* **1.** A titmouse. **2.** Any of various small birds, as a titlark. [Short for TITMOUSE, TITLARK, etc.]

tit² (tit) *n.* Teat; breast; nipple. [OE *titt*]

ti·tan (tīt′n) *n.* A person of gigantic size and strength. [< TITAN]

Ti·tan (tīt′n) *n.* **1.** In Greek mythology, one of a race of giant gods who were vanquished and succeeded by the Olympian gods. **2.** Helios: so called by some Latin poets. **3.** A liquid-fueled intercontinental guided missile of the U.S. Air Force. — *adj.* Titanic. — **Ti′tan·ess** *n.fem.*

Ti·ta·ni·a (ti·tā′nē·ə, tī-) Queen of fairyland and wife of Oberon in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

ti·tan·ic (tī·tan′ik) *adj.* Of great size; huge.

Ti·tan·ic (tī·tan′ik) *adj.* Of or resembling the Titans.

ti·ta·ni·um (tī·tā′nē·əm, ti-) *n.* A widely distributed dark gray metallic element (symbol Ti), found in small quantities in many minerals and used to toughen steel alloys. See ELEMENT. [< NL < L < Gk. *Titanes* the Titans]

tit·bit (tit′bit′) *n. Brit.* A tidbit.

tit for tat Retaliation in kind; blow for blow. [? Alter. of *tip for tap*]

tithe (tīth) *n.* **1.** A tax or assessment of one tenth; loosely, any ratable tax. **2.** In England, a tenth part of the yearly proceeds arising from lands and from the personal industry of the inhabitants, for the support of the clergy and the church. **3.** The tenth part of anything. **4.** A small part. — *v.t.* **tithed, tith·ing 1.** To give or pay a tithe, or tenth part of. **2.** To tax with tithes. [ME *tithe,* OE *teogotha* tenth] — **tith′a·ble** *adj.* — **tith′er** *n.*

ti·tian (tish′ən) *n.* A reddish yellow color much used by Titian, esp. in painting women's hair. — *adj.* Having or pertaining to the color titian. [after *Titian*]

tit·il·late (tit′ə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing 1.** To cause a tickling sensation in. **2.** To excite pleasurably in any way. [< L *titillare* to tickle] — **tit′il·la′tion** *n.* — **tit′il·la′tive** *adj.*

tit·i·vate (tit′ə·vāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·vat·ed, ·vat·ing** *Informal* To put on decorative touches; dress up: also spelled *tittivate.* [? < TIDY, on analogy with *cultivate*] — **tit′i·va′tion** *n.*

tit·lark (tit′lärk′) *n.* A pipit. [ME *tit* little thing + LARK]

ti·tle (tīt′l) *n.* **1.** The name of a book, play, poem, motion picture, etc. **2.** An appellation significant of office, rank, etc.; esp., a designation of nobility. **3.** A characteristic or descriptive name; epithet. **4.** A claim based on an acknowledged or alleged right. **5.** In some sports, a championship. **6.** The subtitle in a motion picture. **7.** *Law* The means whereby the owner of lands has the just possession of his property; the union of possession, the right of possession, and the right of property in lands and tenements; also, the legal evidence of one's right of property, or the means by or source from which one's right to property has accrued: *title* by purchase. — *v.t.* **·tled, ·tling** To give a name or title to; entitle; call. [< OF < L *titulus* label, inscription] — **ti′tled** *adj.*

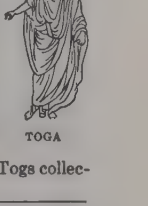
title page A page containing the title of a work and the names of its author and publisher.

title role The role of the character in a play, opera, or motion picture for whom it is named.

tit·mouse (tit′mous′) *n. pl.* **·mice** (-mīs′) Any of several small birds related to the nuthatches; esp., the **tufted titmouse** of the U.S., having a conspicuous crest. [Alter. of ME *titmuse* < *tit-* little + OE *mase* titmouse]

ti·trate (tī′trāt, tit′rāt) *v.i. & v.t.* **·trat·ed, ·trat·ing** *Chem.* To determine the strength of (a solution) by means of standard solutions or by titration. [< F *titre* the fineness of gold or silver alloy]

ti·tra·tion (tī·trā′shən, ti-) *n. Chem.* The process of determining the strength or concentration of the ingredients of a solution by adding measured amounts of a suitable reagent until the desired chemical reaction has been effected.
tit-tat-toe (tit′tat·tō′) *n.* Ticktacktoe.
tit·ter (tit′ər) *v.i.* To laugh in a suppressed way, as from nervousness or in ridicule; snicker; giggle. — *n.* The act of tittering. [Imit.] — **tit′ter·er** *n.* — **tit′ter·ing·ly** *adv.*
tit·i·vate (tit′ə·vāt) See TITIVATE.
tit·tle (tit′l) *n.* **1.** The minutest quantity; iota. **2.** Originally, a very small mark in writing, as the dot over an *i*. **3.** Any diacritical mark. [< L *titulus* label, inscription]
tit·tle-tat·tle (tit′l·tat′l) *n.* **1.** Foolish or trivial talk; gossip. **2.** An idle, trifling, or tattling talker. — *v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To talk foolishly or idly; gossip. [Reduplication of TATTLE]
tit·u·lar (tich′ōō·lər, tit′yə-) *adj.* **1.** Existing in name or title only; nominal. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or like a title. **3.** Bestowing or taking title. Also **tit′u·lar′y** (-ler′ē). [< L *titulus* title] — **tit′u·lar·ly** *adv.*
Ti·tus (tī′təs) A disciple of the apostle Paul. — *n.* A book in the New Testament consisting of an epistle addressed to Titus and attributed to Paul.
tiz·zy (tiz′ē) *n. pl.* **·zies** *Slang* A bewildered or excited state of mind; a dither. [Origin unknown]
TNT (tē′en′tē′) *n.* **1.** Trinitrotoluene. **2.** *Informal* Any explosive and dangerous circumstance, force, or person.
to (tōō, *unstressed* tə) *prep.* **1.** In a direction toward or terminating in: going *to* town. **2.** Opposite, in contact with, or near: face *to* face. **3.** Intending or aiming at; having as an object or purpose: Come *to* my rescue. **4.** Resulting in; having as a condition or effect: frozen *to* death. **5.** Belonging or used in connection with: the key *to* the door. **6.** Accompanied by; in rhythm with: March *to* the music. **7.** In honor of: Drink *to* me only with thine eyes. **8.** In comparison, correspondence, or agreement with: often denoting ratio: four quarts *to* the gallon. **9.** Approaching as a limit; until: five minutes *to* one. **10.** For the utmost duration of; as far as: a miser *to* the end of his days. **11.** In respect of; concerning: blind *to* her charms. **12.** In close application toward: Buckle down *to* work. **13.** For; with regard for: The contest is open *to* everyone. **14.** Noting an indirect or limiting object after verbs, adjectives, or nouns, and designating the recipient of the action: taking the place of the dative case in other languages: Give the ring *to* me. **15.** By: known *to* the world. **16.** From the point of view of: It seems *to* me. **17.** About; involved in: That's all there is *to* it. ◆ *To* also serves to indicate the infinitive, and is often used elliptically for it: You may come if you care *to*. — *adv.* **1.** To or toward something. **2.** In a direction, position, or state understood or implied; esp., shut or closed: Pull the door *to*. **3.** Into a normal condition; into consciousness: She soon came *to*. **4.** *Naut.* With head to the wind: said of a sailing vessel: to lie *to*. **5.** Upon the matter at hand; into action or operation: They fell *to* with good will. **6.** Nearby; at hand. [OE *tō*]
toad (tōd) *n.* **1.** A tailless, jumping, insectivorous amphibian resembling the frog but without teeth in the upper jaw, and resorting to water only to breed. **2.** A lizard, the horned toad. **3.** Any person regarded scornfully or contemptuously. [OE *tāde*]
toad·fish (tōd′fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** Any of various fishes of the Atlantic coast of the U.S., having scaleless skin, and a mouth and head resembling those of a toad.
toad·stool (tōd′stōōl′) *n.* **1.** A mushroom. **2.** *Informal* A poisonous mushroom.
toad·y (tō′dē) *n. pl.* **toad·ies** An obsequious flatterer; a fawning, servile person. — *v.t. & v.i.* **toad·ied, toad·y·ing** To act the toady (to). [Short for *toadeater* an assistant to a charlatan, who ate, or pretended to eat, toads to show the efficacy of a patent medicine] — **toad′y·ish** *adj.* — **toad′y·ism** *n.*
to-and-fro (tōō′ən·frō′) *adj.* Moving back and forth.
to and fro In opposite or different directions.
toast[1] (tōst) *v.t.* **1.** To brown before or over a fire; esp., to brown (bread or cheese) before a fire or in a toaster. **2.** To warm thoroughly before a fire. — *v.i.* **3.** To become warm or toasted. — *n.* Sliced bread browned in a toaster or at a fire. [< OF < L *tostus*, pp. of *torrere* to parch, roast]
toast[2] (tōst) *n.* **1.** The act of drinking to someone's health or to some sentiment. **2.** A person or sentiment named in so drinking. — *v.t.* **1.** To drink to the health of or in honor of. — *v.i.* **2.** To drink a toast. [< TOAST[1], in obs. sense of "a spiced piece of toast put in a drink to flavor it"]
toast·er[1] (tōs′tər) *n.* A device for making toast.
toast·er[2] (tōs′tər) *n.* One who proposes a toast.
toast·mas·ter (tōst′mas′tər, -mäs′tər) *n.* A person who, at public dinners, announces the toasts, calls upon the various speakers, etc. — **toast′mis′tress** (-mis′tris) *n.fem.*
to·bac·co (tə·bak′ō) *n. pl.* **·cos** or **·coes** **1.** An annual plant of the nightshade family. **2.** Its leaves prepared in various ways, as for smoking, chewing, etc. **3.** The use of tobacco for smoking. **4.** The various products prepared from tobacco leaves, as cigarettes, cigars, etc. [< Sp. *tabaco* < Carib, a tube or pipe used in smoking tobacco]
to·bac·co·nist (tə·bak′ə·nist) *n.* One who sells tobacco.
To·bit (tō′bit) A pious Hebrew captive in Nineveh, hero of the Apocryphal book of the Old Testament. — *n.* The Old Testament book bearing his name. Also **To·bi·as** (tə·bī′əs).
to·bog·gan (tə·bog′ən) *n.* A light sledlike vehicle, consisting of a long thin board or boards curved upward at the forward end, used for transporting goods or coasting. — *v.i.* **1.** To coast on a toboggan. **2.** To move downward swiftly: Wheat prices *tobogganed*. [< dial. F (Canadian) *tabagan* sleigh < Algonquian] — **to·bog′gan·er, to·bog′gan·ist** *n.*
to·by (tō′bē) *n. pl.* **·bies** A mug or jug for ale or beer, often made in the form of an old man wearing a three-cornered hat. [after *Toby*, dim. of *Tobias*, a personal name]
toc·ca·ta (tə·kä′tə, *Ital.* tôk·kä′tä) *n. Music* A free composition for a keyboard instrument, sometimes written to show virtuosity. [< Ital., orig. pp. fem. of *toccare* to touch]
toco- *combining form* Child; pertaining to children or to childbirth. Also, before vowels, **toc-**. [< Gk. *tokos* child]
to·coph·er·ol (tō·kof′ə·rōl, -rol) *n. Biochem.* Any of four closely related alcohols, widely distributed in nature and forming the active principle of vitamin E. [< TOCO- + Gk. *pherein* to bear + -OL[1]]
toc·sin (tok′sin) *n.* **1.** A signal sounded on a bell; alarm. **2.** An alarm bell. [< MF < OF < Provençal < *tocar* to strike, touch + *senh* bell < L *signum* sign]
to·day (tə·dā′) *adv.* **1.** On or during this present day. **2.** At the present time; nowadays. — *n.* The present day, time, or age. Also **to-day′**. [OE < *tō* to + *dæg* day]
tod·dle (tod′l) *v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** To walk unsteadily and with short steps, as a little child. — *n.* The act of toddling; also, a stroll. [Origin uncertain] — **tod′dler** *n.*
tod·dy (tod′ē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** A drink made with spirits, hot water, sugar, and a slice of lemon. **2.** The sap or juice of certain East Indian trees, the **toddy palms**. **3.** A spirituous liquor distilled from these palms. [< Hind. *tārī* toddy (def. 2) < *tār* palm tree]
to-do (tə·dōō′) *n. Informal* Confusion or bustle; fuss. [OE < *to-* asunder + *dōn* to do, put]
toe (tō) *n.* **1.** One of the digits of the foot. **2.** The forward part of the foot, as distinguished from the heel. The portion of a shoe, sock, stocking, skate, etc., that covers or corresponds in position with the toes. **3.** The lower end or projection of something, resembling or suggestive of a toe. — **on one's toes** Alert; wide-awake. — **to tread on (someone's) toes** To trespass on (someone's) feelings, opinions, prejudices, etc. — *v.* **toed, toe·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To touch with the toes: to *toe* the line. **2.** To kick with the toe. **3.** To furnish with a toe. **4.** To drive (a nail or spike) obliquely; also, to attach (beams, etc.) end to end, by nails so driven. — *v.i.* **5.** To stand or walk with the toes pointing in a specified direction: to *toe* out. — **to toe the mark** (or **line**) To abide by the rules; conform. [OE *tā*] — **toe′less** *adj.*
toed (tōd) *adj.* Having toes: chiefly in combination: *pigeon-toed*.
toe-dance (tō′dans′, -däns′) *v.i.* **-danced, -danc·ing** To dance on tiptoe; perform a toe dance. — **toe dancer** **toe dance** A dance performed on tiptoe.
toe-hold (tō′hōld′) *n.* **1.** A small space that supports the toes in climbing. **2.** Any means of entrance, support, etc.; a footing: to gain a *toehold* on the island. **3.** A hold in which a wrestler bends back the foot of his opponent.
toe-nail (tō′nāl′) *n.* **1.** A nail growing on the toe. **2.** A nail driven obliquely to hold the foot of a stud or brace. — *v.t.* To fasten with obliquely driven nails.
tof·fee (tôf′ē, tof′ē) *n.* Taffy. Also **tof′fy.**
tog (tog) *Informal n. pl.* Clothes; outfit. — *v.t.* **togged, tog·ging** To dress; clothe: often with *up* or *out*. [Short for vagabond's cant *togemans* < F < L *toga*]
to·ga (tō′gə) *n. pl.* **·gas** or **·gae** (-jē) **1.** The distinctive outer garment worn in public by a citizen of ancient Rome. **2.** Any gown or cloak characteristic of a calling or profession: the lawyer's *toga*. [< L *tegere* to cover] — **to′gaed** (-gəd) *adj.*


TOGA

to·geth·er (tō·geth′ər, tə-) *adv.* **1.** Into union or contact with each other. **2.** In the same place or at the same spot; with each other; in company. **3.** At the same moment of time; simultaneously. **4.** Without cessation or intermission. **5.** With one another; mutually. [OE < *tō* to + *gædre* together]
tog·ger·y (tog′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ger·ies** *Informal* **1.** Togs collectively; clothes. **2.** A clothing shop.

tog·gle (tog′əl) *n.* A pin, or short rod, properly attached in the middle, as to a rope, and designed to be passed through a hole or eye and turned. — *v.t.* **·gled, ·gling** To fix, fasten, or furnish with a toggle. [Prob. var. of *tuggle*, appar. freq. of TUG]

toggle joint *Mech.* A joint having a central hinge like an elbow, and operable by applying the power at the junction, thus changing the direction of force and giving indefinite mechanical pressure.

toggle switch *Electr.* A switch in the form of a projecting lever whose movement through a small arc opens or closes an electric circuit.

toil[1] (toil) *n.* **1.** Fatiguing work; labor. **2.** Any oppressive task. **3.** Any notable work accomplished by labor. — *v.i.* **1.** To work arduously; labor painfully and tiringly. **2.** To progress or make one's way with slow and labored steps. [< AF < OF < L *tudiculare* to stir about] — **toil′er** *n.* — **Syn.** (noun) **1.** Work, labor, drudgery.

toil[2] (toil) *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* Something that binds or ensnares, as a net. **2.** *Archaic* A net, snare, or other trap. [< MF < OF < L *tela* web]

toile (twäl) *n.* A sheer linen fabric; also, a fine cretonne with scenic designs printed in one color. [< F. See TOIL[2].]

toi·let (toi′lit) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* **a** A room with a washbowl, water closet, etc.: sometimes called *bathroom.* **b** A hopper flushed and discharged by means of water, into which one urinates or defecates: also called *water closet.* **2.** The act of dressing oneself; formerly, esp. of dressing the hair. **3.** Attire. — *adj.* Used in dressing or grooming: *toilet* articles. [< F *toilette* orig., cloth dressing gown, dim. of *toile* cloth]

toi·let·ry (toi′lit·rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** Any of the several articles used in making one's toilet, as soap, comb, brush, etc.

toi·lette (toi·let′, *Fr.* twȧ·let′) *n.* **1.** The act or process of grooming oneself, usu. including bathing, hairdressing, etc. **2.** A person's actual dress or style of dress; also, any specific costume or gown. [< F]

toilet water A scented liquid containing a small amount of alcohol, used in or after the bath, after shaving, etc.

toil·some (toil′səm) *adj.* Accomplished with fatigue; involving toil. — **toil′some·ly** *adv.* — **toil′some·ness** *n.*

toil-worn (toil′wôrn′, -wōrn′) *adj.* Exhausted by toil; showing the effects of toil.

To·kay (tō·kā′) *n.* **1.** A white or reddish blue grape. **2.** A wine made from it. [after *Tokay*, Hungary]

to·ken (tō′kən) *n.* **1.** Anything indicative of some other thing; a visible sign. **2.** A symbol: a *token* of my affection. **3.** Some tangible proof or evidence of a statement or of one's identity, etc. **4.** A memento; souvenir. **5.** A characteristic mark or feature. **6.** A piece of metal issued as currency and having a face value greater than its actual value. **7.** A piece of metal issued by a transportation company and good for one fare. — *v.t.* To evidence by a token; betoken. — *adj.* Done or given as a token, esp. in partial fulfillment of an obligation. [OE *tācen, tācen*]

told (tōld) Past tense and past participle of TELL.

To·le·do (tə·lē′dō) *n. pl.* **·dos** A sword or sword blade from Toledo, Spain. Also **to·le′do.**

tol·er·a·ble (tol′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Passably good; commonplace. **2.** Endurable. **3.** Allowable; permissible. **4.** *Informal* In passably good health. [< OF < L *tolerare* to endure] — **tol′er·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **tol′er·a·bly** *adv.*

tol·er·ance (tol′ər·əns) *n.* **1.** The character, state, or quality of being tolerant. **2.** Freedom from bigotry or from racial or religious prejudice. **3.** The act of enduring, or the capacity for endurance. **4.** A small permissible allowance for variations from the specified weight, dimensions, etc. **5.** *Med.* Ability to tolerate, as a drug.

tol·er·ant (tol′ər·ənt) *adj.* **1.** Disposed to tolerate beliefs, views, etc. **2.** Indulgent; liberal. **3.** *Med.* Capable of taking with impunity unusual or excessive doses of dangerous drugs. — **tol′er·ant·ly** *adv.*

tol·er·ate (tol′ə·rāt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To allow to be or be done without active opposition. **2.** To concede, as the right to opinions or participation. **3.** To bear, sustain, or be capable of sustaining. **4.** *Med.* To endure, as a poisonous amount or dose, with impunity. [< L *toleratus*, pp. of *tolerare* to endure] — **tol′er·a′tive** *adj.* — **tol′er·a′tor** *n.*

tol·er·a·tion (tol′ə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or practice of tolerance. **2.** The recognition of the rights of the individual to his own opinions and customs, as in religious worship.

toll[1] (tōl) *n.* **1.** A fixed compensation for some privilege granted or service rendered, as passage on a bridge or turnpike. **2.** The right to levy such charge. **3.** Something taken or elicited like a toll; price: The train wreck took a heavy *toll* of lives. **4.** A due charged for shipping or landing goods. **5.** A charge for transportation of goods, esp. by rail or canal. **6.** A charge for a long-distance telephone call. [OE < LL < L < Gk. *telōnion* customhouse < *telos* tax]

toll[2] (tōl) *v.t.* **1.** To cause (a bell) to sound slowly and at regular intervals. **2.** To announce by tolling, as a death or funeral. **3.** To call or summon by tolling. **4.** To decoy (game, esp. ducks). — *v.i.* **5.** To sound slowly and at regular intervals. — *n.* The act or sound of tolling a bell. [ME *tollen, tullen*]

toll-bar (tōl′bär′) *n.* A tollgate, esp. one with a single bar.

toll bridge A bridge at which a toll is charged for passage.

toll call A long-distance telephone call, the charge for which is higher than local rates.

toll collector A collector of tolls.

toll·er (tō′lər) *n.* **1.** One who tolls a bell. **2.** A bell used for tolling. **3.** A small dog trained to toll or decoy ducks.

toll·gate (tōl′gāt′) *n.* A gate at the entrance to a bridge, or on a road, at which toll is paid.

toll·house (tōl′hous′) *n.* A toll collector's lodge adjoining a tollgate: also **toll′booth′** (-bo͞oth′, -bo͞oth′).

toll·keep·er (tōl′kē′pər) *n.* One who keeps a tollgate.

toll line A long-distance telephone line or channel for the use of which a toll is charged.

toll road A road on which a toll is charged for each vehicle using it. Also **toll′way** (tōl′wā′).

Tol·tec (tol′tek, tōl′-) *n.* One of certain ancient Nahuatlan tribes that dominated central and southern Mexico about A.D. 900–1100 and through contact with Mayan culture founded the highly civilized Nahua culture of the Aztecs. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Toltecs. [< Nahuatl *Tolteca*] — **Tol′tec·an** *adj.*

tol·u·ene (tol′yo͞o·ēn) *n. Chem.* A colorless, flammable liquid hydrocarbon, $C_6H_5CH_3$, obtained from coal tar by distillation and used in making dyestuffs, explosives, etc.

tom (tom) *n.* The male of various animals, esp. the cat. [after *Tom*, a personal name. See TOMCAT.]

tom·a·hawk (tom′ə·hôk) *n.* **1.** An axlike weapon used by North American Indians, originally a carved club in which a piece of bone or metal was inserted. **2.** Any similar weapon, tool, etc. — *v.t.* To strike or kill with a tomahawk. [< Algonquian < *tamahaken* he uses for cutting]

tom·al·ley (tom′al·ē) *n.* The liver of the lobster, considered a delicacy. [Prob. < Carib]

Tom and Jer·ry (tom′ ən jer′ē) A drink made with brandy, rum, beaten egg, hot milk or water, sugar, and nutmeg. [after two main characters in *Life in London*, 1821, by Pierce Egan, 1772–1849]

to·ma·to (tə·mā′tō, -mä′-) *n. pl.* **·toes** **1.** The large, pulpy, edible berry, yellow or red when ripe, of a perennial plant of the nightshade family, widely cultivated as a vegetable. **2.** The plant itself. **3.** *U.S. Slang* A girl or woman. [< Sp. < Nahuatl *tomatl*]

tomb (to͞om) *n.* **1.** A place for the burial of the dead, as a vault or grave. **2.** Any place or structure serving as a final repository for the dead. **3.** A monument, tombstone, etc., commemorating the dead. **4.** Death: often preceded by *the.* [< AF *tumbe*, OF *tombe* < LL < Gk. *tymbos* mound]

tom·boy (tom′boi′) *n.* A girl who prefers boyish activities, dress, etc. — **tom′boy′ish** *adj.* — **tom′boy′ish·ness** *n.*

tomb·stone (to͞om′stōn′) *n.* A stone, usu. inscribed, marking a place of burial.

tom·cat (tom′kat′) *n.* A male cat. [after *Tom*, a male cat, hero of *The Life and Adventures of a Cat*, 1760]

Tom Col·lins (tom kol′inz) A drink consisting of gin, lemon or lime juice, sugar, and carbonated water.

Tom, Dick, and Har·ry (dik; har′ē) Any persons taken at random from the general public: used disparagingly, and often preceded by *every.*

tome (tōm) *n.* **1.** A volume; large book. **2.** One of a series of volumes. [< MF < L < Gk. *tomos* fragment]

-tome *combining form* A cutting instrument (of a specified kind). [< Gk. *tomos* a cutting < *temnein* to cut]

tom·fool (tom′fo͞ol′) *n.* An idiotic or silly person. — *adj.* Very stupid or foolish. [after *Tom Fool*, a name formerly applied to mental defectives]

tom·fool·er·y (tom′fo͞o′lər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** Nonsensical or foolish behavior. **2.** Worthless or trivial stuff; frippery. Also **tom′fool′ish·ness** (-fo͞o′lish·nis).

tom·my (tom′ē) *n. pl.* **·mies** *Brit. Informal Often cap.* A British soldier.

Tommy gun A Thompson submachine gun.

tom·my-rot (tom′ē·rot′) *n. Informal* Utter nonsense.

to·mor·row (tə·môr′ō, -mor′ō) *adv.* On or for the next day after today. — *n.* **1.** The next day after today; the morrow. **2.** Some time in the future. Also **to-mor′row.** [ME < OE < *tō* to + *morgen* morning, morrow]

tom·pi·on (tom′pē·ən) See TAMPION.

Tom Thumb **1.** In English folklore, a hero who was no bigger than his father's thumb. **2.** A tiny person.

tom·tit (tom′tit′) *n.* Any of various small birds, as a chickadee or a wren. [< TOM + TIT[1]]

tom-tom (tom′tom′) *n.* A drum of India, Africa, etc., variously shaped and usu. beaten with the hands. [< Hind. *tamtam*, imit. of the instrument's sound]

-tomy *combining form* **1.** *Surg.* A cutting of a (specified) part or tissue. **2.** A (specified) kind of cutting or division: *dichotomy.* [< Gk. *tomē* a cutting < *temnein* to cut]

ton (tun) *n.* **1.** Any of several large measures of weight; esp.: **a** The **short ton** of 2000 pounds avoirdupois, commonly used in the U.S. and Canada. **b** The **long** or **gross ton** of 2240 pounds, used in Great Britain. See table front of book. **2.** A unit for reckoning the displacement or weight of vessels, 35 cubic feet of sea water weighing about one long ton: called in full a **displacement ton.** **3.** A unit for reckoning the freight-carrying capacity of a ship, usu. equivalent to 40 cubic feet of space but varying with the cargo: called in full a **freight ton** or **measurement ton.** **4.** A unit for reckoning the internal capacity of merchant vessels for purposes of registration, equivalent to 100 cubic feet or 2.8317 cubic meters: called in full a **register ton.** **5.** A metric ton. Var. of TUN]

ton- Var. of TONO-.

-ton *suffix* Town: used in place names: *Charleston.* [OE < *tūn*]

to·nal (tō′nəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to tone or tonality. — **to′nal·ly** *adv.*

to·nal·i·ty (tō·nal′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** *Music* **a** The use of a system of tones so that one tone is the central or primary tone of the system. **b** Any particular arrangement of this type centering on a specific tone; key; mode. **2.** The general color scheme or collective tones of a painting.

tone (tōn) *n.* **1.** Sound in relation to quality, volume, duration, and pitch. **2.** A sound having a definite pitch. **3.** *Music* **a** The timbre, or characteristic sound, of a voice, instrument, etc. **b** The interval between the first two degrees of a major scale: also called *whole tone.* **4.** A predominating disposition; mood. **5.** Characteristic style or tendency; tenor. **6.** Style or distinction; elegance. **7.** Vocal inflection as expressive of feeling: a *tone* of pity. **8.** *Phonet.* **a** The acoustical pitch, or change in pitch, of a phrase or sentence. **b** Special stress or pitch accent given to a syllable or word. **9.** The prevailing impression of a picture, produced by effects of light and shadow, variations in color quality, etc. **10.** A shade, hue, tint, or degree of a particular color, or some slight modification of it: red with a purplish *tone.* **11.** *Physiol.* **a** The general condition of the body with reference to the vigorous and healthy discharge of its functions. **b** Firmness and resilience, as of a tissue. — **Syn.** See SOUND¹. — *v.* **toned, ton·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give tone to. **2.** To modify in tone. **3.** To alter the color or increase the brilliancy of (a photographic print) by a chemical bath. **4.** *Rare* To intone. — — *v.i.* **5.** To assume a certain tone or hue. **6.** To blend or harmonize, as in tone or shade. — **to tone down** **1.** To subdue the tone of (a painting). **2.** To moderate in quality or tone. — **to tone up** **1.** To raise in quality or strength. **2.** To gain in vitality. [< OF < L < Gk. *teinein* to stretch]

tone color The timbre of a voice, musical instrument, etc.

tone-deaf (tōn′def′) *adj.* Unable to perceive fine distinctions in pitch, as musical intervals. — **tone′deaf′ness** *n.*

tone·less (tōn′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no tone; without tone. **2.** Lacking spirit or vivacity; listless. — **tone′less·ly** *adv.* — **tone′less·ness** *n.*

tong¹ (tông, tong) *v.t.* **1.** To gather, collect, or seize with tongs. — *v.i.* **2.** To use tongs, as for fishing. [< TONGS]

tong² (tông, tong) *n.* A Chinese secret society or fraternal association; esp., such a group formerly active in the U.S. [< Chinese *t'ang* hall, meeting place]

Ton·ga (tong′gə) *n.* A Polynesian language spoken in the Tonga Islands.

tongs (tôngz, tongz) *n.pl.* (*sometimes construed as sing.*) An implement for grasping, holding, or lifting objects, consisting usu. of a pair of pivoted levers: sometimes called a **pair of tongs.** [OE *tang, tange*]

tongue (tung) *n.* **1.** A protrusile, freely moving organ situated in the mouth of most vertebrates, highly developed in mammals, where it serves as an organ of taste, and in man also as an organ of speech. ◆ Collateral adjective: *lingual.* For illus. see THROAT. **2.** *Zool.* An analogous organ or part of the mouth of various insects, fishes, etc. **3.** An animal's tongue, as of beef, prepared as food. **4.** The power of speech or articulation: to lose one's *tongue.* **5.** Manner or style of speaking: a smooth *tongue.* **6.** Mere speech, as contrasted with fact or deed. **7.** Utterance. **8.** A language, vernacular, or dialect. **9.** *Archaic* A people or race, regarded as having its own language: a Biblical use. **10.** Anything resembling an animal tongue in shape or function. **11.** A slender projection of land, as a cape or small promontory. **12.** A long narrow bay or inlet of water. **13.** A jet of flame. **14.** A strip of leather for closing the gap in the front of a shoe. **15.** *Music* The free or vibrating end of a reed in a wind instrument. **16.** The clapper of a bell. **17.** The harnessing pole of a horse-drawn vehicle. **18.** Any flange or projecting part of a machine or mechanical device. **19.** A projecting edge or tenon of a board for insertion into a corresponding groove of another board, thus forming a **tongue-and-groove joint.** — **on the tip of one's tongue** On the verge of being recalled. — **to hold one's tongue** To keep silent. — **(with) tongue in cheek** With ironical or facetious intent. — *v.* **tongued, tongu·ing** *v.t.* **1.** *Music* In wind-instrument playing: **a** To separate the tones played on (an instrument) by means of the tongue. **b** To begin (a tone) using the tongue. **c** To tongue the notes of (a phrase, etc.). **2.** To touch or lap with the tongue. **3.** In carpentry: **a** To cut a tongue on (a board). **b** To join or fit by a tongue-and-groove joint. **4.** *Poetic* To utter; articulate. — *v.i.* **5.** To use the tongue in playing a wind instrument. **6.** To talk or prattle. **7.** To extend as a tongue. [OE *tunge*]

tongued (tungd) *adj.* **1.** Having a tongue or tongues. **2.** Having or characterized by a (specified kind of) tongue or (a specified number of) tongues: *sharp-tongued.*

tongue-lash·ing (tung′lash′ing) *n. Informal* A severe or thoroughgoing reprimand; scolding.

tongue·less (tung′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no tongue. **2.** Speechless; dumb.

tongue-tie (tung′tī′) *n.* Abnormal shortness of the frenum of the tongue, whereby its motion is impeded or confined. — *v.t.* **-tied, -ty·ing** To deprive of speech or the power of speech, or of distinct articulation.

tongue-tied (tung′tīd′) *adj.* **1.** Speechless or halting in speech, as from shyness, etc. **2.** Impeded by tongue-tie.

tongue twister A word or phrase difficult to articulate quickly, as "Miss Smith's fish-sauce shop."

ton·ic (ton′ik) *adj.* **1.** Having power to invigorate or build up; bracing. **2.** Pertaining to tone or tones. **3.** *Music* Pertaining to or in the key of the keynote. **4.** In art, denoting the general effect of color or of light and shade. **5.** *Physiol.* **a** Of or pertaining to tension, especially muscular tension. **b** Rigid; unrelaxing: *tonic* spasm. **6.** *Phonet.* Stressed, as a syllable. — *n.* **1.** A medicine that gradually restores the normal tone of organs from a condition of debility. **2.** Something imparting animation, vigor, or tone. **3.** *Music* The basic tone of a key or mode. **4.** Quinine water: gin and *tonic.* **5.** *U.S.* In the Boston area, soda (def. 2). [< Gk. < *tonos* sound, tone]

tonic accent An accent that is spoken or pronounced rather than written.

to·nic·i·ty (tō·nis′ə·tē) *n.* The resilience and elasticity of healthy muscles, arteries, and other bodily tissues.

tonic sol-fa A system of musical notation that uses the initial letters of the solmization syllables to indicate pitch, and dots and lines to indicate rhythm.

to·night (tə·nīt′) *adv.* In or during the present or coming night. — *n.* **1.** The night that follows this day. **2.** The present night. Also **to-night′.** [OE < *tō* + *niht* night]

ton·nage (tun′ij) *n.* **1.** The cubic capacity of a merchant vessel expressed in tons of 100 cubic feet each. **2.** The total carrying capacity of a collection of vessels, esp. of a country's merchant marine. **3.** A tax levied on vessels at a given rate per ton. **4.** Total weight in tons, as of materials produced, mined, or transported.

ton·neau (tu·nō′) *n. pl.* **·neaus** (-nōz′) or **·neaux** (-nōz′) The rear part of an early type of automobile or vehicle, with seats enclosed by low sides. [< F, lit., barrel]

tono- *combining form* **1.** Tension; pressure. **2.** *Music* Tone; pitch. Also, before vowels, *ton-.* [< Gk. *tonos* tension < *teinein* to stretch]

ton·sil (ton′səl) *n. Anat.* One of two oval lymphoid organs situated on either side of the passage from the mouth to the pharynx. For illus. see THROAT. [< L *tonsillae* tonsils] — **ton′sil·lar** or **ton′sil·ar** *adj.*

ton·sil·lec·to·my (ton′sə·lek′tə·mē) *n. pl.* **·mies** *Surg.* Removal of a tonsil or tonsils.

ton·sil·li·tis (ton′sə·lī′tis) *n. Pathol.* Inflammation of the tonsils. — **ton′sil·lit′ic** (-lit′ik) *adj.*

ton·so·ri·al (ton·sôr′ē·əl, sō′rē) *adj.* Pertaining to a barber or barbering: chiefly in the humorous term **tonsorial artist,** a barber. [< L < *tonsus,* pp. of *tondere* to clip]

ton·sure (ton′shər) *n.* **1.** The shaving of the head, or of the crown of the head, as of a priest or monk. **2.** The state of being thus shaven. **3.** The part of a priest's or monk's head left bare by shaving. — *v.t.* **·sured, ·sur·ing** To shave the head of. [< OF < L. See TONSORIAL.]

ton·tine (ton′tēn, ton·tēn′) *n.* A form of collective life annuity, the individual profits of which increase as the number of survivors diminishes, the final survivor taking the whole. [< F, after Lorenzo *Tonti,* a Neopolitan banker who introduced it into France in about 1653]

ton·y (tō′nē) *adj.* **ton·i·er, ton·i·est** *Informal* High toned; fashionable; stylish. [< TONE (def. 6)]

too (tōō) *adv.* **1.** In addition; likewise; also. **2.** In excessive quantity or degree; more than sufficiently. **3.** *Informal* Very; extremely: That's not *too* likely. **4.** *Informal* Indeed: an intensive, often used to reiterate a contradicted statement: You are *too* going! [Stressed var. of OE *tō* to]

took (tōōk) Past tense of TAKE.

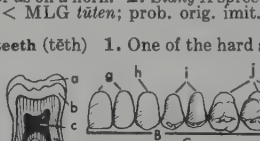
tool (to͞ol) *n.* **1.** A simple mechanism or implement, as a hammer, saw, spade, or chisel, used chiefly in manual work. **2.** A power-driven apparatus, as a lathe, used for cutting and shaping the parts of a machine. **3.** The cutting or shaping part of such an apparatus. **4.** A bookbinder's hand stamp used in lettering or ornamenting book covers. **5.** A person used to carry out the designs of others or another; a dupe. **6.** Any instrument or means necessary to the efficient prosecution of one's profession or trade: Words are the writer's *tools*. — *v.t.* **1.** To shape, mark, or ornament with a tool. **2.** To provide with tools. **3.** To ornament or impress designs upon (leather, a book binding, etc.) with a roller bearing a pattern. — *v.i.* **4.** To work with a tool or tools. [OE *tōl*] — **tool'er** *n.*

tool·ing (to͞o'ling) *n.* **1.** Ornamentation or work done with tools; esp., stamped or gilded ornamental designs on leather. **2.** The application of a tool or tools to any work.

tool·mak·er (to͞ol'mā'kər) *n.* A maker of tools.

toot (to͞ot) *v.i.* **1.** To blow a horn, whistle, etc., esp. with short blasts. **2.** To give forth a blast or toot, as a horn. **3.** To make a similar sound. — *v.t.* **4.** To sound (a horn, etc.) with short blasts. **5.** To sound (a blast, etc.). — *n.* **1.** A short note or blast on or as on a horn. **2.** *Slang* A spree; esp., a drinking spree. [? < MLG *tūten*; prob. orig. imit.] — **toot'er** *n.*

tooth (to͞oth) *n. pl.* **teeth** (tēth) **1.** One of the hard structures in the mouth of most vertebrates, used for seizing and chewing food, as offensive and defensive weapons, etc. ◆ Collateral adjective: *dental*. **2.** One of various hard calcareous or chitinous bodies of the oral or gastric regions of invertebrates. **3.** Any small toothlike projection, as at the edge of a leaf. **4.** Something resembling a tooth in form or use; esp., a projecting point, tine, or cog, as on a saw, comb, fork, rake, or gearwheel. **5.** Appetite; liking: used chiefly in the expression *sweet tooth*. **6.** *pl.* Something that opposes in or as in a gnawing, biting, or piercing manner: the *teeth* of the wind. — **armed to the teeth** Completely or heavily armed. — **in the teeth of** Directly against, counter to, or in defiance of. — **to get one's teeth into** To achieve a solid grip or grasp of; engage completely with. — **to show one's teeth** To display a disposition to fight; threaten. — **to throw (cast, fling,** etc.) **(something) in one's teeth** To fling at one, as a challenge or taunt. — *v.t.* **1.** To supply with teeth, as a rake or saw. **2.** To give a serrated edge to; indent. — *v.i.* **3.** To become interlocked, as gear wheels. [OE *tōth*]



TEETH OF ADULT HUMAN
A Section of a molar: *a* Crown, *b* Enamel, *c* Pulp cavity, *d* Dentine, *e* Cementum, *f* Roots. *B* and *C* Left upper and lower jaws: *g* Incisors, *h* Canines, *i* Bicuspids, *j* Molars, *k* Wisdom teeth.

tooth·ache (to͞oth'āk') *n.* Pain in a tooth or teeth.

tooth and nail With all possible strength and effort; fiercely: to fight *tooth and nail*.

tooth·brush (to͞oth'brush') *n.* A small brush used for cleaning the teeth.

toothed (to͞otht, to͞oth'id) *adj.* **1.** Having teeth. **2.** Having or characterized by a (specified kind or number of) teeth: used in combination: *sharp-toothed*. **3.** Notched or indented.

tooth·less (to͞oth'lis) *adj.* **1.** Being without teeth. **2.** Lacking effective power or force; ineffectual. — **tooth'less·ly** *adv.*

tooth·paste (to͞oth'pāst') *n.* A paste used to clean teeth.

tooth·pick (to͞oth'pik') *n.* A small sliver of wood, plastic, etc., used for removing particles of food from between the teeth.

tooth·pow·der (to͞oth'pou'dər) *n.* A powder used in cleaning the teeth.

tooth·some (to͞oth'səm) *adj.* **1.** Having a pleasant taste. **2.** Appetizing; attractive. — **tooth'some·ly** *adv.* — **tooth'some·ness** *n.*

tooth·y (to͞o'thē) *adj.* **tooth·i·er, tooth·i·est** **1.** Having large or prominent teeth. **2.** Displaying the teeth: a *toothy* smile.

too·tle (to͞ot'l) *v.i. & v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To toot lightly or continuously, as on the flute. — *n.* The act or sound of tootling. [Freq. of TOOT]

top[1] (top) *n.* **1.** The uppermost or highest part, end, side, or surface of anything. **2.** The end or part regarded as the higher or upper extremity: the *top* of the street. **3.** A lid or cover: a bottle *top*. **4.** *U.S.* The roof of a vehicle, as an automobile. **5.** The crown of the head: from *top* to toe. **6.** *pl.* The aboveground part of a plant producing root vegetables. **7.** The highest degree or range: the *top* of one's ambition. **8.** The highest or most prominent place or rank. **9.** One who is highest in rank or position. **10.** The highest or loudest pitch: at the *top* of his voice. **11.** The choicest or best part: the *top* of the crop. **12.** In bridge, etc., the highest card in a suit. **13.** In tennis, golf, etc.: **a** A stroke in which the player hits the ball above the center or on the upper half. **b** The forward spinning motion thus imparted to the ball. **14.** *Naut.* A platform at the head of the lower section of a ship's mast, used as a place to stand and for extending the topmast rigging. — **to blow one's top** *Slang* **1.** To break out in a rage; flare up. **2.** To go insane. — **on top** **1.** At the highest point or position. **2.** In a situation of dominance or power. **3.** Highly successful. — **on top of** **1.** On the highest point or upper surface of. **2.** In addition to; as a climax to. — **over the top** **1.** In trench warfare, over the breastwork, as in an attack. **2.** Beyond a set goal, quota, etc. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the top. **2.** Forming or comprising the top or upper part. **3.** Highest in rank or quality; chief: *top* authors. **4.** Greatest in amount or degree: *top* prices. — *v.* **topped, top·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To remove the top or upper end of. **2.** To provide with a top, cap, etc. **3.** To form the top of. **4.** To reach or pass over the top of; surmount. **5.** To surpass or exceed. **6.** In golf, tennis, etc., to hit the upper part of (the ball) in making a stroke. — *v.i.* **7.** To top someone or something. — **to top off** **1.** To put something on the top of. **2.** To complete or finish with a final or crowning touch. [OE]

top[2] (top) *n.* A toy with a point on which it is made to spin, as by the unwinding of a string, spring, etc. [OE]

top- Var. of TOPO-.

to·paz (tō'paz) *n.* **1.** A native silicate of aluminum, occurring in prismatic crystals of various colors, but chiefly yellow to brownish, that are valued as gemstones. **2.** A yellow variety of sapphire. Also **Oriental topaz.** **3.** A brownish or grayish yellow. [< OF < L < Gk. *topazos*]

top boot A boot with a high top that is sometimes bordered or decorated with material different from the rest of the boot.

top·coat (top'kōt') *n.* A lightweight overcoat.

top dog *Informal* The leading or dominant individual or group; the head; chief. — **top-dog** (top'dôg', -dog') *adj.*

top-draw·er (top'drôr') *adj. Informal* Of the highest standing, merit, excellence, etc.

top-dress (top'dres') *v.t. Agric.* To apply top-dressing to.

top-dress·ing (top'dres'ing) *n.* A dressing of manure spread over the surface of a field. Also **top'dress'ing, top dressing.**

tope (tōp) *v.t.* **toped, top·ing** To drink (alcoholic beverages) excessively and frequently. [? Akin to earlier *top* to tilt]

top·er (tō'pər) *n.* A habitual drunkard; sot. [< TOPE]

top·flight (top'flīt') *adj.* Of the highest quality; superior.

top gal·lant (tə·gal'ənt, top'gal'ənt) *n. Naut.* **1.** The mast, sail, yard, or rigging immediately above the topmast and topsail. **2.** The parts of a deck that are higher than the rest. — *adj.* Pertaining to the topgallants. [< TOP[1] + GALLANT; with ref. to "making a gallant show" compared with the lower tops]

top hat A man's hat, usu. made of silk, having a tall, cylindrical crown and a narrow brim: also called *high hat*.

top-heav·y (top'hev'ē) *adj.* **-heav·i·er, -heav·i·est** **1.** Having the top or upper part too heavy for the lower part; ill-proportioned or precariously balanced. **2.** In finance, overcapitalized. — **top'-heav'i·ly** *adv.* — **top'-heav'i·ness** *n.*

to·pi (tō·pē') *n.* A helmet made of pith, worn as protection against the sun: also called *pith helmet*. [< Hind., hat]

top·ic (top'ik) *n.* **1.** A subject of discourse or of a treatise. **2.** Any matter treated of in speech or writing; a theme for discussion. **3.** A subdivision of an outline or a treatise. [< L < Gk. (*ta*) *topika*, title of a work by Aristotle, neut. pl. of *topikos* of a place < *topos* place, commonplace]

top·i·cal (top'i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a topic. **2.** Of the nature of merely probable argument. **3.** Belonging to a place or spot; local. **4.** Pertaining to matters of present interest: a *topical* song. **5.** *Med.* Local. — **top'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

top kick *Slang* A top sergeant.

top·knot (top'not') *n.* **1.** A crest, tuft, or knot on the top of the head, as of feathers on the head of a bird. **2.** The hair of the human head when worn as a high knot.

top·less (top'lis) *adj.* **1.** Lacking a top. **2.** Nude above the waist, or designed to include such nudity, as a bathing suit. — **top'less·ness** *n.*

top·loft·y (top'lôf'tē, -lof'tē) *adj.* **·loft·i·er, ·loft·i·est** **1.** Towering very high. **2.** Very proud or haughty; inflated; pompous. — **top'loft'i·ly** *adv.* — **top'loft'i·ness** *n.*

top·mast (top'məst, top'mast', mäst') *n. Naut.* The mast next above the lower mast.

top·most (top'mōst') *adj.* Being at the very top.

top notch (top'noch') *adj. Informal* Excellent; best.

topo- *combining form* A place or region; regional. Also, before vowels, **top-**. [< Gk. *topos* place]

to·pog·ra·pher (tə·pog'rə·fər) *n.* An expert in topography.

to·pog·ra·phy (tə·pog'rə·fē) *n. pl.* **·phies** **1.** The detailed description of places. **2.** The art of representing on a map the physical features of a place. **3.** The physical features, collectively, of a region. **4.** Surveying with reference to the

physical features of a region. — **top·o·graph·ic** (top′ə·graf′·ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **top′o·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

top·per (top′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which cuts off the top of something. **2.** *Slang* One who or that which is of supreme quality. **3.** *Slang* A top hat. **4.** A woman's short, usu. lightweight, coat.

top·ping (top′ing) *adj. Brit. Informal* Excellent; first rate. — *n.* **1.** That which forms the top of anything. **2.** A sauce, garnish, etc., put on a cake, portion of food, etc.

top·ple (top′əl) *v.* **·pled, ·pling** *v.t.* **1.** To push and cause to totter or fall by its own weight; overturn. — *v.i.* **2.** To totter and fall, as by its own weight. **3.** To lean or jut out, as if about to fall. [Freq. of TOP¹, v.]

tops (tops) *adj. Slang* Excellent; first-rate.

top·sail (top′səl, top′sāl′) *n. Naut.* **1.** In a square-rigged vessel, a square sail set next above the lowest sail of a mast. **2.** In a fore-and-aft-rigged vessel, a square or triangular sail carried above the gaff of a lower sail.

top·se·cret (top′sē′krit) *adj. U.S. Mil.* Denoting the highest category of security classification. Compare SECRET.

top sergeant *Informal* The first sergeant of a company, battery, or troop.

top·side (top′sīd′) *n. Naut.* The portion of a ship above the main deck. — *adv.* To or on the upper parts of a ship.

top·soil (top′soil′) *n.* The surface soil of land.

top·sy-tur·vy (top′sē·tûr′vē) *adv.* **1.** Upside-down; hind side before. **2.** In utter confusion. — *adj.* **1.** Being in an upset or disordered condition. **2.** Upside-down. — *n.* A state of confusion; disorder; chaos. [Prob. < TOP¹ + obs. *terve* to turn, overturn] — **top′sy-tur′vi·ly** *adv.* — **top′sy-tur′vi·ness** *n.* — **top′sy-tur′vy·dom** (-dəm) *n.*

toque (tōk) *n.* A close-fitting, brimless hat worn by women. [< F, cap < Sp. < Basque *tauka*, a kind of cap]

To·rah (tôr′ə, tō′rə) *n.* In Hebrew literature, a law; also, counsel or instruction proceeding from a specially sacred source. Also **to′ra.** [< Hebrew *tōrāh* instruction, law]

To·rah (tôr′ə, tō′rə) *n.* In Judaism, the Pentateuch: also called *the Law.*

torch (tôrch) *n.* **1.** A source of light, as from flaming pine knots, or from some material dipped in tallow, etc., and fixed at the end of a handle. **2.** Anything that illuminates: the *torch* of science. **3.** A portable device giving off an intensely hot flame and used for burning off paint, melting solder, etc. **4.** *Brit.* A flashlight. — **to carry a** (or **the**) **torch for** *Slang* To continue to love (someone), though the love is unrequited. [< OF *torche*, ult. < L *torquere* to twist]

torch·bear·er (tôrch′bâr′ər) *n.* **1.** One who carries a torch. **2.** One who imparts knowledge, truth, etc.

tor·chère (tôr·shâr′) *n.* A tall lamp giving light directed upward by a bowllike shade. [< F, candelabrum]

torch·light (tôrch′līt′) *n.* The light of a torch or torches. — *adj.* Lighted by torches: a *torchlight* rally.

torch song A popular love song expressing sadness and hopeless yearning. [< phrase *to carry a torch for*]

tore (tôr, tōr) Past tense of TEAR¹.

tor·e·a·dor (tôr′ē·ə·dôr′, *Sp.* tō′rā·ä·thōr′) *n.* A bullfighter. [< Sp. < *torear* to fight bulls < L *taurus* bull]

to·ri·i (tôr′i·ē, tō′ri·ē) *n.* The gateway of a Shinto temple, consisting of two uprights with one straight crosspiece, and another above with a concave lintel. [< Japanese]

tor·ment (*n.* tôr′ment; *v.* tôr·ment′) *n.* **1.** Intense bodily pain or mental anguish; agony; torture. **2.** One who or that which torments. — *v.t.* **1.** To subject to excruciating physical or mental suffering. **2.** To make miserable. **3.** To harass. [< OF < L *tormentum* rack < *torquere* to twist] — **tor·ment′er, tor·men′tor** *n.* — **tor·ment′ing·ly** *adv.*

torn (tôrn, tōrn) Past participle of TEAR¹.

tor·na·do (tôr·nā′dō) *n. pl.* **·does** or **·dos** *Meteorol.* **1.** A whirling wind of exceptional violence, accompanied by a pendulous, funnel-shaped cloud marking the narrow path of greatest destruction. **2.** Any whirlwind or hurricane. [Prob. alter. of Sp. *tronada* thunderstorm < L *tonare* to thunder] — **tor·nad′ic** (-nad′ik) *adj.*

tor·pe·do (tôr·pē′dō) *n. pl.* **·dos** or **·does** **1.** A device or apparatus containing an explosive to be fired by concussion or otherwise. **2.** An explosive, self-propelled, cigar-shaped underwater projectile, used to destroy enemy ships. **3.** A submarine mine. **4.** The electric ray, a fish. — *v.t.* **·doed, ·do·ing** To sink, damage, or wreck with or as with a torpedo. [< L, numbness < *torpere* to be numb]

torpedo boat A small, swift war vessel equipped with tubes for the discharge of torpedoes.

tor·pid (tôr′pid) *adj.* **1.** Inactive, as a hibernating animal. **2.** Dormant; numb. **3.** Sluggish; apathetic; dull. [< L *torpere* to be numb] — **tor·pid·i·ty** (tôr·pid′ə·tē), **tor′pid·ness** *n.* — **tor′pid·ly** *adv.*

tor·por (tôr′pər) *n.* **1.** Complete or partial insensibility; stupor. **2.** Apathy; torpidity. — **tor′po·rif′ic** *adj.*

torque (tôrk) *n. Mech.* Anything that causes or tends to cause torsion in a body; the rotary force in a mechanism. [< L *torquere* to twist]

tor·rent (tôr′ənt, tor′-) *n.* **1.** A stream, as of water, flowing with great velocity or turbulence. **2.** Any abundant or tumultuous flow: a *torrent* of abuse. [< OF < L *torrens*, boiling, burning, ppr. of *torrere* to parch]

tor·ren·tial (tô·ren′shəl, to-) *adj.* **1.** Of, resembling, or resulting from the action of a torrent. **2.** Suggestive of a torrent; overpowering. — **tor·ren′tial·ly** *adv.*

tor·rid (tôr′id, tor′-) *adj.* **1.** Exposed to or receiving the full force of the sun's heat. **2.** Very hot; scorching; burning. **3.** Impassioned; ardent. [< L < *torrere* to parch] — **tor·rid·i·ty** (tô·rid′ə·tē, to-), **tor′rid·ness** *n.* — **tor′rid·ly** *adv.*

tor·sion (tôr′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of twisting, or the state of being twisted. **2.** *Mech.* Deformation of a body, as a thread or rod, by twisting around its length as an axis. **3.** The force with which a twisted cord or cable tends to return to its former position. [< OF < LL < L < *torquere* to twist] — **tor′sion·al** *adj.* — **tor′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

tor·so (tôr′sō) *n. pl.* **·sos** or **·si** (-sē) **1.** The trunk of a human body. **2.** A sculptured representation of a human body without the head or limbs. **3.** Any truncated or defective thing. [< Ital. < L < Gk. *thyrsos* stalk]

tort (tôrt) *n. Law* Any private or civil wrong by act or omission for which a civil suit can be brought, but not including breach of contract. [See TORSION.]

torte (tôrt, *Ger.* tôr′tə) *n.* A rich cake made with butter, eggs, and often fruit and nuts. [< G < Ital. *torta*]

tor·til·la (tôr·tē′yä) *n.* In Mexico, a flat cake made of coarse cornmeal baked on a hot sheet of iron or a slab of stone. [< Sp., dim. of *torta* cake < LL < L *torquere* to twist]

tor·toise (tôr′təs) *n.* **1.** A turtle; esp., one of a terrestrial species as distinguished from those that are aquatic. **2.** A slow-moving person or thing. [< Med.L *tortuca*, ? < L *tortus* twisted; so called from its crooked feet]

tor·toise-shell (tôr′təs·shel′) *adj.* Made of or variegated like tortoise shell. Also **tor′toise·shell′.**

tortoise shell The shell of a marine turtle, consisting of a mottled, brownish, hornlike substance used for combs, etc.

tor·tu·ous (tôr′chōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of or abounding in irregular bends or turns; twisting. **2.** Not straightforward; devious. **3.** Morally twisted or warped. [< AF < L *torquere* to twist] — **tor′tu·os′i·ty** (-os′ə·tē) *n.* — **tor′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **tor′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

tor·ture (tôr′chər) *n.* **1.** Infliction of or subjection to extreme physical pain. **2.** Great mental suffering; agony. **3.** Something that causes severe pain. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** **1.** To inflict extreme pain upon, as from cruelty. **2.** To subject to judicial torture. **3.** To cause to suffer agony, extreme discomfort, etc. **4.** To twist or turn into an abnormal form, meaning, etc. [< OF < L *torquere* to twist] — **tor′·tur·er** *n.* — **tor′tur·ous** *adj.*

to·rus (tôr′əs, tō′rəs) *n. pl.* **to·ri** (tôr′ī, tō′rī) **1.** *Archit.* A large convex molding used in bases as the lowest molding, or in columns above the plinth. **2.** *Bot.* The swollen end of a flower-stalk that bears the floral leaves. **3.** *Geom.* A solid figure usu. resembling a doughnut. [< L, lit., a swelling]

To·ry (tôr′ē, tō′rē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A member of an English political party, successor to the Cavaliers and opponent of the Whigs, since about 1832 called the Conservative Party. **2.** One who at the period of the American Revolution adhered to the cause of British sovereignty over the colonies. **3.** One having very conservative beliefs, esp. in politics. Also **to′ry.** [< Irish *tóir* to pursue] — **To′ry·ism** *n.*

toss (tôs, tos) *v.t.* **1.** To throw, pitch, or fling about. **2.** To agitate; disturb. **3.** To throw with the hand, esp. with the palm of the hand upward. **4.** To lift with a quick motion, as the head. **5.** *Informal* To toss up with: I'll *toss* you to see who pays. — *v.i.* **6.** To be flung to and fro, as a ship in a storm. **7.** To throw oneself from side to side restlessly, as in sleep. **8.** To go quickly or angrily, as with a fling of the head. **9.** To toss up a coin. — **to toss off** **1.** To drink at one draft. **2.** To utter, write, or do in an offhand manner. — **to toss up** To throw a coin into the air to decide a wager or choice, the outcome depending on the side on which the coin falls. — *n.* **1.** The act of tossing; a pitch; also, the distance over which a thing is tossed. **2.** A quick upward or backward movement, as of the head. **3.** A tossup or wager. [Prob. < Scand.] — **toss′er** *n.*

toss-up (tôs′up′, tos′-) *n. Informal* **1.** The throwing up of a coin to decide a bet, etc. **2.** An even chance.

tot¹ (tot) *n.* **1.** A little child; toddler. **2.** A small amount or portion, as of liquor. [Origin unknown]

tot² (tot) *v.t.* **tot·ted, tot·ting** *Informal* To add; total: usu. with *up.* [Short for TOTAL]

to·tal (tōt′l) *n.* The whole sum or amount. — *adj.* **1.** Constituting or comprising a whole. **2.** Complete; absolute: a

total loss. — *v.* **·taled** or **·talled, ·tal·ing** or **·tal·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To ascertain the total of. **2.** To come to or reach as a total. — *v.i.* **3.** To amount: often with *to*. [< OF < Med.L < L *totus* all] — **to′tal·ly** *adv.*

total eclipse *Astron.* An eclipse in which during some period the entire disk of a celestial body is hidden from view.

to·tal·i·tar·i·an (tō·tal′ə·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* Designating or characteristic of a government controlled exclusively by one party or faction, and maintained by political suppression. — *n.* An adherent of totalitarian government. — **to·tal′i·tar′i·an·ism** *n.*

to·tal·i·ty (tō·tal′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** An aggregate of parts or individuals. **2.** The state of being total.

to·tal·i·za·tor (tōt′l·ə·zā′tər, -ī·zā′-) *n.* A pari-mutuel machine: also **to′tal·iz′er** (-ī′zər). Also *Brit.* **to′tal·i·sa′tor.**

tote (tōt) *U.S. Informal* *v.t.* **tot·ed, tot·ing** **1.** To carry about or bear on the person. **2.** To haul, as supplies. — *n.* **1.** The act of toting. **2.** A load or haul. [? < West African] — **tot′er** *n.*

tote board *Informal* A board at a racetrack, etc., showing the betting odds and results of races.

to·tem (tō′təm) *n.* **1.** Among many primitive peoples, an animal, plant, or other natural object believed to be ancestrally related to a tribe, clan, etc. **2.** The representation of such an animal, plant, or object taken as an emblem. **3.** The name or symbol of a person, clan, or tribe. [< Algonquian] — **to·tem′ic** (tō·tem′ik) *adj.* — **to′tem·ism** *n.* — **to′tem·ist** *n.* — **to′tem·is′tic** *adj.*

totem pole A tall post or pole carved or painted with totemic symbols, often erected outside a dwelling by North American Indians, esp. those of the NW coast.

TOTEM POLE

toth·er (tuth′ər) *adj. & pron. Informal* The other; other. Also **t'oth'er.** [ME *the tother* < *thet other* the other]

toti- *combining form* Whole; wholly. [< L *totus* whole]

tot·ter (tot′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To walk feebly and unsteadily. **2.** To shake or sway, as if about to fall. — *n.* The act or condition of tottering. [Prob. < Scand.] — **tot′ter·er** *n.* — **tot′ter·y** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (verb) **2.** teeter, wobble, reel.

tou·can (tōō′kan, tōō·kän′) *n.* A large, fruit-eating bird of tropical America, with brilliant plumage and an immense, thin-walled beak. [< F < Pg. < Tupi *tucana*]

touch (tuch) *v.t.* **1.** To place the hand, finger, etc., in contact with. **2.** To be in or come into contact with. **3.** To bring into contact with something else. **4.** To hit or strike lightly. **5.** To lay the hand or hands on, esp. roughly. **6.** To border on; adjoin. **7.** To come to; reach. **8.** To attain to; equal. **9.** To mark or delineate lightly. **10.** To color slightly; tinge. **11.** To affect injuriously; taint: vegetables *touched* by frost. **12.** To affect by contact: The drill could not *touch* the steel. **13.** To affect the emotions of; move, esp. to pity, gratitude, etc. **14.** To relate to; concern. **15.** To treat or discuss in passing; deal with. **16.** To have to do with, use, or partake of I will not *touch* this food. **17.** To handle or appropriate improperly. **18.** *Slang* To be successful in borrowing from: used with *for*: He *touched* me for a loan. **19.** *Geom.* To be tangent to. — *v.i.* **20.** To touch someone or something. **21.** To come into or be in contact. — **to touch at** To stop briefly at (a port or place) in the course of a journey or voyage. — **to touch off** **1.** To cause to explode; fire. **2.** To cause to happen or occur. — **to touch on** (or **upon**) **1.** To relate to; concern. **2.** To treat briefly or in passing. — **to touch up** To improve or alter by slight additions or corrections. — *n.* **1.** The act or process of touching. **2.** The state of being touched. **3.** *Physiol.* That sense by which external objects are perceived through direct contact with any part of the body. ◆ Collateral adjective: *tactile*. **4.** The sensation conveyed by touching something: a smooth *touch*. **5.** A stroke; hit; blow. **6.** A perceptible effect or influence: He felt the *touch* of her wit. **7.** Any slight or delicate execution or effect, as of a brush, etc.; a light stroke or mark. **8.** Any slight detail or effort given to anything, as to a literary work. **9.** The manner or style in which an artist, etc. executes his work: a master's *touch*. **10.** A trace; tinge: a *touch* of irony. **11.** A slight attack or twinge: a *touch* of rheumatism. **12.** A small quantity or dash. **13.** Close communication or contact: to keep in *touch* with someone. **14.** A test; trial. **15.** *Music* **a** The resistance made to the fingers by the keys of a piano, etc. **b** The manner in which a player presses the keyboard. **16.** *Slang* A sum of money obtained by borrowing or mooching. **17.** *Slang* A request for such a sum of money. **18.** *Slang* A person who is an easy mark for a loan: an easy *touch*. [< OF *tochier*; prob. ult. imit.] — **touch′a·ble** *adj.* — **touch′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **touch′er** *n.*

touch-and-go (tuch′ən·gō′) *adj.* Risky; precarious.

touch and go An uncertain or precarious situation.

touch-back (tuch′bak′) *n.* In football, the act of touching the ball to the ground behind the player's own goal line when it has been sent over the goal line by an opponent.

touch-down (tuch′doun′) *n.* In football, a scoring play, worth six points, in which the ball is held on or over the opponent's goal line and is there declared dead.

tou·ché (tōō·shā′) *French adj.* In fencing, touched by the point of an opponent's foil. — *interj.* You've scored a point!: an exclamation to indicate an opponent's success.

touched (tucht) *adj.* **1.** Emotionally moved. **2.** Slightly unbalanced in mind.

touch-hole (tuch′hōl′) *n.* The orifice in old-fashioned cannon or firearms through which the powder was ignited.

touch·ing (tuch′ing) *adj.* Appealing to the sympathies or emotions; affecting; pathetic. — *prep.* With regard to; concerning. — **touch′ing·ly** *adv.* — **touch′ing·ness** *n.*

touch-me-not (tuch′mē·not′) *n.* Any of various herbs whose ripe fruit bursts open on contact to discharge its seeds.

touch·stone (tuch′stōn′) *n.* **1.** A fine-grained dark stone formerly used to test the fineness of gold and silver by the color of the streak made on the stone. **2.** A criterion or standard by which the qualities of something are tested.

touch·wood (tuch′wŏŏd′) *n.* **1.** Punk[1] (def. 1). **2.** A tinder prepared from fungus.

touch·y (tuch′ē) *adj.* **touch·i·er, touch·i·est** **1.** Likely to take offense easily; irritable. **2.** Risky; delicate: a *touchy* subject. — **touch′i·ly** *adv.* — **touch′i·ness** *n.*

tough (tuf) *adj.* **1.** Capable of sustaining great tension or strain without breaking. **2.** Firm and resilient in substance or texture. **3.** Not easily separated, softened, etc.: *tough* meat. **4.** Possessing great physical endurance: a *tough* constitution. **5.** Possessing moral or intellectual endurance; steadfast; persistent. **6.** Unmanageably rough, unruly, or vicious. **7.** Difficult to accomplish; laborious. **8.** Severe; rigorous. **9.** *Informal* Unfortunate; unpleasant: *tough* luck. — *n.* A lawless person; a rowdy; ruffian. [OE *tōh*] — **tough′ly** *adv.* — **tough′ness** *n.*

tough·en (tuf′ən) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become tough or tougher. — **tough′en·er** *n.*

tou·pee (tōō·pā′, -pē′) *n.* A wig worn to cover baldness or a bald spot. [< F < OF *toup* tuft of hair]

tour (tōōr) *n.* **1.** A trip or rambling excursion. **2.** A circuit or passing through, as for inspection or sightseeing, or for presenting a performance. **3.** A turn or shift, as of service. — **on tour** Traveling from place to place giving performances, as a theatrical company, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a tour of. **2.** To present on a tour, as a play. — *v.i.* **3.** To go on a tour. [< MF < OF < L *tornus* lathe < Gk. *tornos*]

tour de force (tōōr′ də fôrs′) *French* A feat of remarkable strength or skill; esp., a work, performance, etc., that is merely ingenious rather than intrinsically excellent.

tour·ing car (tōōr′ing) A large, open automobile for five or more passengers and baggage. Also *Brit.* **tour′er.**

tour·ist (tōōr′ist) *n.* One who makes a tour or a pleasure trip. — *adj.* Of or suitable for tourists.

tourist class A class of accommodations for steamship passengers, lower than cabin class.

tour·ma·line (tōōr′mə·lēn, -lin) *n.* A complex silicate of aluminum occurring in various colors, the transparent varieties being esteemed as gemstones. Also **tour′ma·lin** (-lin). [< F, ult. < Singhalese *tōramalli* carnelian]

tour·na·ment (tûr′nə·mənt, tōōr′-) *n.* **1.** Any contest of skill involving a number of competitors and a series of games: a chess *tournament*. **2.** In medieval times, a pageant in which two opposing parties of men in armor contended on horseback in mock combat. Also called *tourney*. [< OF < *torneier, tornoier* tourney]

tour·ney (tûr′nē, tōōr′-) *n.* A tournament. — *v.i.* To take part in a tournament; tilt. [See TOURNAMENT.]

tour·ni·quet (tōōr′nə·ket, -kā, tûr′-) *n. Surg.* A bandage, etc., for stopping the flow of blood through an artery by compression. [< F < *tourner* to turn]

tour of duty *Mil.* The hours or period of time during which a serviceman is on official duty; also, an extended period of duty on a given assignment or in a particular area.

tou·sle (tou′zəl) *v.t.* **·sled, ·sling** To disarrange or disorder, as the hair or dress. — *n.* A tousled mass or mop of hair. Also **tou′zle.** [< ME *tusen, tousen*]

tout (tout) *Informal* *v.i.* **1.** To solicit patronage, customers, votes, etc., esp., in an obtrusive or importunate manner. **2.** To spy on a racehorse so as to gain information for betting. — *v.t.* **3.** To solicit; importune. **4.** In horse racing: **a** To spy on (a horse) to gain information for betting. **b** To sell information about (a horse). — *n.* One who touts. [ME, ? < OE *tōtian*, to peep, look out] — **tout′er** *n.*

tout de suite (tōōt′ swēt′) *French* Immediately; at once.

tout en·sem·ble (tōō′tän sän′bl′) *French* **1.** All in all; everything considered. **2.** The general effect.

tow[1] (tō) *n.* Coarse, short hemp or flax fiber prepared for spinning. [Prob. OE *tow-* for spinning] — **tow′y** *adj.*

tow[2] (tō) *v.t.* To pull or drag, as by a rope, chain, etc. — *n.*

1. The act of towing, or the state of being towed. **2.** That which is towed, as barges by a tugboat. **3.** That which tows. **4.** The rope used; towline. **— to take in tow 1.** To take in charge for or as for towing. **2.** To take under one's protection; take charge of. [OE *togian*]

tow·age (tō′ij) *n.* **1.** The service of or charge for towing. **2.** The act of towing. [< TOW²]

to·ward (tôrd, tōrd; *for prep., also* tə·wôrd′) *prep.* **1.** In the direction of; facing. **2.** With respect to; regarding: his attitude *toward* women. **3.** In anticipation of; for: He is saving *toward* his education. **4.** Near in point of time; approaching; about: arriving *toward* evening. **5.** Tending to result in; designed to achieve: an effort *toward* mutual understanding. Also **to·wards′**. **—** *adj.* [OE < *tō* to + *-weard* -ward] **— to·ward′ness** *n.*

tow·a·way (tō′ə·wā) *n.* The act of towing away a vehicle, esp. one illegally parked.

tow·boat (tō′bōt′) *n.* A tugboat.

tow·el (toul, tou′əl) *n.* A cloth or paper for drying anything by wiping. **—** *v.t.* **tow·eled** or **·elled, tow·el·ing** or **·el·ling** To wipe or dry with a towel. [< OF *toaille*]

tow·el·ing (tou′ling, tou′əl·ing) *n.* Material used for towels. Also **tow′el·ling.**

tow·er (tou′ər) *n.* **1.** A tall but relatively narrow structure, sometimes part of a larger building. **2.** Any similar tall structure or object, often erected for a specific use: a water *tower*. **3.** A place or thing of security or defense; citadel. **—** *v.i.* To rise or stand like a tower: often with *over* or *above*. [OE < OF < L *turris*] **— tow′er·y** *adj.*

tow·ered (tou′ərd) *adj.* Having a tower or towers.

tow·er·ing (tou′ər·ing) *adj.* **1.** Like a tower; lofty. **2.** Unusually high or great; outstanding. **3.** Intense.

tow·head (tō′hed′) *n.* A head of very light-colored or flaxen hair; also, a person having such hair. [< TOW¹ + HEAD] **— tow′-head′ed** *adj.*

tow·hee (tou′hē, tō′-) *n.* Any of various American birds related to the buntings and the sparrows; esp., the chewink. Also **towhee bunting.** [Imit. of one of its notes]

tow·line (tō′līn′) *n.* A towrope.

town (toun) *n.* **1.** Any considerable collection of dwellings and other buildings larger than a village, but not incorporated as a city. **2.** The inhabitants of such a community; townspeople. **3.** A township (def. 1). **4.** Any closely settled urban district. **5.** The downtown or business section of a city. **— on the town** *Slang* On a round of pleasure. **— to go to town** *Slang* To act with speed and efficiency. [OE *tūn* enclosure, group of houses]

town clerk An official who keeps the records of a town.

town crier Formerly, a person appointed to make proclamations through the streets of a town.

town hall The building containing the public offices of a town and used for meetings of the town council.

town house A residence in a town or city, as distinguished from one in the country.

town meeting 1. A general assemblage of the people of a town. **2.** An assembly of qualified voters for the purpose of transacting town business; also, the voters assembled.

town·ship (toun′ship) *n.* **1.** In the U.S.: **a** A territorial subdivision of a county with certain corporate powers of municipal government. **b** In New England, a local political unit governed by a town meeting. **2.** A unit of area in surveys of U.S. public lands, normally six miles square. **3.** *Brit.* Formerly, a parish. [OE < *tūn* village, group of houses]

towns·man (tounz′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** A resident of a town; also, a fellow citizen. **2.** In New England, a town officer; a selectman.

towns·peo·ple (tounz′pē′pəl) *n.pl.* People who live in towns or in a particular town or city. Also **town′folk′** (-fōk′), **towns′folk′.**

tow·path (tō′path′, -päth′) *n.* A path along a river or canal used by draft animals, etc., for towing boats.

tow·rope (tō′rōp′) *n.* A heavy rope or cable used in towing.

tow truck (tō) A truck equipped to tow other vehicles.

tox·e·mi·a (tok·sē′mē·ə) *n. Pathol.* Blood poisoning. Also **tox·ae′mi·a.** [< NL < Gk. *toxicon* poison + *haima* blood] **— tox·e′mic, tox·ae′mic** *adj.*

tox·ic (tok′sik) *adj.* Of or caused by poison; poisonous. Also **tox′i·cal.** [< Med.L < L < Gk. *toxicon* (*pharmakon*) (poison) for arrows] **— tox′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **— tox·ic′i·ty** *n.*

toxico- *combining form* Poison; of or pertaining to poisons. Also, before vowels, **toxic-.** [< Gk. *toxicon* poison]

tox·i·col·o·gy (tok′sə·kol′ə·jē) *n.* The science that treats of the origin, nature, properties, etc., of poisons. [< F *toxicologie*] **— tox′i·co·log′i·cal** (-kō·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* **— tox′i·co·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **— tox′i·col′o·gist** *n.*

tox·in (tok′sin) *n.* **1.** Any of a class of more or less unstable poisonous compounds developed by animal, vegetable, or bacterial organisms and acting as causative agents in many diseases. **2.** Any toxic matter generated in living or dead organisms. Also **tox·ine** (tok′sēn). [< TOX(IC) + -IN]

tox·oid (tok′soid) *n.* A toxin that has been specially treated to remove toxicity, often used in immunization.

toy (toi) *n.* **1.** A plaything for children. **2.** Any object of little importance or value; a trifle. **3.** A small ornament or trinket. **4.** Any diminutive object. **5.** A dog bred to extreme smallness: also **toy dog.** **—** *v.i.* To trifle; play. **—** *adj.* Resembling a toy; of miniature size. [< ME *toye* sport and Du. *tuig* tools] **— toy′er** *n.*

to·yon (tō′yən) *n.* An evergreen shrub of the Pacific coast of North America, having white flowers and bright red berries. [< Sp. *tollón* < N. Am. Ind. (Mexican)]

trace¹ (trās) *n.* **1.** A vestige or mark left by some past event or agent, esp., when regarded as a sign or clue. **2.** A barely detectable quantity, quality, token, or characteristic; touch. **3.** A proportion or ingredient too small to be weighed: a *trace* of soda. **4.** An imprint or mark indicating the passage of a person or thing, as a footprint, etc. **5.** A path or trail through woods or forest beaten down by men or animals. **6.** A lightly drawn line. **—** *v.* **traced, trac·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To follow the tracks, course, or development of. **2.** To follow (tracks, etc.). **3.** To discover by examination or investigation; determine. **4.** To draw; sketch. **5.** To copy (a drawing, etc.) on a superimposed transparent sheet. **6.** To form (letters, etc.) with careful strokes. **7.** To imprint (a pattern or design). **8.** To mark or record by a curved or broken line. **9.** To go or move over, along, or through. **—** *v.i.* **10.** To make one's way; proceed. **11.** To have its origin; go back in time. [< OF < L < *trahere* to draw] **— trace′a·ble** *adj.* **— trace′a·bil′i·ty, trace′a·ble·ness** *n.* **— trace′a·bly** *adv.*

trace² (trās) *n.* One of two side straps or chains for connecting the collar of a harness with the whiffletree. **— to kick over the traces** To throw off control; become unmanageable. **—** *v.t.* **traced, trac·ing** To fasten with or as with traces. [< OF < L. See TRACE¹.]

trace element *Biol.* Any of certain chemical elements found in very small amounts in plant and animal tissues and having a significant effect upon biochemical processes.

trac·er (trā′sər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which traces. **2.** One of various instruments used in tracing drawings, etc. **3.** An inquiry forwarded from one point to another, to trace missing mail matter, etc. **4.** *Mil.* A chemical incorporated in certain types of ammunition used for ranging, signaling, or incendiary purposes. **5.** A radioisotope introduced into the body for the purpose of following the processes of metabolism, the course of a disease, etc. [< TRACE¹]

tracer bullet A bullet that leaves a line of smoke or fire in its wake to indicate its course for correction of aim.

trac·er·y (trā′sər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies 1.** Ornamental stonework formed of ramifying lines. **2.** Any work, ornamentation, etc., resembling this.

tra·che·a (trā′kē·ə) *n. pl.* **·che·ae** (-ki·ē) or **·che·as 1.** *Anat.* The duct by which air passes from the larynx to the bronchi and the lungs: also called *windpipe.* For illus. see LUNG, MOUTH, THROAT. **2.** *Zool.* One of the passages by which air is conveyed from the exterior in air-breathing arthropods, as insects and arachnids. [< Med.L < LL < Gk. (*artēria*) *tracheia* a rough (artery)] **— tra′che·al** *adj.*

tracheo- *combining form* The trachea; of or pertaining to the trachea. Also, before vowels, **trache-.** [< TRACHEA]

tra·che·ot·o·my (trā′kē·ot′ə·mē) *n. pl.* **·mies** *Surg.* The operation of cutting into the trachea.

tra·cho·ma (trə·kō′mə) *n. Pathol.* A contagious virus disease characterized by the formation of hard granular excrescences on the conjunctiva of the eyelids, with inflammation of the lining. [< NL < Gk. < *trachys* rough] **— tra·chom·a·tous** (trə·kom′ə·təs) *adj.*

trachy- *combining form* Rough; uneven. Also, before vowels, **trach-.** [< Gk. *trachys* rough]

trac·ing (trā′sing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who traces. **2.** A copy made by tracing on transparent paper. **3.** A record made by a self-registering instrument.

track (trak) *n.* **1.** A mark or trail left by the passage of anything, as footprints. **2.** Any regular path; course. **3.** Any kind of racecourse; also, sports performed on such a course; track athletics. **4.** A set of rails or a rail on which trains, etc., may travel. **5.** A trace or vestige. **6.** A sequence of events or ideas. **— to keep track of** To keep in touch with. **— in one's tracks** Right where one is; on the spot. **— to lose track of** To fail to keep in touch with; lose sight of. **— to make tracks** To hurry; run away in haste. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To follow, the tracks of; trail. **2.** To discover, pursue or follow by means of marks or indications. **3.** To make tracks upon or with. **4.** To traverse, as on foot. **5.** To furnish with rails or tracks. [< OF *trac*] **— track′er** *n.* **— track′a·ble** *adj.* **— track′less** *adj.*

track·age (trak′ij) *adj.* **1.** Railroad tracks collectively. **2.** The right of one company to use the track system of another company; also, the charge for this right.
track man An athlete who competes in a track or field event, as a runner, shot-putter, etc.
track meet An athletic contest made up of track and field events.
tract[1] (trakt) *n.* **1.** An extended area, as of land or water. **2.** *Anat.* An extensive region of the body, esp. one comprising a system of parts or organs: the alimentary *tract.* [< L < *trahere* to draw]
tract[2] (trakt) *n.* A short treatise; esp., a pamphlet on some question of religion or morals. [Short for L *tractatus* a handling, treatise]
tract·a·ble (trak′tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Easily led or controlled; manageable; docile. **2.** Readily worked or handled; malleable. [< L < *trahere* to draw] — **tract′a·ble·ness, tract′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **tract′a·bly** *adv.*
trac·tile (trak′til) *adj.* Capable of being drawn out; ductile. [< L < *trahere* to draw] — **trac·til′i·ty** *n.*
trac·tion (trak′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of drawing, as by motive power over a surface. **2.** The state of being drawn, or the power employed. **3.** Adhesive or rolling friction, as of wheels on a track. [< Med.L < L < *trahere* to draw] — **trac′tion·al** *adj.*
traction engine A locomotive for hauling on roads or ground, as distinguished from one used on a railway.
trac·tor (trak′tər) *n.* **1.** A powerful, motor-driven vehicle used, as on farms, to draw a plow, reaper, etc. **2.** An automotive vehicle with a driver's cab, used to haul trailers, etc. **3.** *Aeron.* An airplane with the propeller or propellers situated in front of the supporting surface: also **tractor airplane.** [< NL < L < *trahere* to draw]
trade (trād) *n.* **1.** A business; esp., a skilled handicraft; a craft. **2.** Mercantile traffic; commerce. **3.** An exchange, as in barter, buying and selling, etc.; also, a bargain or deal. **4.** The people following a particular calling. **5.** A firm's customers. **6.** Customary pursuit; occupation. **7.** *Usu. pl.* A trade wind. — **Syn.** See OCCUPATION. — *v.* **trad·ed, trad·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To exchange by barter, bargain and sale, etc. **2.** To exchange for something comparable. — *v.i.* **3.** To engage in commerce or in business. — **to trade in** To give in exchange as payment or part payment. — **to trade off** To get rid of by trading. — **to trade on** To make advantageous use of. [< MLG, track]
trade-in (trād′in′) *n.* Something given or accepted in payment or part payment for something else; an exchange.
trade journal A periodical publishing news and discussions of a particular trade or business.
trade-last (trād′last′, -läst′) *n. Informal* A favorable remark that one has heard and offers to repeat to the person complimented in return for a similar remark.
trade·mark (trād′märk′) *n.* **1.** A name, design, etc., often officially registered, used by a merchant or manufacturer to distinguish his goods from those made or sold by others. **2.** Any distinctive characteristic. — *v.t.* **1.** To label with a trademark. **2.** To register as a trademark.
trade name **1.** The name by which an article, process, service, or the like is designated in trade. **2.** A style or name of a business house.
trad·er (trā′dər) *n.* **1.** One who trades. **2.** Any vessel employed in a particular trade.
trade route A route, esp. a sea lane, used by traders.
trade school A school where a specific trade is taught.
trades·folk (trādz′fōk′) *n.pl.* People engaged in trade; esp., shopkeepers. Also **trades′peo′ple** (-pē′pəl).
trades·man (trādz′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A retail dealer; shopkeeper.
trade union A labor union. Also *Brit.* **trades union.**
trade wind *Meteorol.* Either of two steady winds blowing in the same course toward the equator from about 30° N and S latitude, one from the northeast on the north, the other from the southeast on the south side of the equator.
trading post A station for barter in unsettled territory set up by a trader or trading company.
trading stamp A stamp given by a tradesman to a purchaser, and exchangeable, in quantities, for merchandise.
tra·di·tion (trə·dish′ən) *n.* **1.** The knowledge, doctrines, customs, practices, etc., transmitted from generation to generation; also, the transmission of such knowledge, doctrines, etc. **2.** The body of unwritten Christian doctrine, handed down through successive generations. **3.** Among the Jews, an unwritten code said to have been handed down orally from Moses. **4.** The historic conceptions and usages of a school of art, literature, etc. **5.** A custom so long continued that it has almost the force of a law. [< OF < L < *trans-* across + *dare* to give]
tra·di·tion·al (trə·dish′ən·əl) *adj.* Relating or adhering to tradition. Also **tra·di′tion·ar′y** (-er′ē). — **tra·di′tion·al·ism** *n.* — **tra·di′tion·al·ist** *n.* — **tra·di′tion·al·is′tic** *adj.* — **tra·di′tion·al·ly** *adv.* — **tra·di′tion·ist** *n.*
tra·duce (trə·dōōs′, -dyōōs′) *v.t.* **·duced, ·duc·ing** To defame; slander. [< L *traducere* to transport, bring into disgrace] — **tra·duc′er** *n.* — **tra·duc′i·ble** *adj.* — **tra·duc′·ing·ly** *adv.* — **tra·duc′tion** (trə·duk′shən) *n.*
traf·fic (traf′ik) *n.* **1.** The movement or passage of vehicles, pedestrians, ships, etc., along a route; also, the vehicles, pedestrians, etc. **2.** Buying and selling; trade. **3.** The business of transportation; also, the freight or passengers carried. **4.** The messages, signals, etc., handled by a communications system. **5.** Unlawful or improper trade. — *v.i.* **·ficked, ·fick·ing** **1.** To engage in buying and selling; do business, esp., illegally: with *in.* **2.** To have dealings: with *with.* [< MF < Ital. < *trafficare* < L *trans-* across + Ital. *ficcare* to thrust in] — **traf′fick·er** *n.*
traffic light A signal light that, by changing color, directs the flow of traffic along a road or highway.
tra·ge·di·an (trə·jē′dē·ən) *n.* **1.** An actor in tragedy. **2.** A writer of tragedies.
tra·ge·di·enne (trə·jē′dē·en′) *n.* An actress of tragedy. [< F]
trag·e·dy (traj′ə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** An intensely sad, calamitous, or fatal event or course of events; disaster. **2.** A form of drama in which the protagonist comes to disaster through a flaw in his nature or is crushed by social and psychological forces. **3.** The branch of drama treating of such themes. **4.** The art or theory of acting or composing such drama. **5.** The sense of human life embodied in tragic drama. [< OF < L < Gk. *tragōidia,* appar. < *tragos* goat + *ōidē* song]
trag·ic (traj′ik) *adj.* **1.** Involving death, calamity, or suffering; fatal; terrible. **2.** Pertaining to or having the nature of tragedy. **3.** Appropriate to or like tragedy, esp., in drama. Also **trag′i·cal.** [< L < Gk. *tragikos* pertaining to tragedy] — **trag′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **trag′i·cal·ness** *n.*
trag·i·com·e·dy (traj′i·kom′ə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** A drama in which tragic and comic scenes are intermingled. **2.** A situation or event suggestive of such a drama. [< MF < LL < L < *tragicus* tragic + *comoedia* comedy] — **trag′i·com′ic** or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **trag′i·com′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
trail (trāl) *v.t.* **1.** To draw along lightly over a surface; also, to drag or draw after: to *trail* a robe. **2.** To follow the track of; track. **3.** To follow or lag behind, esp., in a race. **4.** *Mil.* To carry, as a rifle, with the muzzle to the front and the butt nearly touching the ground. **5.** To tread or force down, as grass into a pathway. — *v.i.* **6.** To hang or float loosely so as to drag along a surface. **7.** To grow along the ground or over rocks, bushes, etc., in a loose, creeping way. **8.** To follow behind loosely; stream. **9.** To move along slowly, tiredly, or heavily. **10.** To lag behind; straggle. **11.** To follow or track game. — *n.* **1.** A path or track made by the passage of persons or animals. **2.** The spoor followed by a hunter. **3.** Anything drawn behind or in the wake of something. **4.** *Mil.* The inclined stock of a gun carriage, or extension of the stock that rests on the ground when the piece is not limbered up. — **to hit** (or **take**) **the trail** To set out on a journey. [< AF < L < *trahere* to draw]
trail·blaz·er (trāl′blā′zər) *n.* **1.** One who blazes a trail. **2.** A pioneer in any field. — **trail′blaz·ing** *n.*
trail·er (trā′lər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which trails. **2.** A vehicle drawn by another having motive power. **3.** A vehicle drawn by a car or truck and used as a temporary or permanent dwelling. **4.** A short motion-picture film made up of scenes from a coming feature picture, used for advertising.
trailer court A large area equipped with running water, electrical outlets, and other accommodations for the parking of trailers. Also **trailer park.**
trail·ing arbutus (trā′ling) A perennial bearing fragrant pink flowers: the State flower of Massachusetts.
train (trān) *n.* **1.** A continuous line of coupled railway cars. **2.** A series, or set of connected things; a sequence; esp., a procession of people or line of objects. **3.** A retinue or suite. **4.** Something pulled along with and in the track of another. **5.** An extension of a dress skirt, trailing behind the wearer. **6.** Proper order; due course. **7.** *Mech.* A series of parts acting upon each other, as for transmitting motion. **8.** *Mil.* The men, animals, and vehicles, transporting military supplies, ammunition, etc. **9.** A succession or line of wagons and pack animals en route. **10.** A line of gunpowder, etc., laid to conduct fire to a charge or mine. — *v.t.* **1.** To render proficient or qualified by instruction, drill, etc.; educate. **2.** To make obedient or capable of performing tricks, as an animal. **3.** To bring into a required physical condition by means of diet and exercise. **4.** To lead into taking a particular course; develop into a fixed shape: to *train* a plant on a trellis. **5.** To bring to bear; aim, as a cannon. — *v.i.* **6.** To undergo a course of training. **7.** To give a course of training; drill. — **Syn.** See TEACH. [OF < L *trahere* to draw] — **train′a·ble** *adj.* — **train′er** *n.*
train·ee (trā·nē′) *n.* One who undergoes training.
train·ing (trā′ning) *n.* **1.** The action of one who or that which trains. **2.** The state or condition of being trained.

train·man (trān′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A railway employee serving on a train; esp., a brakeman.
traipse (trāps) *v.i.* **traipsed, traips·ing** *Informal* To walk about in an idle or aimless manner. [Earlier *trapass*]
trait (trāt, *also Brit.* trā) *n.* A distinguishing feature or quality of character. — **Syn.** See CHARACTERISTIC. [< F < MF < L < *trahere* to draw]
trai·tor (trā′tər) *n.* One who betrays a trust; esp., one who commits treason. [< OF < L < *trans-* across + *dare* to give] — **trai′tress** (-tris) *n.fem.*
trai·tor·ous (trā′tər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Of or characteristic of a traitor. **2.** Pertaining to or of the nature of treason. — **trai′tor·ous·ly** *adv.* — **trai′tor·ous·ness** *n.*
tra·jec·to·ry (trə·jek′tər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** The path described by an object moving in space; esp., the path of a projectile. [< Med.L < L < *trans-* over + *jacere* to throw]
tram (tram) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* A streetcar or street railway: also **tram′car** (-kär′). **2.** A four-wheeled vehicle for conveying coals to or from a pit's mouth. [Short for *tramroad*, a road with metal tracks]
tram·mel (tram′əl) *n.* **1.** *Usu. pl.* That which limits freedom or activity; an impediment; hindrance. **2.** A fetter, shackle, or bond, esp., one used in teaching a horse to amble. **3.** An instrument for describing ellipses. **4.** A hook used to suspend cooking pots from a fireplace crane. — *v.t.* **tram·meled** or **·melled, tram·mel·ing** or **·mel·ling** **1.** To hinder or obstruct; restrict. **2.** To entangle in or as in a snare. Also **tram′el** or **tram′ell.** [< OF < LL < L *tri-* three + *macula* mesh] — **tram′mel·er** or **tram′mel·ler** *n.*
tramp (tramp) *v.i.* **1.** To walk or wander, esp., as a vagrant or vagabond. **2.** To walk heavily or firmly. — *v.t.* **3.** To walk or wander through. **4.** To walk on heavily; trample. — *n.* **1.** An indigent wanderer; a vagrant; vagabond. **2.** A heavy, continued tread. **3.** The sound of continuous and heavy marching or walking. **4.** A long walk; hike. **5.** A steam vessel that picks up freight wherever it can be obtained: also **tramp steamer.** **6.** *Informal* A sexually promiscuous girl or woman. [ME *trampen* < Gmc.]
tram·ple (tram′pəl) *v.* **·pled, ·pling** *v.t.* **1.** To tread on heavily; injure, violate, or encroach upon by or as by tramping. — *v.i.* **2.** To tread heavily or ruthlessly; tramp. — *n.* The act or sound of treading under foot. [ME < *trampen*]
tram·po·line (tram′pə·lin) *n.* A section of strong canvas stretched on a frame, on which an acrobat, athlete, etc., may bound or spring. [< Ital. *trampoli* stilts]
trance (trans, träns) *n.* **1.** A condition intermediate between sleep and wakefulness, characterized by dissociation and automatisms of behavior, as in hypnosis and seances. **2.** A dreamlike state marked by bewilderment and an insensibility to ordinary surroundings. **3.** A state of deep abstraction. — *v.t.* **tranced, tranc·ing** To put into or as into a trance. [< OF < *transir* to pass, die]
tran·quil (trang′kwil) *adj.* **·quil·er** or **·quil·ler, ·quil·est** or **·quil·lest** **1.** Free from mental agitation or disturbance; calm. **2.** Quiet and motionless. — **Syn.** See CALM. [< L *tranquillus* quiet] — **tran′quil·ly** *adv.* — **tran′quil·ness** *n.*
tran·quil·ize (trang′kwəl·īz) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make or become tranquil. Also **tran′quil·lize,** *Brit.* **tran′·quil·lise.** — **tran′quil·i·za′tion** *n.*
tran·quil·iz·er (trang′kwəl·ī′zər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which tranquilizes. **2.** *Med.* Any of a class of drugs having the property of reducing nervous tension and anxiety states. Also **tran′quil·liz′er.**
tran·quil·li·ty (trang·kwil′ə·tē) *n.* The state of being tranquil; calm; quiet. Also **tran·quil′i·ty.**
trans- *prefix* **1.** Across; beyond; through; on the other side of; as in:

transarctic	**transcontinental**	**transfrontier**
transborder	**transdesert**	**transisthmian**
transchannel	**transequatorial**	**transpolar**

In adjectives and nouns of place, the prefix may signify "on the other side of" (opposed to *cis-*) or "across; crossing." Through long usage, certain of these are written as solid words, as *transalpine, transatlantic*; otherwise, words in this class are usually written with a hyphen, as in:

trans-African	**trans-Baltic**	**trans-Iberian**
trans-American	**trans-Canadian**	**trans-Mediterranean**
trans-Andean	**trans-Germanic**	**trans-Scandinavian**
trans-Arabian	**trans-Himalayan**	**trans-Siberian**

2. Through and through; changing completely; as in:

transcolor	**transfashion**

3. Surpassing; transcending; beyond; as in:

transconscious	**transmaterial**	**transnational**
transempirical	**transmental**	**transphysical**
transhuman	**transmundane**	**transrational**

4. *Anat.* Across; transversely; as in:

transcortical	**transfrontal**	**transthoracic**
transduodenal	**transocular**	**transuterine**

[< L <*trans* across, beyond, over]
trans·act (trans·akt′, tranz-) *v.t.* **1.** To carry through; accomplish; do. — *v.i.* **2.** *Rare* To do business. [< L < *trans-* through + *agere* to drive, do] — **trans·ac′tor** *n.*
trans·ac·tion (trans·ak′shən, tranz-) *n.* **1.** The act of transacting, or the state of being transacted. **2.** Something transacted; esp., a business deal. **3.** *pl.* Published reports, as of a society. — **trans·ac′tion·al** *adj.*
trans·al·pine (trans·al′pin, -pīn, tranz-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or situated on the northern side of the Alps. — *n.* A native or a resident of beyond the Alps. [< L < *trans-* across + *alpinus* alpine < *Alpes* the Alps]
trans·at·lan·tic (trans′ət·lan′tik, tranz′-) *adj.* **1.** On the other side of the Atlantic. **2.** Across the Atlantic.
tran·scend (tran·send′) *v.t.* **1.** To rise above in excellence or degree. **2.** To overstep or exceed as a limit. **3.** *Philos.* & *Theol.* To be independent of or beyond (the universe, experience, etc.) — *v.i.* **4.** To be transcendent; excel. [< L < *trans-* beyond, over + *scandere* to climb]
tran·scen·dent (tran·sen′dənt) *adj.* **1.** Of very high and remarkable degree; surpassing; excelling. **2.** *Theol.* Above and beyond the universe: said of God. [See TRANSCEND.] — **tran·scen′dence, tran·scen′den·cy, tran·scen′dent·ness** *n.* — **tran·scen′dent·ly** *adv.*
tran·scen·den·tal (tran′sen·den′təl) *adj.* **1.** Of very high degree; transcendent. **2.** Beyond or contrary to common sense or experience. — **tran′scen·den′tal·ly** *adv.*
tran·scen·den·tal·ism (tran′sen·den′təl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** *Philos.* Any of several doctrines holding that reality is essentially mental or spiritual in nature, and that knowledge of it can be attained by intuitive or a priori, rather than empirical, principles. **2.** The state or quality of being transcendental. — **tran′scen·den′tal·ist** *n.* & *adj.*
tran·scribe (tran·skrīb′) *v.t.* **·scribed, ·scrib·ing** **1.** To copy or recopy in handwriting or typewriting. **2.** *Telecom.* To make an electrical recording of (a radio program). **3.** To adapt (a musical composition) for a change of instrument or voice. [< L < *trans-* over + *scribere* to write] — **tran·scrib′a·ble** *adj.* — **tran·scrib′er** *n.*
tran·script (tran′skript) *n.* **1.** That which is transcribed; esp., a written or typewritten copy. **2.** Any copy. **3.** A copy of a student's academic record, listing courses and grades.
tran·scrip·tion (tran·skrip′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of transcribing. **2.** A copy; transcript. **3.** Phonetic notation of speech sounds, also, a text containing such symbols. **4.** *Telecom.* A recording of a performance made for a later radio broadcast. **5.** *Music* The adaptation of a composition for some instrument or voice other than that for which it was written. — **tran·scrip′tion·al, tran·scrip′tive** *adj.*
trans·duc·er (trans·dōō′sər, -dyōō′-, tranz-) *n.* *Physics* Any device whereby energy may be transmitted from one system to another system, whether of the same or a different type. [< L < *trans-* across + *ducere* to lead]
tran·sect (tran·sekt′) *v.t.* To dissect transversely. [< TRANS- + L *sectus*, pp. of *secare* to cut] — **tran·sec′tion** (-sek′shən) *n.*
tran·sept (tran′sept) *n.* *Archit.* One of the lateral projections between the nave and choir of a cruciform church. [<Med.L < L < *transversus* lying across + *septum* enclosure] — **tran·sep′tal** *adj.* — **tran·sep′tal·ly** *adv.*
trans·fer (trans′fər; *for v., also* trans·fûr′) *v.* **·ferred, ·fer·ring** *v.t.* **1.** To carry, or cause to pass, from one person, place, etc., to another. **2.** To make over possession of to another. **3.** To convey (a drawing) from one surface to another. — *v.i.* **4.** To transfer oneself. **5.** To be transferred. **6.** To change from one vehicle to another on a transfer (def. 4). **7.** To shift one's enrollment as a student from one school to another. — **Syn.** See CONVEY. — *n.* **1.** The act of transferring, or the state of being transferred. Also **trans·fer′al** (-fûr′əl) or **trans·fer′ral.** **2.** That which is transferred as a design. **3.** A place, method, or means of transfer. **4.** A ticket entitling a passenger to change to another public vehicle. **5.** *Law* A delivery of title or property from one person to another. **6.** An order transferring money or securities. [< OF < L < *trans-* across + *ferre* to carry] — **trans·fer′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **trans·fer′a·ble** *adj.* — **trans·fer′ence** (-fûr′·əns) *n.* — **trans·fer′rer** (-fûr′ər) *n.*
trans·fer·or (trans·fûr′ər) *n.* *Law* One who executes a transfer of property, title, etc.
Trans·fig·ur·a·tion (trans′fig·yə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The supernatural transformation of Christ on the mount as recorded in the Gospels. *Matt.* xvii 1–9. **2.** A church festival commemorating this, observed on August 6.
trans·fig·ure (trans·fig′yər) *v.t.* **·ured, ·ur·ing** **1.** To change the outward form or appearance of. **2.** To make glorious; idealize. [< L < *trans-* across + *figura* shape] — **trans′fig·ur·a′tion, trans·fig′ure·ment** *n.*
trans·fix (trans·fiks′) *v.t.* **1.** To pierce through; impale. **2.** To fix in place by impaling. **3.** To make motionless, as with

horror, awe, etc. [< L < *trans-* through + *figere* to fasten] — **trans·fix′ion** (-fik′shən) *n.*

trans·form (trans·fôrm′) *v.t.* **1.** To give a different form or appearance to. **2.** To change the character, nature, condition, etc., of. **3.** *Math.* To change (one expression or operation) into another equivalent to it or similar. **4.** *Electr.* To change the potential or flow of (a current), as with a transformer. **5.** *Physics* To alter the energy form of, as electrical into mechanical. — *v.i.* **6.** To be or become changed. [< L < *trans-* over + *formare* to form] — **trans·form′a·ble** *adj.* — **trans′for·ma′tion** (-fər·mā′shən) *n.* — **trans·for′ma·tive** (-for′mə·tiv) *adj.*

trans·form·er (trans·fôr′mər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which transforms. **2.** *Electr.* A device for altering the ratio of current to voltage in alternating-current circuits, often consisting of two coils wound on the same iron core.

trans·form·ism (trans·fôr′miz·əm) *n. Biol.* The theory of the development of one species from another through successive gradual modifications.

trans·fuse (trans·fyōōz′) *v.t.* **·fused, ·fus·ing** **1.** To pour, as a fluid, from one vessel to another. **2.** To cause to be imparted or instilled. **3.** *Med.* To transfer (blood) from one person or animal to another. [< L < *trans-* across + *fundere* to pour] — **trans·fus′er** *n.* — **trans·fus′i·ble** *adj.* — **trans·fu·sive** (trans·fyōō′siv) *adj.*

trans·fu·sion (trans·fyōō′zhən) *n.* **1.** The act of transfusing. **2.** *Med.* The transfer of blood from one person or animal to the veins or arteries of another.

trans·gress (trans·gres′, tranz-) *v.t.* **1.** To break (a law, oath, etc.); violate. **2.** To pass beyond or over (limits); exceed; trespass. — *v.i.* **3.** To break a law; sin. [Appar. < OF < L < *trans-* across + *gradi* to step] — **trans·gress′i·ble** *adj.* — **trans·gres′ing·ly** *adv.* — **trans·gres′sive** *adj.* — **trans·gres′sor** *n.*

trans·gres·sion (trans·gresh′ən, tranz-) *n.* **1.** A violation of a law, command, etc.; esp., a violation of a divine law; sin. **2.** The act of transgressing.

tran·ship (tran·ship′), **tran·ship·ment** (tran·ship′mənt) See TRANSSHIP, etc.

tran·sient (tran′shənt) *adj.* **1.** Passing away quickly; of short duration; brief. **2.** Not permanent; temporary; transitory. — *n.* One who or that which is transient; esp., a lodger or boarder who remains for a short time. [< L < *trans-* across + *ire* to go] — **tran′sience, tran′sien·cy** *n.* — **tran′sient·ly** *adv.* — **tran′sient·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** (adj.) **1, 2.** Something *transient* actually passes soon, while a *transitory* thing has the quality of impermanence: a *transient* visitor, a *transitory* stage of development. *Passing* is close to *transitory* but less formal: a *passing* fad.

tran·sis·tor (tran·zis′tər, -sis′-) *n. Electronics* A miniature device for the control and amplification of an electron current, made of semiconducting materials, and having three or more electrodes, the current between one pair controlling the amplified current between another pair, one electrode being common to each pair. [< TRANS(FER) (RES)ISTOR]

tran·sit (tran′sit, -zit) *n.* **1.** The act of passing over or through; passage. **2.** The act of carrying across or through; conveyance. **3.** A transition or change. **4.** *Astron.* **a** The passage of one heavenly body across the disk of another. **b** The moment of passage of a celestial body across the meridian. **5.** A surveying instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles: also **transit theodolite.** — *v.t.* To pass through or across. [< L < *trans-* across + *ire* to go]

tran·si·tion (tran·zish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act or state of passing from one place, condition, or action to another; change **2.** The time, period, or place of such passage. **3.** A sentence, paragraph, etc., that leads from one subject to another, as in an essay. **4.** *Music* A modulation or a passage connecting two themes or subjects. — **tran·si′tion·al, tran·si′tion·ar′y** (-er′ē) *adj.* — **tran·si′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

tran·si·tive (tran′sə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** *Gram.* Of transitive verbs. **2.** Capable of passing; effecting transition. — *n. Gram.* A transitive verb. [< LL < L. See TRANSIT.] — **tran′si·tive·ly** *adv.* — **tran′si·tive·ness, tran′si·tiv′i·ty** *n.*

transitive verb A verb that requires a complement to complete its meaning.

tran·si·to·ry (tran′sə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Existing for a short time only. — **Syn.** See TRANSIENT. [< OF < L. See TRANSIT.] — **tran′si·to′ri·ly** *adv.* — **tran′si·to′ri·ness** *n.*

trans·late (trans·lāt′, tranz-, trans′lāt, tranz′-) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To express in another language; change into another language. **2.** To explain in other words; interpret. **3.** To change into another form; transform. — *v.i.* **4.** To act as translator. **5.** To admit of translation: This book *translates* easily. [? < OF *translater* < L < pp. of *transferre* < *trans-* across + *ferre* to carry] — **trans·lat′a·ble** *adj.* — **trans·lat′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **trans·la′tor** *n.*

trans·la·tion (trans·lā′shən, tranz-) *n.* **1.** The act of translating, or the state of being translated. **2.** That which is translated; esp., a work translated into another language; a version. — **trans·la′tion·al** *adj.*

trans·lit·er·ate (trans·lit′ə·rāt, tranz-) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To represent (a letter or word) by the alphabetic characters of another language. [< TRANS- + L *litera* letter] — **trans·lit′er·a′tion** *n.*

trans·lu·cent (trans·lōō′sənt, tranz-) *adj.* Allowing the passage of light, but not permitting a clear view of any object; semitransparent. — **Syn.** See CLEAR. [< L < *trans-* through, across + *lucere* to shine] — **trans·lu′cence, trans·lu′cen·cy** *n.* — **trans·lu′cent·ly** *adv.*

trans·mi·grate (trans·mī′grāt, tranz-, trans′mə-, tranz′-) *v.i.* **·grat·ed, ·grat·ing** **1.** To migrate from one place or condition to another, esp., from one country to another. **2.** To pass into another body, as the soul at death. [< L < *trans-* across + *migrare* to migrate] — **trans·mi′grant** *adj. & n.* — **trans′mi·gra′tion** *n.* — **trans·mi′gra·tor** *n.* — **trans·mi·gra·to·ry** (trans·mī′grə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē, tranz-) *adj.*

trans·mis·si·ble (trans·mis′ə·bəl, tranz-) *adj.* Capable of being transmitted. Also **trans·mit′ti·ble** (-mit′ə·bəl). — **trans·mis′si·bil′i·ty** *n.*

trans·mis·sion (trans·mish′ən, tranz-) *n.* **1.** The act of transmitting, or the state of being transmitted. **2.** That which is transmitted. **3.** *Mech.* **a** A device that transmits power from the engine of an automobile to the driving wheels. **b** The gears for changing speed. [See TRANSMIT.] — **trans·mis′sive** *adj.*

trans·mit (trans·mit′, tranz-) *v.t.* **·mit·ted, ·mit·ting** **1.** To send from one place or person to another; forward or convey; dispatch. **2.** To pass on by heredity; transfer. **3.** To pass on or communicate (news, information, etc.). **4.** *Telecom.* To send out (information, radio and television broadcasts, etc.) by means of electromagnetic waves. **5.** *Physics* To cause (light, sound, etc.) to pass through a medium. **6.** *Mech.* To convey (force, motion, etc.) from one part or mechanism to another. [< L < *trans-* across + *mittere* to send] — **trans·mit′tal** *n.*

trans·mit·tance (trans·mit′ns, tranz-) *n.* The act or process of transmitting.

trans·mit·ter (trans·mit′ər, tranz-) *n.* **1.** One who or that which transmits. **2.** A telegraphic sending instrument. **3.** The part of a telephone that converts sound waves into electrical waves. **4.** *Telecom.* The part of a radio or television system that generates, modulates, and transmits electromagnetic waves to the antenna.

trans·mu·ta·tion (trans′myōō·tā′shən, tranz′-) *n.* **1.** The act of transmuting, or the state of being transmuted. **2.** *Physics* The change of one element into another through alteration of its nuclear structure, as by bombardment with high-energy particles in an accelerator. **3.** *Biol.* Successive change of form. **4.** In alchemy, the supposed change of a base metal into gold, silver, etc. — **trans′mu·ta′tion·al, trans·mut·a·tive** (trans·myōō′tə·tiv, tranz-) *adj.*

trans·mute (trans·myōōt′, tranz-) *v.t.* **·mut·ed, ·mut·ing** To change in nature, form, quality, etc.; transform. Also **trans·mu′tate.** [< L < *trans-* across + *mutare* to change] — **trans·mut′a·ble** *adj.* — **trans·mut′a·bil′i·ty, trans·mut′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **trans·mut′a·bly** *adv.* — **trans·mut′er** *n.*

trans·o·ce·an·ic (trans′ō·shē·an′ik, tranz′-) *adj.* **1.** Lying beyond or over the ocean. **2.** Crossing the ocean.

tran·som (tran′səm) *n.* **1.** A small window above a door or window, usu. hinged to a horizontal crosspiece; also, the crosspiece. **2.** A horizontal construction dividing a window into stages. **3.** *Naut.* A beam running across the stern frame of a ship. **4.** The horizontal crossbar of a gallows or cross. [< L *transtrum* crossbeam] — **tran′somed** *adj.*

tran·son·ic (tran·son′ik) *adj. Aeron.* Of or pertaining to conditions encountered when passing to supersonic speeds.

transonic barrier *Aeron.* A barrier to supersonic flight encountered by aircraft designed for subsonic speed, caused by turbulence of the airflow around different parts of the plane: also called *sonic barrier, sound barrier.*

trans·pa·cif·ic (trans′pə·sif′ik) *adj.* **1.** Crossing the Pacific Ocean. **2.** Situated across or beyond the Pacific.

trans·par·en·cy (trans·pâr′ən·sē, -par′-) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The quality of being transparent. Also **trans·par′ence.** **2.** Something transparent; esp., a picture on a substance, as glass, intended to be viewed by shining a light through it.

trans·par·ent (trans·pâr′ənt, -par′-) *adj.* **1.** Admitting the passage of light, and permitting a clear view of objects beyond. **2.** Easy to see through or understand; obvious. **3.** Without guile; frank; candid. **4.** Diaphanous; sheer. — **Syn.** See CLEAR. [< Med.L < L *trans-* across + *parere* to appear, be visible] — **trans·par′ent·ly** *adv.* — **trans·par′ent·ness** *n.*

trans·pierce (trans·pirs′) *v.t.* **·pierced, ·pierc·ing** To pierce through; penetrate completely. [< MF < *trans-* (< L, across, through) + *percer* to pierce]

tran·spire (tran·spīr′) *v.* **·spired, ·spir·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To give off (waste products) from the surface of the body, leaves, etc.; exhale. — *v.i.* **2.** To give off waste products, as the surface of the body, leaves, etc. **3.** To become known. **4.** *Informal* To happen; occur. ◆ Although *transpire* is used

widely in this last sense, this usage is considered erroneous by some. [< F < L *trans-* across, through + *spirare* to breathe] — **tran/spi·ra/tion** *n.*

rans·plant (*v.* trans·plant/, -plänt/; *n.* trans/plant/, -plänt/) *v.t.* **1.** To remove and plant in another place. **2.** To remove and settle or establish for residence in another place. **3.** *Surg.* To transfer (a portion of tissue) from its original site to another part of the same individual, or to another individual. — *n.* **1.** That which is transplanted. **2.** The act of transplanting. [< LL < L *trans-* across + *plantare* to plant] — **trans/plan·ta/tion** *n.* — **trans·plant/er** *n.*

rans·port (*v.* trans·pôrt/, -pōrt/; *n.* trans/pôrt, -pōrt) *v.t.* **1.** To carry or convey from one place to another. **2.** To carry away with emotion. **3.** To carry into banishment, esp. beyond the sea. — **Syn.** See BANISH. — *n.* **1.** A vessel used to transport troops, military supplies, etc. **2.** An aircraft used to transport passengers, mail, etc. **3.** The state of being transported with rapture; ecstasy. **4.** The act of transporting. **5.** A deported convict. [< MF < L < *trans-* across + *portare* to carry] — **trans·port/er** *n.*

rans·port·a·ble (trans·pôr/tə·bəl, -pōr/-) *adj.* Capable of being transported. — **trans·port/a·bil/i·ty** *n.*

rans·por·ta·tion (trans/pər·tā/shən) *n.* **1.** The act of transporting, or the state of being transported. **2.** A means of transporting, as a vehicle. **3.** A charge for conveyance. **4.** A ticket, pass, etc., for travel.

rans·pose (trans·pōz/) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** **1.** To reverse the order or change the place of; interchange. **2.** To change in place or order, as a word in a sentence. **3.** *Math.* To transfer (a term) with a changed sign from one side of an algebraic equation to the other, so as not to destroy the equality of the members. **4.** *Music* To move (a chord, melody, composition, etc.) upward or downward in pitch while retaining its internal interval structure. — *v.i.* **5.** *Music* To play in a key other than the one notated: said of players or instruments. [< OF < L *trans-* over + OF *poser* to place] — **trans·poz/a·ble** *adj.* — **trans·poz/er** *n.* — **trans/po·si/tion, trans·po/sal** *n.*

rans·sex·u·al (trans·sek/shōō·əl, -sek/shəl) *n.* **1.** A person who is genetically and physically of one sex but who identifies psychologically with the other. **2.** One whose sex characteristics have been altered by surgery and hormone treatment.

rans·ship (trans·ship/) *v.t. & v.i.* **·shipped, ·ship·ping** To transfer from one conveyance or line to another: also spelled *transhipp.* — **trans·ship/ment** *n.*

ran·sub·stan·ti·a·tion (tran/səb·stan/shē·ā/shən) *n.* **1.** *Theol.* The doctrine that the substance of the eucharistic elements is converted into that of the body and blood of Christ. **2.** A change of anything into something essentially different. [< Med.L < L *trans-* over + *substantia* substance] — **tran/sub·stan/ti·a/tion·al·ist** *n.*

rans·u·ra·ni·an (trans/yōō·rā/nē·ən, tranz/-) *adj.* *Physics* Of or pertaining to any of those radioactive elements having an atomic number greater than that of uranium. Also **trans/·u·ran/ic** (-ran/ik).

rans·ver·sal (trans·vûr/səl, tranz-) *adj.* Transverse. — *n.* *Geom.* A line intersecting a system of lines.

rans·verse (trans·vûrs/, tranz-) *adj.* Lying or being across or from side to side; athwart. — *n.* **1.** That which is transverse. **2.** *Geom.* That axis of a hyperbola that passes through its foci. [< L < *trans-* across + *vertere* to turn] — **trans·verse/ly** *adv.* — **trans·verse/ness** *n.*

rans·ves·tite (trans·ves/tīt, tranz-) *n.* One who wears the clothes of the opposite sex. [< L *trans-* over + *vestire* to clothe + -ITE] — **trans·ves/·tism, trans·ves/ti·tism** *n.*

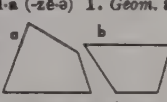
rap[1] (trap) *n.* **1.** A device for catching game or other animals, as a pitfall or snare. **2.** Any artifice or stratagem by which a person may be betrayed or taken unawares. **3.** *Mech.* A U- or S-bend in a pipe, etc., that fills with water or other liquid for sealing the pipe against a return flow, as of noxious gas. **4.** A contrivance for hurling clay pigeons or glass balls into the air for sportsmen to shoot at. **5.** In some games, esp. golf, an obstacle or hazard: a sand *trap.* **6.** A light, two-wheeled carriage suspended by springs. **7.** *pl.* Percussion instruments, as drums, cymbals, etc. **8.** A trap door. **9.** *U.S. Slang* The mouth: Shut your *trap.* — *v.* **trapped, trap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To catch in a trap; ensnare. **2.** To stop or hold (a gas, liquid, etc.) by some obstruction. **3.** To provide with a trap. — *v.i.* **4.** To set traps for game. **5.** To be a trapper. [OE *treppe, træppe*]

rap[2] (trap) *n.* *Geol.* A dark, fine-grained igneous rock, often of columnar structure, as basalt, dolerite, etc. Also **trap/·rock/** (rok/). [< Sw. *trappa* stair; so called from the step-like arrangement of this rock in other rock]

rap door A door, hinged or sliding, to cover an opening, as in a floor or roof.

ra·peze (tra·pēz/, tra-) *n.* **1.** A short swinging bar, suspended by two ropes, used by gymnasts, etc. **2.** *Geom.* A trapezium. [< F < NL *trapezium* trapezium]

tra·pe·zi·um (trə·pē/zē·əm) *n.* *pl.* **·zi·a** (-zē·ə) **1.** *Geom.* **a** A four-sided plane figure of which no two sides are parallel. **b** *Brit.* A trapezoid. **2.** *Anat.* The bone of the wrist situated at the base of the thumb. [< NL < Gk. *trapezion*, dim. of *trapeza* table, lit., four-footed (bench) < tetra- four, + *peza* foot]



TRAPEZIUM (*a*) AND TRAPEZOID (*b*)

trap·e·zoid (trap/ə·zoid) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* **a** A quadrilateral of which two sides are parallel. **b** *Brit.* A trapezium. **2.** *Anat.* An irregular bone near the base of the forefinger. [< NL < Gk. < *trapeza* table + *eidos* form] — **trap/e·zoi/dal** *adj.*

trap·per (trap/ər) *n.* One whose occupation is the trapping of fur-bearing animals.

trap·pings (trap/ingz) *n.pl.* **1.** An ornamental housing or harness for a horse. **2.** Adornments of any kind; embellishments; superficial dress. [< obs. *traps* < ME *trappe*]

Trap·pist (trap/ist) *n.* A member of an ascetic order of Cistercian monks, noted for silence and abstinence. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Trappists. [after *La Trappe* in Normandy, name of their first abbey, established 1664]

trap·shoot·ing (trap/shōō/ting) *n.* The sport of shooting clay pigeons sent up from spring traps. — **trap/shoot/er** *n.*

trash (trash) *n.* **1.** Worthless or waste matter of any kind; rubbish. **2.** A worthless or despicable individual or group of individuals. **3.** Worthless or foolish writing, ideas, etc.; nonsense. **4.** That which is broken or lopped off; esp., the loppings and trimmings of trees and plants. — *v.t.* **1.** To free from trash. **2.** To strip of leaves; prune; lop. [Cf. dial. Norw. *trask* lumber, trash, baggage]

trash·y (trash/ē) *adj.* **trash·i·er, trash·i·est** Resembling trash or rubbish; worthless; cheap: *trashy* poetry. — **trash/·i·ly** *adv.* — **trash/i·ness** *n.*

trau·ma (trô/mə, trou/-) *n.* *pl.* **·mas** or **·ma·ta** (-mə·tə) **1.** *Pathol.* **a** Any injury to the body caused by shock, violence, etc.; a wound. **b** The general condition of the system resulting from such an injury or wound. Also **trau/ma·tism** (-tiz/əm). **2.** *Psychiatry* A severe emotional shock having a deep, often lasting effect upon the personality. [< NL < Gk. *trauma, -atos* wound]

trau·mat·ic (trô·mat/ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or caused by a trauma. — **trau·mat/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

trav·ail (trav/āl, tra·vāl/) *v.i.* **1.** To toil; labor. **2.** To suffer the pangs of childbirth. — *n.* **1.** Strenuous physical or mental labor. **2.** Anguish; pain. **3.** Labor in childbirth. [< OF < *travaillier* to toil, ult. < LL *trepalium* instrument of torture < *tres, tria* three + *palus* stake]

trav·el (trav/əl) *v.* **trav·eled** or **·elled, trav·el·ing** or **·el·ling** *v.i.* **1.** To go from one place to another; make a journey or tour. **2.** To proceed; advance. **3.** To go about from place to place as a traveling salesman. **4.** *U.S. Informal* To move with speed. **5.** To pass or be transmitted, as light, sound, etc. **6.** *Mech.* To move in a fixed path, as part of a mechanism. — *v.t.* **7.** To move or journey across or through; traverse. — *n.* **1.** The act of traveling. **2.** *pl.* A trip or journey. **3.** A movement or progress of any kind. **4.** *Mech.* **a** The full course of a moving part in one direction. **b** Length of stroke, as of a piston. [Var. of TRAVAIL]

trav·eled (trav/əld) *adj.* **1.** Having made many journeys. **2.** Experienced as the result of travel. **3.** Frequented or used by travelers. Also **trav/elled.**

trav·el·er (trav/əl·ər, trav/lər) *n.* **1.** One who travels or journeys. **2.** *Brit.* A traveling salesman. **3.** *Naut.* A metal ring or thimble running freely on a rope, rod, or spar; also, the rope, rod, or spar. Also **trav/el·ler.**

traveler's check A draft issued by a bank, express company, etc., having the bearer's signature, and payable when the bearer signs it again in order to cash it.

traveling salesman A salesman who travels to various places obtaining orders for his firm. Also **traveling man.**

trav·e·logue (trav/ə·lôg, -log) *n.* A lecture or film on travel. Also **trav/e·log.**

tra·verse (trav/ərs; *for v. & adv., also* trə·vûrs/) *v.* **·ersed, ·ers·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To pass over, across, or through. **2.** To move back and forth over or along. **3.** To examine carefully; survey or scrutinize. **4.** To oppose; thwart. **5.** To turn (a gun, lathe, etc.) to right or left; swivel. **6.** *Law* **a** In legal pleading, to deny (a matter of fact alleged by the opposite party). **b** To impeach (the validity of an inquest of office). **7.** *Naut.* To brace (a yard) fore and aft. — *v.i.* **8.** To move back and forth. **9.** To move across; cross. **10.** To turn; swivel. — *n.* **1.** A part, as of a machine or structure, placed across or traversing another, as a crosspiece, crossbeam, transom, etc. **2.** *Archit.* A gallery or loft communicating with opposite sides of a building. **3.** Something serving as a screen or bar-

rier. **4.** *Geom.* A transversal. **5.** The act of traversing or crossing. **6.** A way or path across. **7.** *Mech.* Sidewise travel, as of the tool in a slide rest. **8.** *Law* A formal denial. **9.** *Naut.* A zigzag track of a vessel while beating to windward. — *adj.* Transverse; lying or being across. [< OF < LL < L *trans-* across + *vertere* to turn] — **trav'ers·a·ble** *adj.* — **trav·er·sal** (trav'ər·səl, trə·vûr'səl) *n.* — **trav'ers·er** *n.*

trav·er·tine (trav'ər·tin, -tēn, -tīn) *n.* A porous, light yellow, crystalline limestone deposited in solution from ground or surface waters, used for building purposes. Also **trav'er·tin** (-tin). [< Ital. < L *Tiburtinus* Tiburtine < *Tiburs, -urtis* of Tibur]

trav·es·ty (trav'is·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A grotesque imitation; burlesque. **2.** In literature, a burlesque treatment of a lofty subject. — *v.t.* **·tied, ·ty·ing** To make a travesty on; parody. [< MF < Ital. < L *trans* across + *vestire* to dress]

trawl (trôl) *n.* **1.** A stout fishing line having many lines frequently spaced and bearing baited hooks: also called *trotline.* Also **trawl line.** **2.** A great fishing net shaped like a flattened bag, for towing on the bottom of the ocean by a boat: also **trawl net.** — *v.t.* **1.** To catch (fish) with a trawl. — *v.i.* **2.** To fish with a trawl. [Cf. MDu. *traghel* dragnet]

trawl·er (trô'lər) *n.* **1.** A vessel used for trawling. **2.** One who is engaged in trawling.

tray (trā) *n.* A flat receptacle with a low rim, made of wood, metal, etc., used to carry, hold, or display articles: a sandwich *tray.* [OE *trīg, trēg* wooden board]

treach·er·ous (trech'ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Traitorous; perfidious; disloyal. **2.** Having a deceptive appearance; unreliable; untrustworthy: a *treacherous* path. — **treach'er·ous·ly** *adv.* — **treach'er·ous·ness** *n.*

treach·er·y (trech'ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** Violation of allegiance, confidence, or faith; perfidy; treason. [< OF < *tricher, trechier* to cheat]

trea·cle (trē'kəl) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* Molasses. **2.** Formerly, a compound used as an antidote. [< OF < L < Gk. *thēriakē* remedy for poisonous bites] — **trea'cly** *adj.*

tread (tred) *v.* **trod** (*Archaic* **trode**), **trod·den** or **trod, tread·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To step or walk on, over, along, etc. **2.** To press with the feet; trample. **3.** To accomplish in walking or in dancing: to *tread* a measure. **4.** To copulate with: said of male birds. — *v.i.* **5.** To step or walk. **6.** To trample: usually with *on.* — **to tread water** In swimming, to keep the body erect and the head above water by moving the feet up and down as if walking. — *n.* **1.** The act, manner, or sound of treading or walking. **2.** The flat part of a step in a staircase. **3.** The part of a wheel that bears upon the ground or rails. **4.** The outer, often grooved surface of an automobile tire. **5.** That part of the sole of a shoe that treads upon the ground. **6.** The part of a rail on which the wheels bear. [OE *tredan*] — **tread'er** *n.*

tread·le (tred'l) *n.* A lever operated by the foot, usu. to cause rotary motion. For illus. see POTTER'S WHEEL. — *v.i.* **·led, ·ling** To work a treadle. [OE < *tredan* to tread] — **tread'ler** *n.*

tread·mill (tred'mil') *n.* **1.** A mechanism rotated by the walking motion of one or more persons. **2.** A similar mechanism operated by a quadruped. **3.** Any wearisome or monotonous work, activity, routine, etc.

trea·son (trē'zən) *n.* **1.** Betrayal or breach of allegiance or of obedience toward one's sovereign or government. **2.** *Rare* A breach of faith; treachery. [< AF *treyson,* OF *traison* < L *traditio, -onis* betrayal, delivery]

trea·son·a·ble (trē'zən·ə·bəl) *adj.* Of, involving, or characteristic of treason. Also **trea'son·ous.** — **trea'son·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **trea'son·a·bly** *adv.*

treas·ure (trezh'ər) *n.* **1.** Riches accumulated or possessed, esp. in the form of money, jewels, or precious metals. **2.** One who or that which is regarded as valuable, precious, or rare. — *v.t.* **·ured, ·ur·ing** **1.** To lay up in store; accumulate. **2.** To retain carefully, as in the mind. **3.** To set a high value upon; prize. [< OF < L < Gk. *thēsauros*]

treas·ur·er (trezh'ər·ər) *n.* An officer of a state, city, corporation, society, etc., who has charge of funds or revenues.

Treasure State Nickname of Montana.

trea·sure-trove (trezh'ər·trōv') *n.* **1.** *Law* Any treasure found hidden in the earth, etc., the owner being unknown. **2.** Any discovery that proves valuable. [< AF < *tresor* + *trové,* pp., of *trover* to find]

treas·u·ry (trezh'ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ur·ies** **1.** The place where private or public funds or revenues are received, kept, and disbursed. **2.** Any public or private funds or revenues. **3.** Any group or collection of treasures or things regarded as treasures. **4.** A place or receptacle where treasures are kept. — **Department of the Treasury** An executive department of the U.S. government that superintends and manages the national finances. Also **Treasury Department.**

treasury note *U.S.* A note issued by the Treasury as legal tender for all debts, public and private.

treat (trēt) *v.t.* **1.** To conduct oneself toward in a specified manner. **2.** To look upon or regard in a specified manner: They *treat* the matter as a joke. **3.** To subject to chemical or physical action, as for altering or improving. **4.** To give medical or surgical attention to. **5.** To deal with in writing or speaking. **6.** To deal with or develop (a subject in art or literature) in a specified manner or style. **7.** To pay for the entertainment, food, or drink of. — *v.i.* **8.** To handle a subject in writing or speaking: usu. with *of.* **9.** To negotiate. **10.** To pay for another's entertainment or food. — *n.* **1.** Something that gives unusual pleasure. **2.** Entertainment furnished gratuitously to another. **3.** The act of treating; also, one's turn to treat. [< OF < L *tractare* to handle] — **treat'a·ble** *adj.* — **treat'er** *n.*

trea·tise (trē'tis) *n.* A formal and systematic written account of some subject. [< AF *tretiz,* OF *traitier* to treat]

treat·ment (trēt'mənt) *n.* **1.** The act, manner, or process of treating. **2.** The care of an illness, by drugs, surgery, etc. **3.** The manner of handling an artistic or literary subject.

trea·ty (trē'tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** A formal agreement or compact, duly concluded and ratified, between two or more states; also, the document containing such an agreement or compact. [< AF *treté,* OF *traitie,* pp. of *traitier* to treat]

treb·le (treb'əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·led, ·ling** To multiply by three; triple. — *adj.* **1.** Threefold; triple. **2.** Soprano. — *n.* **1.** *Music* **a** A soprano voice, part, or instrument; also, the singer or player taking this part. **b** The highest register of an instrument. **2.** High, piping sound. [< OF < L *triplus*] — **treb'le·ness** *n.* — **treb'ly** *adv.*

tree (trē) *n.* **1.** A perennial woody plant having usu. a single self-supporting trunk of considerable height, with branches and foliage growing at some distance above the ground. ◆ Collateral adjective: *arboreal.* **2.** Any shrub or plant that assumes treelike shape or dimensions. **3.** Something resembling a tree in form or outline, as a clothes tree, crosstree, etc. **4.** A diagram or outline resembling a tree and showing family descent. **5.** A timber, post, pole, etc.: used in combination: *axletree.* — **up a tree** *Informal* In a position from which there is no retreat; cornered: also, in an embarrassing position. — *v.t.* **treed, tree·ing** **1.** To force to climb or take refuge in a tree: to *tree* an opossum. **2.** *Informal* To get the advantage of; corner. **3.** To stretch, as a boot, on a boot tree. [OE *trēow, trīow, trēo*]

tree fern Any of various ferns with large fronds and woody trunks that often attain a treelike size.

tree frog An arboreal amphibian, having the toes dilated with viscous, adhesive disks: also called *tree toad.*

tree of heaven The ailanthus.

tree of knowledge of good and evil In the Bible, a tree in Eden whose fruit Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat. *Gen.* iii 3, 6. Also **tree of knowledge.**

Tree-Plant·er State (trē'plan'tər, -plän'-) Nickname of Nebraska.

tree sparrow A North American sparrow that nests in Canada and migrates southward in winter.

tree surgery The treatment of disease conditions and decay in trees by operative methods. — **tree surgeon**

tree toad A tree frog.

tree-top (trē'top') *n.* The highest part of a tree.

tre·foil (trē'foil) *n.* **1.** Any of a genus of leguminous plants, the clovers, with red, purple, pink, or yellow flowers and trifoliate leaflets. **2.** A three-lobed architectural ornamentation. [< AF, OF < L *trifolium*]

trek (trek) *v.* **trekked, trek·king** *v.i.* **1.** In South Africa, to travel by ox wagon. **2.** To travel, esp. slowly or arduously. — *v.t.* **3.** In South Africa, to draw (a vehicle or load): said of an ox. — *n.* **1.** In South Africa, a journey or any part of it; esp., an organized migration, as for the founding of a colony. **2.** A journey; esp., a slow or arduous journey. [< Du. < MDu. < OHG *trechan* to draw] — **trek'ker** *n.*

trel·lis (trel'is) *n.* **1.** A crossbarred structure or panel of wood, metal, or other material, used as a screen or a support for vines, etc. **2.** A summerhouse, archway, etc., made from or consisting of such a structure. — *v.t.* **1.** To interlace so as to form a trellis. **2.** To furnish with or fasten on a trellis. [< OF < L < *tri-* three + *licium* thread]

trel·lis·work (trel'is·wûrk') *n.* Openwork made from, consisting of, or resembling a trellis.

trem·a·tode (trem'ə·tōd) *n.* One of a class of parasitic flatworms, including the liver flukes. [< NL < Gk. < *trēma, -atos* hole + *eidos* form] — **trem'a·toid** (-toid) *adj.*

trem·ble (trem'bəl) *v.i.* **·bled, ·bling** **1.** To shake involuntarily, as with fear or weakness; be agitated. **2.** To have slight, irregular vibratory motion, as from some jarring force; shake. **3.** To feel anxiety or fear. **4.** To quaver, as the voice. — *n.* The act or state of trembling. [< OF < LL *tremulus* tremulous < *tremere* to tremble] — **trem'bler** *n.* — **trem'bling·ly** *adv.* — **trem'bly** *adj.*

tre·men·dous (tri·men'dəs) *adj.* **1.** *Informal* Extraordinarily large; huge; vast. **2.** *Informal* Unusual; amazing; wonderful. **3.** Causing astonishment by its magnitude, force, etc. [< L *tremendus* to be trembled at < *tremere* to tremble] — **tre·men'dous·ly** *adv.* — **tre·men'dous·ness** *n.*

trem·o·lo (trem′ə·lō) *n. pl.* **·los** *Music* **1.** In string instrument playing, a rapid reiteration of a tone caused by alternating movements of the bow. **2.** A rapid alternation of two tones, usu. a third or more apart. Compare TRILL. **3.** A device or stop for producing a vibrato effect on an organ tone. [< Ital. < L *tremulus*]

trem·or (trem′ər, trē′mər) *n.* **1.** A quick, vibratory movement; a shaking. **2.** Any involuntary and continued quivering or trembling of the body or limbs; a shiver. **3.** A quavering sound. **4.** Any trembling, quivering effect. [< OF, fear, a trembling < L < *tremere* to tremble]

trem·u·lous (trem′yə·ləs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized or affected by trembling: *tremulous* speech. **2.** Showing timidity or fear. — **trem′u·lous·ly** *adv.* — **trem′u·lous·ness** *n.*

trench (trench) *n.* **1.** A long narrow excavation in the ground; ditch. **2.** A long irregular ditch, lined with a parapet of the excavated earth, to protect troops. — *v.t.* **1.** To dig a trench or trenches in. **2.** To fortify with trenches. **3.** To cut deep furrows in; ditch. **4.** To confine in a trench, as water. — *v.i.* **5.** To cut or dig trenches. **6.** To cut; carve. **7.** To encroach. [< OF *trenchier* to cut, ult. < L *truncare* to lop off < *truncus* tree trunk] — **trench′er** *n.*

trench·ant (tren′chənt) *adj.* **1.** Cutting; incisive; keen: a *trenchant* remark. **2.** Forceful; vigorous; effective. **3.** Clearly defined; distinct. [< OF, ppr. of *trenchier* to cut] — **trench′an·cy** *n.* — **trench′ant·ly** *adv.*

trench coat A loose-fitting overcoat of rainproof fabric.

trench·er (tren′chər) *n.* Formerly, a wooden plate or board on which food was served or cut. [See TRENCH[6]]

trench·er·man (tren′chər·mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A feeder; eater; esp., one who enjoys food.

trench fever *Pathol.* A remittent rickettsial fever transmitted by body lice and common among soldiers assigned to prolonged service in trenches during World War I.

trench foot *Pathol.* A disease of the feet caused by continued dampness and cold, and characterized by discoloration, weakness, and sometimes gangrene.

trench mouth *Pathol.* A disease of the mouth, gums, and sometimes the larynx and tonsils, caused by a soil bacillus.

trend (trend) *n.* A general course, inclination, or direction. — *v.i.* To have or take a particular trend. [OE *trendan* to roll]

tre·pan (tri·pan′) *n.* **1.** An early form of the trephine. **2.** A large rock-boring tool. — *v.t.* **·panned, ·pan·ning** **1.** *Mech.* To cut circular disks from (a rock or metal plate) by a rotary tool. **2.** *Surg.* To trephine. [< OF, borer < Med.L < Gk. < *trypaein* to bore] — **trep·a·na·tion** (trep′ə·nā′shən) *n.* — **tre·pan′ner** *n.*

tre·pang (tri·pang′) *n.* An East Indian sea cucumber, used in China for making soup. [< Malay *tripang*]

tre·phine (tri·fīn′, -fēn′) *n. Surg.* A crown saw for removing a piece of bone from the skull so as to relieve pressure, etc. — *v.t.* **·phined, ·phin·ing** To operate on with a trephine. [< earlier *trafine* < L *tres fines* three ends]

trep·i·da·tion (trep′ə·dā′shən) *n.* **1.** A state of agitation or alarm; perturbation. **2.** An involuntary trembling. Also **tre·pid·i·ty** (tri·pid′ə·tē). [< L < *trepidatus*, pp. of *trepidare* to hurry, be alarmed < *trepidus* alarmed]

trep·o·neme (trep′ə·nēm) *n.* Any of a group of bacteria including the causative agent of syphilis. [< NL < Gk. *trepein* to turn + *nēma* thread] — **trep′o·nem′a·tous** (-nem′ə·təs) *adj.*

tres·pass (tres′pəs, -pas′) *v.i.* **1.** *Law* To commit a trespass; esp., to enter wrongfully upon another's land: with *on* or *upon*. **2.** To pass the bounds of propriety or rectitude, to the injury of another; intrude offensively; encroach: with *on* or *upon*. **3.** To transgress or sin. — *n.* **1.** Any voluntary transgression of law or rule of duty; any offense done to another. **2.** *Law* Any wrongful act accompanied with force, either actual or implied, as wrongful entry on another's land. [< OF < Med.L < L *trans-* across, beyond + to pass] — **tres′pass·er** *n.*

tress (tres) *n.* **1.** A lock, or ringlet of human hair. **2.** *pl.* The hair of a woman or girl, esp. when worn loose. [< OF *tresce*] — **tress′y** *adj.*

-tress *suffix* Used to form many feminine nouns corresponding to masculine nouns in *-ter*, *-tor*: *actress*. [Var. of *-ess*]

tressed (trest) *adj.* Wearing or arranged in tresses; braided.

tres·tle (tres′əl) *n.* **1.** A beam or bar supported by four divergent legs, for bearing platforms, etc. **2.** An open braced framework for supporting a railway bridge, etc. [< OF < L, dim. of *transtrum* crossbeam]

tres·tle·work (tres′əl·wûrk′) *n.* **1.** Trestles collectively. **2.** A bridge made of trestles. Also **tres′tling.**

trey (trā) *n.* A card, domino, or die having three spots or pips. [< OF *trei*, *treis* < L *tres* three]

tri- *prefix* **1.** Three; threefold; thrice. **2.** *Chem.* Containing three (specified) atoms, radicals, groups, etc.: *trioxide*. **3.** Occurring every three (specified) intervals, or three times within an (assigned) interval: *tri-weekly*. [< L *tri-* threefold]

tri·a·ble (trī′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** That may be tried or tested. **2.** *Law* That may undergo a judicial examination or determination. — **tri′a·ble·ness** *n.*

tri·ad (trī′ad) *n.* **1.** A group of three persons or things. **2.** *Music* A chord of three tones formed of superimposed thirds. [< L < Gk. *trias*, *-ados* < *treis* three] — **tri·ad′ic** *adj. & n.*

tri·al (trī′əl, tril) *n.* **1.** The examination before a court of the facts or law in a case in order to determine that case. **2.** The act of testing or proving by experience or use. **3.** The state of being tried or tested, as by suffering: hour of *trial*. **4.** Experimental treatment or action performed to determine a result: to learn by *trial* and error. **5.** An attempt or effort to do something; a try: to make a *trial*. — **on trial** In the process of being tried or tested. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a trial or trials. **2.** Made, used, or performed in the course of trying or testing. [< AF *trier* to try]

trial and error Experimentation, investigation, learning, etc., in which various methods, theories, or alternatives are tried and faulty or erroneous ones are rejected.

trial balance In double-entry bookkeeping, a draft or statement of the debit and credit footings or balances of each account in the ledger.

trial balloon **1.** A balloon released in order to test atmospheric and meteorological conditions. **2.** Any tentative plan or scheme advanced to test public reaction.

trial jury A petit jury.

tri·an·gle (trī′ang′gəl) *n.* **1.** *Geom.* A figure, esp. a plane figure, bounded by three sides, and having three angles. **2.** Something resembling such a figure in shape or arrangement. **3.** A flat drawing implement for making parallel or diagonal lines, etc. **4.** A group or set of three; a triad. **5.** A situation involving three persons: the eternal *triangle*. **6.** *Music* An instrument consisting of a metal bar bent into a triangle and sounded by being struck with a metal rod. [< OF < L < *tri-* three + *angulus* angle]

tri·an·gu·lar (trī·ang′gyə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, like, or bounded by a triangle. **2.** Concerned with or pertaining to three things, parties, or persons. — **tri·an′gu·lar′i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.* — **tri·an′gu·lar·ly** *adv.*

tri·an·gu·late (trī·ang′gyə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lated, ·lat·ing** **1.** To divide into triangles. **2.** To survey by triangulation. **3.** To make triangular. — *adj.* Of or marked with triangles.

tri·an·gu·la·tion (trī·ang′gyə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The laying out and accurate measurement of a network of triangles. **2.** A method of determining a position by taking bearings to two fixed points of known distance apart and computing it on the resultant triangle.

Tri·as·sic (trī·as′ik) *adj. Geol.* Of or pertaining to the earliest of the three geological periods comprised in the Mesozoic era. — *n.* The Triassic period or rock system, following the Permian and succeeded by the Jurassic. Also **Tri·as** (trī′əs). See chart under GEOLOGY. [< LL *trias* triad]

tri·bal·ism (trī′bəl·iz′əm) *n.* Tribal organization, culture, or relations.

tribe (trīb) *n.* **1.** A division, class, or group of people, esp. a primitive or nomadic people, usu. characterized by common ancestry, leadership, customs, etc. **2.** In ancient states, an ethnic, hereditary, or political division of a united people; also, one of the twelve divisions of ancient Israel. **3.** A number of persons of any class or profession taken together: often an offensive term: the theatrical *tribe*. **4.** *Biol.* A group of plants or animals of indefinite rank. [< L *tribus* tribe] — **tri′bal** *adj.* — **tri′bal·ly** *adv.*

tribes·man (trībz′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A member of a tribe.

trib·u·la·tion (trib′yə·lā′shən) *n.* A condition of affliction and distress; suffering; also, that which causes it. [< OF.< LL < L < *tribulum* threshing floor < *terere* to rub, grind]

tri·bu·nal (tri·byōō′nəl, trī-) *n.* **1.** A court of justice. **2.** The seat set apart for judges, etc. [See TRIBUNE.]

trib·une[1] (trib′yōōn) *n.* **1.** In Roman history, a magistrate chosen by the plebeians to protect them against patrician oppression. **2.** Any champion of the people. [< L *tribunus* < *tribus* tribe] — **trib′u·nar′y** (-yə·ner′ē), **trib′u·ni′cial** (-yə·nish′əl, **trib′u·ni′cian** *adj.* — **trib′u·nate** (-yə·nit, -nāt), **trib′une·ship** *n.*

trib·une[2] (trib′yōōn) *n.* A rostrum or platform. [< MF < Ital. < L *tribunal* tribunal]

trib·u·tar·y (trib′yə·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Bringing supply; contributory: a *tributary* stream. **2.** Offered or due as tribute: a *tributary* payment. **3.** Paying tribute, as a state. — *n. pl.* **·tar·ies** **1.** A person or state paying tribute. **2.** A stream flowing into a larger stream or body of water. [See TRIBUTE.] — **trib′u·tar′i·ly** *adv.* — **trib′u·tar′i·ness** *n.*

trib·ute (trib′yōōt) *n.* **1.** A speech, compliment, gift, etc., given in acknowledgment of admiration, gratitude, or re-

spect. **2.** Money or other valuables paid by one state or ruler to another as an acknowledgment of submission or as the price of peace and protection; also, the taxes imposed to raise money to make such payment. **3.** Any enforced payment as by bribery. [< L *tribuere* to pay, allot]

trice (trīs) *v.t.* **triced, tric·ing** To raise with a rope; also, to tie or lash: usu. with *up*. — *n.* An instant: now only in the phrase **in a trice.** [< MDu. *trisen* to hoist]

tri·cen·ten·ni·al (trī′sen·ten′ē·əl) *adj. & n.* Tercentenary.

tri·ceps (trī′seps) *n. Anat.* A large muscle at the back of the upper arm, of which the function is to extend the forearm. [< L < *tri-* three + *caput* head]

tri·chi·na (tri·kī′nə) *n. pl.* **·nae** (-nē) A small nematode worm, parasitic in the intestines and muscles of man, swine, and other mammals. [< NL < Gk. *thrix* hair]

trich·i·no·sis (trik′ə·nō′sis) *n. Pathol.* The disease produced by trichinae in the intestines and muscles of the body, in man, usu. through eating improperly cooked meat, esp. pork. — **trich′i·nous** (-nəs) *adj.*

tricho- *combining form* Hair; of or resembling a hair or hairs. Also **trichi-**: also, before vowels, **trich-**. [< NL < Gk. *thrix* hair]

trick (trik) *n.* **1.** A device for getting an advantage by deception; a petty artifice; ruse. **2.** A malicious, injurious, or annoying act: a dirty *trick*. **3.** A practical joke; prank. **4.** A particular habit or manner; characteristic; trait. **5.** A peculiar skill or knack. **6.** An act of legerdemain or magic. **7.** In card games, the whole number of cards played in one round. — **to do** (or **turn**) **the trick** *Slang* To produce the desired result. — *v.t.* **1.** To deceive or cheat; delude. **2.** To dress or array: with *up* or *out*. — *v.i.* **3.** To practice trickery or deception. [< OF < *trichier* to cheat, prob. ult. < L < *tricae* trifles, tricks] — **trick′er** *n.* — **trick′less** *adj.*

trick·er·y (trik′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** The practice of tricks; artifice; stratagem; wiles.

trick·le (trik′əl) *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.i.* **1.** To flow or run drop by drop or in a very thin stream. **2.** To move, come, go, etc., slowly or bit by bit. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to trickle. — *n.* **1.** The act or state of trickling. **2.** Any slow and irregular movement. [ME *triklen*] — **trick′ly** *adj.*

trick·ster (trik′stər) *n.* One who plays tricks; a cheat.

trick·y (trik′ē) *adj.* **trick·i·er, trick·i·est** Disposed to or characterized by trickery; deceitful; wily. — **trick′i·ly** *adv.* — **trick′i·ness** *n.*

tri·col·or (trī′kul′ər) *adj.* Having or characterized by three colors: also **tri′col′ored.** — *n.* **1.** A flag of three colors. **2.** *Sometimes cap.* The French flag. Also *Brit.* **tri′col′our.** [< F < LL < L *tri-* three + *color* color]

tri·corn (trī′kôrn) *n.* A hat with the brim turned up on three sides. Also **tri′corne.** — *adj.* Having three hornlike processes. [< F < L < *tri-* three + *cornu* horn]

tri·cot (trē′kō, *Fr.* trē·kō′) *n.* **1.** A plain, knitted fabric, usu. machine made. **2.** A soft ribbed cloth. [< F < *tricoter* to knit]

tri·cus·pid (trī·kus′pid) *adj.* **1.** Having three cusps or points, as a molar tooth. **2.** *Anat.* Of the tricuspid valve. Also **tri·cus′pi·dal, tri·cus′pi·date.** — *n. Anat.* The tricuspid valve. [< L < *tri-* three + *cuspis* point]

tricuspid valve *Anat.* A three-segmented valve that controls the flow of blood from the right atrium to the right ventricle of the heart.

tri·cy·cle (trī′sik·əl) *n.* A three-wheeled vehicle; esp., such a vehicle with pedals. [< F < *tri-* three + Gk. *kyklos* circle]

tri·dent (trīd′nt) *n.* A three-pronged fork. — *adj.* Having three teeth or prongs: also **tri·den·tate** (trī·den′tāt), **tri·den′·tat·ed.** [< L < *tri-* three + *dens* tooth]

tried (trīd) Past tense and past participle of TRY. — *adj.* Tested; trustworthy.

tri·en·ni·al (trī·en′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Taking place every third year. **2.** Lasting three years. — *n.* **1.** A third anniversary. **2.** A ceremony, etc., celebrated every three years. **3.** A plant lasting three years. — **tri·en′ni·al·ly** *adv.*

tri·er (trī′ər) *n.* One who or that which tries.

tri·fa·cial (trī·fā′shəl) *adj. Anat.* Trigeminal.

tri·fid (trī′fid) *adj.* Divided into three parts or sections. [< L < *tri-* three + *findere* to split]

tri·fle (trī′fəl) *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.i.* **1.** To treat something as of no value or importance; dally: with *with*. **2.** To act or speak frivolously. **3.** To play; toy. **4.** To idle. — *v.t.* **5.** To pass (time) in an idle and purposeless way. — *n.* **1.** Anything of very little value or importance. **2.** A confection, usu. made of alternate layers of macaroons or ladyfingers with sugared fruit, covered with a custard and topped with meringue or whipped cream. — **a trifle** Slightly: *a trifle* short. [< OF *trufe* cheating, mockery] — **tri′fler** *n.*

tri·fling (trī′fling) *adj.* **1.** Frivolous. **2.** Insignificant. — **tri′fling·ly** *adv.*

tri·fo·cal (trī·fō′kəl) *adj.* **1.** Having three foci. **2.** *Optics* Pertaining to or describing eyeglasses or a lens ground in three segments, for near, intermediate, and far vision. — *n. pl.* Eyeglasses having trifocal lenses.

tri·fo·li·ate (trī·fō′lē·it, -āt) *adj. Bot.* Having three leaves or leaflike processes. Also **tri·fo′li·at′ed.**

tri·fo·ri·um (trī·fôr′ē·əm, -fō′rē-) *n. pl.* **·fo·ri·a** (-fôr′ē·ə, -fō′rē·ə) *Archit.* A gallery above the arches of the nave in a church. [< Med.L < L *tri-* three + *foris* a door]

trig (trig) *adj.* **1.** Trim; neat. **2.** Strong; sound. — *v.t.* **trigged, trig·ging** To make trig or neat: often with *out* or *up*. [< ON *tryggr* true] — **trig′ly** *adv.* — **trig′ness** *n.*

tri·gem·i·nal (trī·jem′ə·nəl) *adj. Anat.* Of or pertaining to the trigeminus: also *trifacial*. — *n.* The trigeminus. [< L < *tri-* + *geminus* a twin]

tri·gem·i·nus (trī·jem′ə·nəs) *n. pl.* **·ni** (-nī) *Anat.* The double-rooted fifth cranial nerve, whose three divisions, mandibular, maxillary, and opthalmic, function as the great sensory nerve of the face. [See TRIGEMINAL.]

trig·ger (trig′ər) *n.* **1.** The lever or other device actuated manually to fire a firearm. **2.** Any lever, release, etc., that serves to initiate a process or operation. — **quick on the trigger** **1.** Quick to shoot. **2.** Quick to act; alert. — *v.t.* To initiate; precipitate. [< Du. *trekken* to pull]

trigonometric functions Certain functions of an angle or arc, of which the most commonly used are the sine, cosine, tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant.

trig·o·nom·e·try (trig′ə·nom′ə·trē) *n.* The branch of mathematics that deals with the relations of the sides and angles of triangles. [< NL < Gk. *trigōnon* triangle + *metron* measure] — **trig·o·no·met·ric** (trig′ə·nə·met′rik) or **·ri·cal** *adj.* — **trig′o·no·met′ri·cal·ly** *adv.*

tri·he·dron (trī·hē′drən) *n. pl.* **·dra** (-drə) *Geom.* A figure having three plane surfaces meeting at a point. [< NL < Gk. *tri-* three + *hedra* a base] — **tri·he′dral** *adj.*

tri·lat·er·al (trī·lat′ər·əl) *adj.* Having three sides. [< L < *tri-* three + *latus* a side] — **tri·lat′er·al·ly** *adv.*

trill (tril) *v.t.* **1.** To sing or play in a tremulous tone. **2.** *Phonet.* To articulate with a trill. — *v.i.* **3.** To give forth a tremulous sound. **4.** *Music* To execute a trill. — *n.* **1.** A tremulous utterance of successive tones, as of birds; a warble. **2.** *Music* A rapid alternation of two tones either a tone or a semitone apart. **3.** *Phonet.* A rapid vibration of the tongue in the articulation of *rr* in Spanish, or of the uvula in the articulation of *r* in some varieties of German. **4.** A consonant so uttered. [< Ital. *trillare*]

tril·lion (tril′yən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A thousand billions, written as 1 followed by twelve zeros: a cardinal number: called a billion in Great Britain. **2.** *Brit.* A million billions (def. 2), written as 1 followed by eighteen zeros: a cardinal number. — *adj.* Being a trillion in number. [< MF < *tri-* three + (*mi*)*llion* million] — **tril′lionth** *adj. & n.*

tril·li·um (tril′ē·əm) *n.* Any of various herbs of the lily family, having a stout stem bearing a whorl of three leaves and a solitary flower. [< NL < L *tri-* three]

tri·lo·bate (trī·lō′bāt, trī′lə·bāt) *adj. Bot.* Having three lobes, as some leaves. Also **tri·lo′bal, tri·lo′bat·ed, tri′lobed.**

tri·lo·bite (trī′lə·bīt) *n. Paleontol.* Any of a group of extinct Paleozoic marine animals having a flattened body divided into a variable number of segments covered by a hard dorsal shield marked in three lobes. [< NL < Gk. *tri-* three + *lobos* a lobe] — **tri′lo·bit′ic** (-bit′ik) *adj.*

tril·o·gy (tril′ə·jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** A group of three literary or dramatic compositions, each complete in itself, but continuing the same general subject. [< Gk. < *tri-* three + *logos* a discourse]

trim (trim) *v.* **trimmed, trim·ming** *v.t.* **1.** To put in or restore to order; make neat by clipping, etc. **2.** To remove by cutting: usu. with *off* or *away*. **3.** To put ornaments on; decorate. **4.** In carpentry, to smooth; dress. **5.** *Informal* **a** To defeat. **b** To punish or thrash. **c** To rebuke. **d** To cheat. **6.** *Naut.* **a** To adjust (sails or yards) for sailing. **b** To balance (a ship) by adjusting cargo, etc. — *v.i.* **7.** To act so as to appear to favor both sides in a controversy. — *n.* **1.** State of adjustment or preparation; orderly disposition: All was in good *trim*. **2.** Condition as to general appearance; dress. **3.** *Naut.* **a** Fitness for sailing: said of a vessel in reference to disposition of ballast, masts, cargo, etc. **b** Degree of immersion. **4.** Particular character or nature. **5.** The moldings, etc., as about the doors of a building. **6.** Ornament; trapping; trimming; dress. — *adj.* **trim·mer, trim·mest** **1.** Adjusted to a nicety; being in perfect order; handsomely equipped or of stylish and smart appearance; precise. **2.** Excellently fit; fine. — *adv.* In a trim manner: also **trim′ly.** [OE *trymman* to arrange, strengthen < *trum* strong] — **trim′mer** *n.* — **trim′ness** *n.*

trim·e·ter (trim′ə·tər) *n.* In prosody, a line of verse consisting of three metrical feet. — *adj.* In prosody, consisting of three metrical feet or of lines containing three metrical feet. [< L < Gk. < *tri-* three + *metron* measure] — **tri·met·ric** (trī·met′rik), **tri·met′ri·cal** *adj.*

tri·meth·yl·pen·tane (trī′meth·il·pen′tān) *n. Chem.* One of three isomeric hydrocarbon compounds, C_8H_{18}, one of which, often called isooctane, is used in rating motor fuels.

trim·ming (trim′ing) *n.* **1.** Something added for ornament.

2. *pl.* Articles or equipment; fittings, as the hardware of a house. **3.** *pl.* The usual or proper accompaniments or condiments of an article or food. **4.** *pl.* That which is removed by trimming. **5.** *Informal* A severe reproof; flogging; beating. **6.** *Informal* A defeat. **7.** The act of one who trims.

ri·month·ly (trī·munth′lē) *adj. & adv.* Done or occurring every third month.

ri·nal (trī′nəl) *adj.* Having three parts; threefold. Also *trine* (trin). [< LL < L *tres* three]

ri·na·ry (trī′nər·ē) *adj.* Made up of three parts or proceeding by threes; ternary. [See TRINAL.]

Trin·i·tar·i·an (trin′ə·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Trinity. **2.** Holding or professing belief in the Trinity. Compare UNITARIAN. —*n.* A believer in the doctrine of the Trinity. — **Trin′i·tar′i·an·ism** *n.*

ri·ni·tro·tol·u·ene (trī·ni′trō·tol′yōō·ēn) *n. Chem.* A high explosive, $C_7H_5N_3O_6$, made by treating toluene with nitric acid, used in warfare, as a blasting agent, and as a base for measuring the explosive power of nuclear bombs: also called *TNT, trotyl.* Also **tri·ni′tro·tol′u·ol** (-yōō·ôl, -ol). [< TRI- + NITRO- + TOLUENE]

rin·i·ty (trin′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** Any union of three parts or elements in one; a trio. [< OF < LL < L < *trinus* triple]

Trin·i·ty (trin′ə·tē) *n. Theol.* A threefold personality existing in the one divine being or substance; the union in one God of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday *Eccl.* The eighth Sunday after Easter, observed as a festival in honor of the Trinity.

rin·ket (tring′kit) *n.* **1.** Any small ornament, as of jewelry. **2.** A trifle; a trivial object; a toy. [< AF *trenquet,* OF *trenchet* a toy knife, ornament]

ri·no·mi·al (trī·nō′mē·əl) *adj.* **1.** *Biol.* Of, having, or employing three terms or names in taxonomy, the generic, the specific, and the subspecific or varietal, as *Lynx rufus texensis,* the Texas bobcat. **2.** *Math.* Consisting of three terms connected by plus or minus signs or both. —*n.* **1.** *Math.* A trinomial expression, as $3x + y - 27z$. **2.** *Biol.* A trinomial name. Also **tri·nom′i·nal** (-nom′ə·nəl), **tri·on′y·mal** (-on′ə·məl). [< L *trinominus* having three names]

ri·o (trē′ō; *for def. 1, also* trī′ō) *n. pl.* **tri·os** **1.** Any three things grouped or associated together. **2.** *Music* **a** A composition for three performers. **b** The second part of a minuet, scherzo, etc. **c** A group of three musicians that plays trios. [< F < Ital. < L *tres* three]

triol *suffix Chem.* Denoting an organic compound containing three hydroxyl radicals.

ri·ox·ide (trī·ok′sīd, -sid) *n. Chem.* An oxide containing three atoms of oxygen in combination. Also **tri·ox′id** (-sid).

rip (trip) *n.* **1.** A journey or voyage. **2.** A misstep or stumble caused by losing balance or striking the foot against an object. **3.** An active, nimble step or movement. **4.** *Mech.* A pawl or similar device that trips, or the action of such a device. **5.** A sudden catch, esp. of the legs and feet, as of a wrestler. **6.** A blunder; mistake. **7.** *Slang* The taking of a psychedelic drug, or the resulting mental experience. —*v.* **tripped, trip·ping** *v.i.* **1.** To stumble. **2.** To move quickly with light or small steps. **3.** To commit an error. **4.** *Mech.* To be triggered, released, etc. —*v.t.* **5.** To cause to stumble: often with *up.* **6.** To detect and expose in an error; defeat the purpose of. **7.** To perform (a dance) lightly. **8.** *Mech.* To set free or in operation by releasing a stay, catch, trigger, etc. **9.** *Naut.* To loosen (an anchor) from the bottom. [< OF *treper, triper* to leap, trample]

ri·par·tite (trī·pär′tīt) *adj.* **1.** Divided into three parts or divisions; threefold: a *tripartite* leaf: also **tri·part·ed** (trī′pär·tid). **2.** Pertaining to or executed between three parties. [< L < *tri-* three + *partiri* to divide] — **tri·par′tite·ly** *adv.*

ri·par·ti·tion (trī′pär·tish′ən) *n.* Division into three parts, into thirds, or among three.

ripe (trīp) *n.* **1.** A part of the stomach of a ruminant, used for food. **2.** *Informal* Anything worthless; nonsense. [< OF < Arabic *tharb* entrails, a net]

rip hammer A heavy power hammer that is raised or tilted by a cam and then allowed to drop.

rip·le (trip′əl) *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To make threefold in number or quantity. —*v.i.* **2.** To be or become three times as many or as large. **3.** In baseball, to hit a triple. —*adj.* **1.** Consisting of three things united or of three parts; threefold. **2.** Multiplied by three; thrice said or done. —*n.* **1.** A set or group of three. **2.** In baseball, a base hit that enables the batter to reach third base. [< MF < L < Gk. *triplous* threefold] — **trip′ly** *adv.*

riple play In baseball, a play during which three men are put out.

rip·let (trip′lit) *n.* **1.** A group of three of a kind. **2.** One of three children born at one birth. **3.** A group of three rhymed lines. **4.** *Music* A group of three equal notes performed in the time of two: also called *tercet.*

triple threat *U.S. Informal* **1.** A football player expert at kicking, running, and passing. **2.** One skillful in three areas of activity. — **trip·le-threat** (trip′əl·thret′) *adj.*

tri·plex (trī′pleks, trip′leks) *adj.* Having three parts. [< L < *tri-* three + *plicare* to fold]

trip·li·cate (*adj. & n.* trip′lə·kit; *v.* trip′lə·kāt) *adj.* Threefold; made in three copies. —*n.* One of or a set of three identical things. —*v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To make three times as much or as many. [< L *triplicatus,* pp. of *triplicare* to triple] — **trip′li·cate·ly** *adv.* — **trip′li·ca′tion** *n.*

tri·plic·i·ty (tri·plis′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Threefold character. **2.** A group or combination of three. **3.** In astrology, a combination of three of the twelve signs of the zodiac.

tri·pod (trī′pod) *n.* **1.** A utensil or article having three feet or legs. **2.** A three-legged stand for supporting a camera, transit, etc. [< L < Gk. < *tri-* three + *pous* foot]

trip·o·dal (trip′ə·dəl) *adj.* **1.** Of the nature or form of a tripod. **2.** Having three feet or legs. Also **tri·po·di·al** (trī·pō′dē·əl, trī-), **tri·pod′ic** (-pod′ik).

trip·o·dy (trip′ə·dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** A verse or meter having three feet.

trip·per (trip′ər) *n.* **1.** One who trips. **2.** *Brit. Informal* A traveler; tourist. **3.** *Mech.* A trip or tripping mechanism.

trip·ping (trip′ing) *n.* The act of one who or that which trips. — *adj.* Nimble. — **trip′ping·ly** *adv.*

trip·tych (trip′tik) *n.* **1.** A triple tablet; esp., a Greek or Roman hinged triple writing tablet. **2.** A triple picture or carving on three hinged panels, often depicting a religious subject. Also **trip′ty·ca** (-ti·kə), **trip′ty·chon** (-ti·kon). [< LL < Gk. < *tri-* thrice + *ptyssein* to fold]

tri·reme (trī′rēm) *n.* An ancient Greek or Roman warship with three banks of oars. [< L < *tri-* three + *remus* oar]

tri·sect (trī·sekt′) *v.t.* To divide into three parts, esp., as in geometry, into three equal parts. [< TRI- + L *sectus,* pp. of *secare* to cut] — **tri·sect′ed** *adj.* — **tri·sec′tion** (-sek′shən) *n.* — **tri·sec′tor** *n.*

tri·seme (trī′sēm) *n.* A syllable or foot consisting of or equivalent to three short syllables, as the trochee. —*adj.* Consisting of or equal to three short syllables: also **tri·se′mic.** [< Gk. < *tri-* three + *sēma* a sign]

tris·mus (triz′məs, tris′-) *n. Pathol.* Lockjaw. [< NL < Gk. *trismos* gnashing of teeth] — **tris′mic** *adj.*

Tris·tan (tris′tăn, -tən) In medieval legend and Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde,* a knight sent to Ireland to bring back the princess Iseult the Beautiful as a bride for his uncle, King Mark of Cornwall. Iseult and Tristan drink a magic love potion, and ultimately die together. Also **Tris·tram** (tris′trəm).

triste (trēst) *adj. French* Sorrowful; sad.

tris·tesse (trēs·tes′) *n. French* Sadness; melancholy.

tris·tich (tris′tik) *n.* A strophe or system of three lines; triplet. Compare COUPLET, DISTICH. [< TRI- + (DI)STICH]

tri·syl·la·ble (trī·sil′ə·bəl) *n.* A word of three syllables. — **tri·syl·lab·ic** (trī′sil·lab′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **tri′syl·lab′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

trite (trīt) *adj.* Used so often as to be hackneyed; made commonplace by repetition. [< L *tritus,* pp. of *terere* to rub] — **trite′ly** *adv.* — **trite′ness** *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** *Trite* suggests merely a lack of freshness or originality. *Hackneyed* is stronger, suggesting something worn out from overuse; the extreme of *hackneyed* is *threadbare.* We speak of *hackneyed* expressions, and of *threadbare* subjects. *Stereotyped* describes that which uses clichés instead of seeking to evoke new images and ideas. —**Ant.** fresh, original, vivid, striking.

trit·i·cum (trit′ə·kəm) *n.* Any of a widely distributed genus of cereal grasses, the wheats, cultivated in many varieties. [< NL < L, wheat]

trit·i·um (trit′ē·əm, trish′ē·əm) *n. Physics* The isotope of hydrogen having the atomic weight 3. [< NL < Gk. *tritos* third]

tri·ton[1] (trīt′n) *n.* Any of a genus of marine gastropods having many gills and a trumpet-shaped shell. [< L < Gk. *Tritōn*]

tri·ton[2] (trī′ton) *n. Physics.* The nucleus of an atom of tritium. [< TRIT(IUM) + (ELECTR)ON]

Tri·ton (trit′n) In Greek mythology, a son of Poseidon (Neptune) and Amphitrite, represented with a man's head and upper body and a dolphin's tail. —*n.* In Greek mythology, one of a race of attendants of the sea gods.

TRITON[1]

trit·u·rate (trich′ə·rāt) *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To reduce to a fine powder or pulp by grinding or rubbing; pulverize. —*n.* That which has been triturated. [< LL < L *tritura* a rubbing, threshing < *terere* to rub] — **trit·u·ra·ble** (trich′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* — **trit′u·ra′tion** *n.* — **trit′u·ra′tor** *n.*

tri·umph (trī′əmf) *v.i.* **1.** To win a victory; be victorious. **2.** To be successful. **3.** To rejoice over a victory; exult.

4. To celebrate a triumph, as a victorious Roman general. — *n.* **1.** In Roman antiquity, the religious pageant of the entry of a victorious consul, dictator, or praetor into Rome. **2.** Exultation over victory. **3.** The condition of being victorious; victory. [< OF < L < Gk. *thriambos* a processional hymn to Dionysus] — **tri'umph·er** *n.*

tri·um·phal (trī·um'fəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a triumph. **2.** Celebrating a victory.

triumphal arch A monumental arch erected to commemorate a great victory or achievement.

tri·um·phant (trī·um'fənt) *adj.* **1.** Exultant for or as for victory. **2.** Victorious. — **tri·um'phant·ly** *adv.*

tri·um·vir (trī·um'vər) *n.* *pl.* **·virs** or **·vi·ri** (-və·rī) One of three men united in public office or authority, as in ancient Rome. [< L < *tres, trium* three + *vir* a man] — **tri·um'vi·ral** *adj.*

tri·um·vi·rate (trī·um'vər·it, -və·rāt) *n.* **1.** A group or coalition of three men who unitedly exercise authority or control; government by triumvirs. **2.** The office of a triumvir. **3.** A group of three men; trio.

tri·une (trī'yōōn) *adj.* Three in one: said of God. — *n.* A group of three things united; triad; trinity in unity. [< TRI- + L *unus* one] — **tri·u'ni·ty** *n.*

tri·va·lent (trī·vā'lənt, triv'ə·lənt) *adj.* *Chem.* Having a valence or combining value of three. [< TRI- + L *valens*, ppr. of *valere* to be worth] — **tri·va'lence, tri·va'len·cy** *n.*

triv·et (triv'it) *n.* A stand, usu. three-legged, for holding cooking vessels in a fireplace, a heated iron, or a hot dish on a table. [OE < L < *tri-* three + *pes, pedis* a foot]

triv·i·a (triv'ē·ə) *n.pl.* Insignificant or unimportant matters; trifles. [See TRIVIAL.]

triv·i·al (triv'ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of little value or importance; trifling; insignificant. **2.** Such as is found everywhere or every day; commonplace. **3.** Occupied with trifles. [< L *trivialis* of the crossroads, commonplace < *tri-* three + *via* road] — **triv'i·al·ism** *n.* — **triv'i·al·ly** *adv.*

triv·i·al·i·ty (triv'ē·al'ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being trivial: also **triv'i·al·ness.** **2.** A trivial matter.

tri·week·ly (trī·wēk'lē) *adj.* **1.** Occurring three times a week. **2.** Done or occurring every third week. — *adv.* **1.** Three times a week. **2.** Every third week. — *n.* A publication appearing triweekly.

-trix *suffix* A feminine termination of agent nouns the masculine form of which is *-tor*: *testatrix*. See -OR[1]. [< L]

tro·cha·ic (trō·kā'ik) *adj.* Pertaining to, containing, or composed of trochees: a *trochaic* foot or verse. — *n.* A trochaic verse or line. [See TROCHEE.]

tro·chal (trō'kəl) *adj.* Shaped like a wheel; rotiform. [< Gk. *trochos* a wheel]

tro·che (trō'kē) *n.* A medicated lozenge, usu. circular: also called *pastille*. [Alter. of obs. *trochisk* < MF < L < Gk. < *trochos* wheel]

tro·chee (trō'kē) *n.* **1.** In prosody, a metrical foot consisting of one long or accented syllable followed by one short or unaccented syllable (—⏑). **2.** A line of verse made up of or characterized by such feet: Nōw thĕ| light hăs| fāllĕn| frōm thĕ| hēavĕns. [< L < Gk. < *trechein* to run]

trod (trod) Past tense and alternative past participle of TREAD.

trod·den (trod'n) Past participle of TREAD.

trog·lo·dyte (trog'lə·dīt) *n.* **1.** A cave man. **2.** A hermit; anyone of primitive habits. **3.** An anthropoid ape, as the chimpanzee. [< L < Gk. < *trōglē* hole + *dyein* to go into] — **trog'lo·dyt'ic** (-dit'ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

tro·gon (trō'gon) *n.* A tropical American bird noted for its resplendent plumage. [< NL < Gk. *trōgein* to gnaw]

troi·ka (troi'kə) *n.* A Russian vehicle drawn by a team of three horses driven abreast. [< Russian < *troie* three]

Tro·jan (trō'jən) *n.* **1.** A native of Troy. **2.** One who works earnestly or suffers courageously. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to ancient Troy. [< L < *Troja* Troy]

Trojan horse **1.** In classical legend, a large, hollow wooden horse, filled with Greek soldiers and left at the Trojan gates. When it was brought within the walls the soldiers emerged at night and admitted the Greek army, who burned the city: also called *wooden horse*. **2.** A person, device, etc., intended to disrupt or undermine a plan.

Trojan War In Greek legend, the ten years' war waged by the confederated Greeks under their king, Agamemnon, against the Trojans to recover Helen, the wife of Menelaus, who had been abducted by Paris: celebrated esp. in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

troll[1] (trōl) *v.t.* **1.** To fish for with a moving lure, as from a slowly moving boat. **2.** To move (the line or lure) in fishing. **3.** To sing in succession, as in a round or catch. **4.** To sing in a full, hearty manner. **5.** To cause to roll; revolve. — *v.i.* **6.** To fish with a moving lure. **7.** To sing a tune, etc., in a full, hearty manner. **8.** To be uttered in such a way. **9.** To roll; turn. — *n.* **1.** A catch or round. **2.** A rolling movement or motion; also, repetition or routine. **3.** In fishing, a spoon or other lure. [? < OF *troller* to quest, wander < Gmc.] — **troll'er** *n.*

troll[2] (trōl) *n.* In Scandinavian folklore, a giant; later, a mischievous dwarf. Also **trold** (trōld). [< ON]

trol·ley (trol'ē) *n.* *pl.* **·leys** **1.** *U.S.* A streetcar. **2.** A grooved metal wheel for rolling in contact with a conductor (the **trolley wire**), to convey the current to an electric vehicle. **3.** In a subway system, a device adapted to the same purpose attached to a current taker operating through a third rail. **4.** A small truck or car for conveying material, as in a factory, mine, etc. **5.** The mechanism of a traveling crane. **6.** A small car running on tracks and worked by a manually operated lever, used by workmen on a railway. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* To travel by trolley. Also **trol'ly.** [< TROLL[1]]

trolley bus A bus propelled electrically by current from an overhead wire by means of a trolley. Also **trolley coach.**

trolley car A car with a trolley for use on an electric railway; esp., *U.S.*, a streetcar.

troll·ing (trō'ling) *n.* The method or act of fishing by dragging a hook and line, as behind a boat and near the surface. [< TROLL[1]]

trolling rod A strong fishing rod for trolling.

trol·lop (trol'əp) *n.* **1.** A slatternly woman. **2.** A prostitute. [< dial. E (Scottish) < ME *trollen* to roll about] — **trol'lop·ish, trol'lop·y, trol'lop·ing** *adj.*

trom·bone (trom·bōn', trom'bōn') A brass instrument of the trumpet family, but larger and lower in pitch than the trumpet. A **slide trombone** changes pitch by means of a U-shaped slide that can lengthen or shorten the air column, a **valve trombone** changes pitch by means of valves. [< Ital., aug. of *tromba* trumpet < Gmc.] — **trom·bon'ist** *n.*

trompe l'oeil (trôNp lœ'y') In art and decoration, the accurate representation of details, scenes, etc., to create an illusion of reality. [< F, lit., fool the eye]

-tron *suffix* **1.** Vacuum tube: *magnetron*. **2.** Device for the manipulation of subatomic particles: *cyclotron*. [< Gk., instrumental suffix]

troop (trōōp) *n.* **1.** An assembled company; gathering; a herd or flock. **2.** *Usu.*, *pl.* A body of soldiers; soldiers collectively. **3.** The cavalry unit corresponding to a company of infantry. **4.** A body of Boy Scouts consisting of four patrols of eight scouts each. — *v.i.* **1.** To move along or gather as a troop or as a crowd. — *v.t.* **2.** To form into troops. **3.** *Brit. Mil.* To carry ceremoniously before troops: to *troop* the colors. [< OF < LL *troppus* a flock < Gmc.]

troop carrier **1.** A transport aircraft for carrying troops and equipment. **2.** An armored vehicle for carrying troops.

troop·er (trōō'pər) *n.* **1.** A cavalryman. **2.** A mounted policeman. **3.** A troop horse; charger. **4.** A troopship. **5.** A state policeman.

troop·ship (trōōp'ship') *n.* A ship for carrying troops.

trope (trōp) *n.* **1.** The figurative use of a word. **2.** Loosely, a figure of speech; figurative language in general. [< F < L < Gk. *tropos* a turn < *trepein* to turn]

-trope *combining form* **1.** One who or that which turns or changes: *allotrope*. **2.** Turning; turned in a (specified) way: *hemitrope*. [< Gk. *tropos* a turning < *trepein* to turn]

troph·ic (trof'ik) *adj.* Pertaining to nutrition and its processes. Also **troph'i·cal.** [< Gk. < *trephein* to nourish] — **troph'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

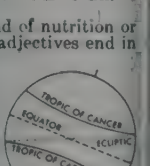
tro·phied (trō'fēd) *adj.* Adorned with trophies.

tropho- *combining form* Nutrition; nourishment; of or pertaining to food or nutrition. Also, before vowels, **troph-**. [< Gk. *trophē* food, nourishment < *trephein* to feed, nourish]

tro·phy (trō'fē) *n.* *pl.* **·phies** **1.** Something symbolizing victory or success; as: **a** A cup, statuette, etc., awarded for athletic or other achievement. **b** A mounted fish, animal's head, etc. **c** A weapon, etc., captured from an enemy. **2.** An ornamental symbolic group of objects hung together on a wall. **3.** A memento or memorial. [< MF < L < Gk. < *tropē* a defeat < *trepein* to turn, rout]

-trophy *combining form* A (specified) kind of nutrition or development: *hypertrophy*. Corresponding adjectives end in *-trophic*. [< Gk. *trophē*. See TROPHO-.]

trop·ic (trop'ik) *n.* **1.** *Geog.* Either of two parallels of latitude 23° 27′ north and south of the equator, on which the sun is seen in the zenith on the days of its greatest declination, called respectively **tropic of Cancer** and **tropic of Capricorn.** **2.** *pl.* The regions of the earth's surface between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn; the Torrid Zone. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the tropics; tropical. [< L < Gk. *tropikos* (*kyklos*) the tropical (circle) < *tropē* a turning]



TROPICS

-tropic *combining form* Having a (specified) tropism; turning or changing in a (particular) way, or in response to a (given) stimulus: *phototropic*. Also *-tropal*.

trop·i·cal (trop'i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the tropics. **2.** Of the nature of a trope or metaphor. — **trop'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

tropic bird A long-winged, oceanic bird, allied to the pelicans, found mostly in the tropics, having the two middle tail feathers elongated.

tro·pism (trō′piz·əm) *n. Biol.* **1.** The involuntary response of an organism to an external stimulus. **2.** Any automatic reaction to a stimulus. [< Gk. *tropē* a turning] — **tro·pis·tic** (trō·pis′tik) *adj.*

-tropism *combining form* A (specified) tropism: *phototropism.* Also *-tropy.* [< TROPISM]

tro·po·pause (trop′ə·pôz) *n. Meteorol.* A transition zone in the atmosphere between the troposphere and the stratosphere. [< TROPO(SPHERE) + Gk. *pausis* a ceasing]

tro·po·sphere (trop′ə·sfir) *n. Meteorol.* The region of the atmosphere beneath the stratosphere; it is characterized by turbulence and by decreasing temperature with increasing altitude. [< F < Gk. *tropos* a turning + F *sphère* < L *sphaera* sphere] — **trop′o·spher′ic** (-sfir′ik, -sfer′-) *adj.*

trot (trot) *n.* **1.** A gait of a quadruped, esp. a horse, in which diagonal pairs of legs are lifted, thrust forward, and placed down almost simultaneously, also, the sound of this gait. **2.** A race for trotters. **3.** A reasonably rapid run. **4.** *Informal* A pony (def. 3). — *v.* **trot·ted, trot·ting** *v.i.* **1.** To go at a trot. **2.** To hurry. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to trot. **4.** To ride at a trotting gait. — **to trot out** To bring forth for inspection, approval, etc. [< OF < OHG *trottōn* to tread]

troth (trôth, trōth) *n.* **1.** Good faith; fidelity. **2.** The act of pledging fidelity; esp., betrothal. **3.** Truth; verity. — *v.t. Archaic* To betroth; pledge. [ME *trowthe, trouthe,* var. of OE *trēowth* truth; faith]

Trot·sky·ism (trot′skē·iz′əm) *n.* The doctrines of Trotsky and his followers; esp., his theory that Communism to succeed must be international. — **Trot′sky·ist, Trot′sky·ite** *n. & adj.*

trot·ter (trot′ər) *n.* One who or that which trots; esp., a horse trained to trot for speed.

tro·tyl (trō′til) *n.* Trinitrotoluene. [< (TRINI)TROT(OLUENE) + -YL]

trou·ba·dour (trōō′bə·dôr, -dōr, -do͝or) *n.* **1.** One of a class of lyric poets, originating in Provence in the 11th century and flourishing in southern France, northern Italy, and eastern Spain during the 12th and 13th centuries. **2.** A singer, esp., of love songs. [< MF < Provençal < *trobar* to compose, invent, find]

trou·ble (trub′əl) *n.* **1.** The state of being distressed, annoyed, upset, afflicted, or confused. **2.** A difficulty, perplexity, annoyance, disturbance, etc. **3.** Toilsome exertion; pains: Take the *trouble* to do it correctly. **4.** A diseased condition: lung *trouble.* — **in trouble 1.** Enmeshed in threatening difficulties. **2.** *Informal* Pregnant and unmarried. — *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.t.* **1.** To cause mental agitation to; distress; worry. **2.** To agitate or disturb; stir up or roil, as water. **3.** To inconvenience or incommode. **4.** To bother. **5.** To cause physical pain or discomfort to. — *v.i.* **6.** To take pains; bother. **7.** To worry. [< OF < L *turbula* mob, dim. of *turba* crowd] — **trou′bler** *n.* — **trou′bling·ly** *adv.*

trou·bled (trub′əld) *adj.* **1.** Beset with trouble. **2.** Distressed. **3.** Agitated, disturbed, or roiled, as water. — **trou′bled·ly** *adv.* — **trou′bled·ness** *n.*

trou·ble-shoot·er (trub′əl·sho͞o′tər) *n.* One who locates difficulties and seeks to remove them, esp., in the operation of a machine, in an industrial process, etc. — **trou′ble-shoot′ing** *n.*

trou·ble·some (trub′əl·səm) *adj.* **1.** Causing trouble; vexatious; burdensome; trying. **2.** Marked by violence; tumultuous. **3.** Greatly agitated or disturbed; troublous. — **trou′ble·some·ly** *adv.* — **trou′ble·some·ness** *n.*

trou·lous (trub′ləs) *adj.* **1.** Marked by commotion or tumult; full of trouble: *troublous* times, **2.** Uneasy; restless.

trough (trôf, trof) *n.* **1.** A long, narrow, open receptacle for conveying a fluid or for holding food or water for animals. **2.** A long, narrow channel or depression, as between ridges on land or waves at sea. **3.** A gutter (def. 3). **4.** *Meteorol.* A long, usu., narrow area having a low barometric pressure. **5.** *Econ.* A low or the lowest point reached in a business cycle. [OE *trog*]

trounce (trouns) *v.t.* **trounced, trounc·ing** **1.** To beat or thrash severely; punish. **2.** *Informal* To defeat. [Ult. origin uncertain]

troupe (trōōp) *n.* A company of actors or other performers. — *v.i.* **trouped, troup·ing** To travel as one of a theatrical company. [< MF < OF *trope* troop]

trou·per (trōō′pər) *n.* **1.** A member of a theatrical company. **2.** An actor of long experience.

trou·sers (trou′zərz) *n.pl.* A garment, esp. for men and boys, covering the body from the waist to the ankles and divided so as to make a separate covering for each leg. Also **trow′sers.** [Blend of obs. *trouse* breeches and DRAWERS]

trous·seau (trōō′sō, trōō·sō′) *n. pl.* **·seaux** (-sōz, -sōz′) or **·seaus** A bride's outfit, esp. of clothing, linens, etc. [< F *trousse* a packed collection of things]

trout (trout) *n.* **1.** A fish of the salmon family mostly found in fresh waters and highly esteemed as a game and food fish. The **brown** or **salmon trout** is common in Europe; the **cut-throat trout** and the **rainbow trout** or steelhead are species of western North America; the **speckled trout** or **brook trout** is common in eastern North America. **2.** A fish resembling, or supposed to resemble, the above, as the greenling. [OE < LL < Gk. *trōktēs* nibbler < *trōgein* to gnaw]

trove (trōv) *n.* Something, esp. of value or pleasing quality, found or discovered. [< (TREASURE-)TROVE]

trow (trō) *v.t. & v.i. Archaic* To suppose; think; believe. [Fusion of OE *truwian* (< *truwa* faith) and *trēowan* to believe < *trēowe* true]

trow·el (trou′əl, troul) *n.* **1.** A flat-bladed, sometimes pointed implement having an offset handle, used to smooth plaster, mortar, etc. **2.** A small concave scoop with a handle, used in digging about small plants, potting them, etc. — *v.t.* **trow·eled** or **·elled, trow·el·ing** or **·el·ling** To apply, dress, or form with a trowel. [< OF < LL < L *trulla,* dim. of *trua* stirring spoon, ladle] — **trow′el·er** or **trow′el·ler** *n.*

troy (troi) *n.* A system of weights in which 12 troy ounces make a pound, used by jewelers in England and the U.S. See table front of book. Also **troy weight.** [after *Troyes,* a city in France]

Troy (troi) An ancient city in NW Asia Minor of perhaps about 1200 B.C., the scene of the *Iliad*: also called *Ilium, Ilion.*

tru·an·cy (trōō′ən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** The state or habit of being truant; also, an act of being truant. Also **tru′ant·ry.**

tru·ant (trōō′ənt) *n.* One who absents himself, esp., from school, without leave. — *v.i.* To be truant. — *adj.* **1.** Being truant; idle. **2.** Relating to or characterizing a truant. [< OF, vagabond, prob. < Celtic]

truant officer *U.S.* An official who investigates truancy from school.

truce (trōōs) *n.* **1.** An agreement between belligerents for a temporary suspension of hostilities; an armistice. **2.** Temporary cessation or intermission. [Plural of ME *trew,* OE *trūwa* faith, a promise]

truck[1] (truk) *n.* **1.** *U.S. & Canadian* Any of various automotive vehicles designed to carry loads, freight, etc.: also, *Brit., lorry.* **2.** A two-wheeled barrowlike vehicle with a forward lip and no sides, used for moving barrels, boxes, etc., by hand. **3.** A vehicle used about railway stations, for moving trunks, etc. **4.** *Brit.* An open or platform freight car. **5.** *Naut.* A disk at the top of a mast or flagpole through which the halyards of signals are run. **6.** One of the pivoting sets of wheels on a railroad car or engine. — *v.t.* **1.** To carry on a truck. — *v.i.* **2.** To carry goods on a truck. **3.** To drive a truck. [Appar. < L < Gk. *trochos* wheel]

truck[2] (truk) *v.t. & v.i.* To exchange or barter; also, to peddle. — *n.* **1.** Commodities for sale. **2.** *U.S.* Garden produce for market. **3.** *Informal* Rubbish; worthless articles collectively. **4.** Barter. **5.** *Informal* Dealings: I will have no *truck* with him. [< OF *troquer* to barter]

truck·age[1] (truk′ij) *n.* **1.** Money paid for conveyance of goods on trucks. **2.** Such conveyance.

truck·age[2] (truk′ij) *n.* Exchange; barter.

truck·er[1] (truk′ər) *n.* One who drives or supplies trucks or moves commodities in trucks. Also **truck′man** (-mən).

truck·er[2] (truk′ər) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* A market gardener; truck farmer. **2.** One who barters or sells commodities; hawker.

truck farm *U.S.* A farm on which vegetables are produced for market. Also **truck garden.** — **truck farming**

truck·ing[1] (truk′ing) *n.* The act or business of transportation by trucks.

truck·ing[2] (truk′ing) *n.* **1.** Exchanging or bartering; dealings. **2.** *U.S.* Cultivation of vegetables for market.

truck·le (truk′əl) *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.i.* **1.** To yield meanly or weakly: with *to.* **2.** To roll on truckles or casters. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to roll on truckles or casters. — *n.* A small wheel. [< AF < L *trochlea* a pulley] — **truck′ler** *n.* — **truck′ling·ly** *adv.*

truc·u·lence (truk′yə·ləns) *n.* Savageness of character, behavior, or aspect. Also **truc′u·len·cy.**

truc·u·lent (truk′yə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Of savage character; awakening terror; cruel; ferocious. **2.** Scathing; harsh; violent: said of writing or speech. [< L < *trux, trucis* fierce] — **truc′u·lent·ly** *adv.*

trudge (truj) *v.i.* **trudged, trudg·ing** To walk wearily or laboriously; plod. — *n.* A tiresome walk or tramp. [Earlier *tredge, tridge*] — **trudg′er** *n.*

trudg·en (truj′ən) In swimming, a former racing stroke similar to the crawl but performed with a frog kick or a scissors kick. Also **trudgen stroke, trudg′eon.** [after John *Trudgen,* 19th c. British swimmer]

true (trōō) *adj.* **tru·er, tru·est** **1.** Faithful to fact or reality; not false. **2.** Being real or natural; genuine: *true* gold. **3.** Faithful; loyal; steadfast. **4.** Conformable to an existing standard type or pattern; exact: a *true* copy. **5.** Required by justice; legitimate: the *true* king. **6.** Truthful; honest. **7.** Indicating or predicting correctly: a *true* sign. **8.** *Biol.* a Of pure strain or pedigree. b Conformed to the structure of the type of a plant or animal: a *true* locust. **9.** In perfect tune: His voice is *true*. — *n.* Truth; pledge. — **in** (or **out of**) **true** In (or not in) line of adjustment: said of a mark or part. — *adv.* **1.** In truth; truly. **2.** In a true and accurate manner: The wheel runs *true*. — *v.t.* **trued, tru·ing** To bring to conformity with a standard; adjust: to *true* a frame. [OE *trēowe*] — **true'ness** *n.*

true bill *Law* **1.** The endorsement by a grand jury on a bill of indictment that the jurors find to be sustained by the evidence. **2.** A bill so endorsed.

true-blue (trōō'blōō') *adj.* Staunch; faithful; genuine.

true-born (trōō'bôrn') *adj.* Being such by birth or inheritance: a *trueborn* Scot.

true-lov·ers' knot (trōō'luv'ərz) A complicated double knot, a symbol of fidelity in love.

truf·fle (truf'əl, trōō'fəl) *n.* Any of various edible fleshy underground fungi. [< OF *trufe, truffe*]

tru·ism (trōō'iz·əm) *n.* An obvious or self-evident truth.

trull (trul) *n. Archaic* A prostitute. [< G *trulle, trolle*]

tru·ly (trōō'lē) *adv.* **1.** In conformity with fact. **2.** With accuracy. **3.** With loyalty or fidelity. **4.** Legally.

trump[1] (trump) *n.* **1.** In various card games, a card of the suit selected to rank above all others temporarily. **2.** *Usu., pl.* The suit thus determined. **3.** A powerful or decisive stroke, resource, etc. **4.** *Informal* A good fellow. — *v.t.* **1.** To top (another card) with a trump. **2.** To surpass; excel; beat. — *v.i.* **3.** To play a trump. — **to trump up** To make up or invent for a fraudulent purpose. [Alter. of TRIUMPH]

trump[2] (trump) *n. Poetic* A trumpet. [< OF *trompe*]

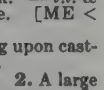
trump·er·y (trum'pər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** Worthless finery. **2.** Rubbish; nonsense. **3.** Deceit; trickery. — *adj.* Showy but valueless. [< OF < *tromper* to deceive]

trum·pet (trum'pit) *n.* **1.** A soprano brass wind instrument with a flaring bell and a long, narrow-bored metal tube. **2.** Something resembling a trumpet in form; an ear trumpet. **3.** A loud penetrating sound like that of a trumpet; trumpeting. — *v.t.* **1.** To sound or proclaim by or as by a trumpet; publish abroad. — *v.i.* **2.** To blow a trumpet. **3.** To give forth a sound as if from a trumpet. [< OF *trompe*]

trumpet creeper A woody vine of the southern U.S., with scarlet, trumpet-shaped flowers. Also **trumpet vine.**

trum·pet·er (trum'pit·ər) *n.* **1.** One who plays a trumpet. **2.** One who publishes something loudly abroad. **3.** A large South American bird related to the cranes. **4.** A large North American wild swan, having a clarionlike cry: also **trumpeter swan.**

trun·cate (trung'kāt) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To cut the top or end from. — *adj.* **1.** Truncated. **2.** *Biol.* Appearing as though cut or broken squarely off. [< L < *truncus* trunk] — **trun·ca·tion** (trung·kā'shən) *n.*


TRUNCATED PYRAMID

trun·ca·ted (trung'kā·tid) *adj.* **1.** Cut off; shortened. **2.** Describing a cone or pyramid whose vertex is cut off by a plane.

trun·cheon (trun'chən) *n.* **1.** A short, heavy stick; a club; staff. **2.** *Brit.* A policeman's club. — *v.t.* To beat as with a truncheon; cudgel. [< OF ult. < L *truncus* trunk]

trun·dle (trun'dəl) *n.* **1.** A small, broad wheel, as of a caster. **2.** The act, motion, or sound of trundling. **3.** A trundle bed. **4.** *Obs.* A small, low-wheeled truck. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** **1.** To roll along. **2.** To rotate. [ME < OE *trendel* circle] — **trun'dler** *n.*

trundle bed A bed with a very low frame resting upon casters, so that it may be rolled under another bed.

trunk (trungk) *n.* **1.** The main stem of a tree. **2.** A large box or case for carrying clothes, etc., as for a journey. **3.** *U.S. & Canadian* A large compartment of an automobile for storing luggage, etc., often at the rear. **4.** The human body, apart from the head, neck, and limbs; the torso. **5.** *Entomol.* The thorax. **6.** *Anat.* The main stem of a nerve, blood vessel, or lymphatic. **7.** The main line of a transportation system. **8.** The circuit connecting two telephone exchanges. **9.** The main body, line, or stem of anything. **10.** A proboscis, as of an elephant. **11.** *pl.* A close-fitting garment covering the loins, worn by male swimmers, etc. — *adj.* Being or belonging to a trunk or main body: a *trunk* railroad. [< OF < L *truncus* stem, trunk]

trunk·fish (trungk'fish') *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** A fish of warm seas, characterized by a covering of hard, bony plates.

trunk hose Full breeches extending to the middle of the thigh, worn by men in the 16th and early 17th centuries.

trunk line The main line of a transportation or communication system, as distinguished from a branch line.

trun·nion (trun'yən) *n.* One of two opposite cylindrical studs on a cannon, forming an axis on which it is elevated or depressed. [< F *trognon* stump, trunk]

truss (trus) *n.* **1.** *Med.* A bandage or support for a rupture. **2.** A braced framework of ties, beams, or bars, as for the support of a roof, bridge, etc. **3.** A package, bundle, esp., of hay (usu. 56 or 60 pounds) or straw (usu. 36 pounds). **4.** *Naut.* A heavy iron piece by which a lower yard is attached to a mast. — *v.t.* **1.** To tie or bind; fasten: often with *up*. **2.** To support by a truss; brace, as a roof. **3.** To fasten the wings of (a fowl) before cooking. **4.** To fasten, tighten, or tie around one, as a garment. [< OF < *trousser, trusser* to pack up, bundle] — **truss'er** *n.*

truss bridge A bridge supported chiefly by trusses.

trust (trust) *n.* **1.** A confident reliance on the integrity, honesty, or justice of another; faith. **2.** Something committed to one's care; a charge; responsibility. **3.** The state or position of one who has received an important charge. **4.** A confidence in the reliability of persons or things without careful investigation. **5.** Credit, in the commercial sense. **6.** Custody; care; keeping. **7.** *Law* **a** The confidence, reposed in a person to whom the legal title to property is conveyed for the benefit of another; also, the beneficial title or ownership of property of which the legal title is held by another. ◆ Collateral adjective: *fiducial*. **b** The property or thing held in trust. **8.** A permanent combination, now illegal, for the purpose of controlling the production, price, etc., of some commodity or the management, profits, etc., of some business. **9.** A trust company. **10.** One who or that which is trusted. **11.** Confident expectation; belief; hope. — *v.t.* **1.** To have trust in; rely upon. **2.** To commit to the care of another; entrust. **3.** To commit something to the care of: with *with*. **4.** To allow to do something without fear of the consequences. **5.** To expect with confidence or with hope. **6.** To believe. **7.** To allow business credit to. — *v.i.* **8.** To place trust or confidence; rely: with *in*. **9.** To hope: with *for*. **10.** To allow business credit. — **to trust to** To depend upon; confide in. — *adj.* Held in trust: *trust* money. [< ON *traust*, lit., firmness] — **trust'er** *n.*

trust-bust·er (trust'bus'tər) *n. U.S. Informal* One who advocates or works for the dissolution of a trust (def. 8) or trusts, as by antitrust legislation. Also **trust buster.**

trust company An incorporated institution formed to accept and execute trusts, to manage money and property, and to lend money.

trus·tee (trus·tē') *n.* **1.** One who holds property in trust. **2.** One of a body of men, often elective, who manage the affairs of a college, church, foundation, etc. — *v.t.* **·teed, ·tee·ing** To place (property) in the care of a trustee.

trus·tee·ship (trus·tē'ship) *n.* **1.** The post or function of a trustee. **2.** Supervision and control of a Trust Territory by a country or countries commissioned by the United Nations; also, the Territory so controlled.

trust·ful (trust'fəl) *adj.* Disposed to trust. — **trust'ful·ly** *adv.* — **trust'ful·ness** *n.*

trust fund Money, securities, etc., held in trust.

trust·ing (trus'ting) *adj.* Having trust; trustful. — **trust'ing·ly** *adv.* — **trust'ing·ness** *n.*

Trust Territory A dependent area administered by a nation under the authority of the United Nations.

trust·wor·thy (trust'wûr'thē) *adj.* Worthy of confidence; reliable. — **trust'wor·thi·ly** (-wûr'thə·lē) *adv.* — **trust'wor'thi·ness** *n.*

trust·y (trus'tē) *adj.* **trust·i·er, trust·i·est** **1.** Faithful to duty or trust. **2.** Staunch; firm. — *n. pl.* **trust·ies** A trustworthy person; esp., a convict who has been found reliable and to whom special liberties are granted. — **trust'i·ly** *adv.* — **trust'i·ness** *n.*

truth (trōōth) *n. pl.* **truths** (trōōthz, trōōths) **1.** The state or character of being true in relation to being, knowledge, or speech. **2.** Conformity to fact or reality. **3.** Conformity to rule, standard, pattern, or ideal. **4.** Steadfastness; sincerity. **5.** That which is true; a statement or belief that corresponds to the reality. **6.** Fact; reality. **7.** A disposition to tell only what is true; veracity. **8.** Fidelity; constancy. [OE < *trēowe* true] — **truth'less** *adj.*

truth·ful (trōōth'fəl) *adj.* **1.** Habitually telling the truth. **2.** Corresponding to the facts or to reality; true. — **truth'ful·ly** *adv.* — **truth'ful·ness** *n.*

try (trī) *v.* **tried, try·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make an attempt to do or accomplish; undertake; endeavor. **2.** To make experimental use or application of: often with *out*. **3.** *Law* **a** To determine the guilt or innocence of by judicial trial. **b** To examine or determine judicially, as a case. **4.** To subject to a test; put to proof. **5.** To put severe strain upon; tax, as the eyes. **6.** To subject to trouble or tribulation; afflict. **7.** To extract by rendering or melting; refine: often with *out*: to *try* out oil. — *v.i.* **8.** To make an attempt; put forth effort. **9.** To make an examination or test. — **to try on** To put on (a garment) to test it for fit or appearance. — **to try out** To attempt to qualify: He *tried out* for the

football team. —*n. pl.* **tries** The act of trying; trial; experiment. [< OF *trier* to sift, pick out]

try·ing (trī′ing) *adj.* Testing severely; hard to endure.

try-out (trī′out′) *n. U.S. Informal* A test of ability, as of an actor or athlete, often in competition with others.

tryp·a·no·some (trip′ə·nə·sōm′, tri·pan′ə·) *n.* Any of a genus of protozoans parasitic in the blood of man and some lower animals and often causing serious and even fatal diseases, as sleeping sickness. Also **tryp′a·no·so′ma** (-sō′mə). [< Gk. *trypanon* borer + -SOME (< Gk. *sōma* a body)]

tryp·sin (trip′sin) *n. Biochem.* A digestive enzyme contained in the pancreatic juice. [< Gk. *tripsis* a rubbing (< *tribein* to rub) + (PEP)SIN] —**tryp′tic** (-tik) *adj.*

try·sail (trī′səl, -sāl′) *n. Naut.* A small sail bent to a gaff abaft the foremast and mainmast of a ship: also called *spencer*. [< nautical phrase (*at*) *try* lying to in a storm + SAIL]

try square A carpenter's square having usu. a wooden stock and a steel blade.

tryst (trist, trīst) *n.* **1.** An appointment, as between lovers, to meet at a designated time and place; also, the meeting place agreed upon; rendezvous. **2.** A prearranged meeting, as of lovers. [< OF *triste, tristre* an appointed station in hunting] —**tryst′er** *n.*

tryst·ing place (tris′ting) A meeting place, as of lovers.

tset·se (tset′sē) *n.* **1.** A small bloodsucking fly of southern Africa, whose bite transmits disease in cattle, horses, etc. **2.** A related species, that transmits the causative agent of sleeping sickness. Also spelled *tzetze*. Also **tsetse fly.** [< Afrikaans < Bantu]

T-shirt (tē′shûrt′) *n.* A cotton undershirt or sweater with short sleeves. Also **T shirt.**

T-square (tē′skwâr′) *n.* An instrument by which to measure or lay out right angles or parallel lines, consisting usu. of a flat strip with a shorter head at right angles to it.

tsu·na·mi (tsōō·nä′mē) *n.* An extensive and often very destructive ocean wave caused by a submarine earthquake: also loosely called *tidal wave*. [< Japanese, a storm wave]

tub (tub) *n.* **1.** A broad, open-topped vessel with handles on the side. **2.** A bathtub. **3.** *Brit. Informal* A bath taken in a tub. **4.** The amount that a tub contains. **5.** *Informal* Anything resembling a tub, as a broad, clumsy boat. —*v.t. & v.i.* **tubbed, tub·bing** To wash, bathe, or place in a tub. [< MDu. *tubbe*] —**tub′ba·ble** *adj.* —**tub′ber** *n.*

tu·ba (tōō′bə, tyōō′-) *n. pl.* **·bas** or **·bae** (-bē) Any of various wide-bored, bass brass instruments whose pitch is varied by means of valves. [< Ital. < L, a war trumpet]

tub·by (tub′ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est** **1.** Resembling a tub in form. **2.** Short and fat; corpulent.

tube (tōōb, tyōōb) *n.* **1.** A long, hollow, cylindrical body of metal, glass, rubber, etc., generally used for the conveyance of something through it; a pipe. **2.** An electron tube. **3.** A collapsible metal cylinder for containing paints, toothpaste, glue, etc. **4.** A thing or device having a tube or tubelike part, as a telescope. **5.** *Zool.* Any elongated hollow part or organ: a bronchial *tube*. **6.** A subway or tunnel. —*v.t.* **tubed, tub·ing** **1.** To fit or furnish with a tube. **2.** To enclose in a tube or tubes. **3.** To make tubular. [< F < L *tubus*] —**tub′al** *adj.*

tu·ber (tōō′bər, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* A short, thickened portion of an underground stem, as in the potato. **2.** *Anat.* A swelling or prominence; tubercle. [< L, a swelling]

tu·ber·cle (tōō′bər·kəl, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** A small rounded eminence or nodule. **2.** *Bot.* A minute swelling on the roots of leguminous plants. **3.** *Pathol.* **a** A small granular nodule or swelling formed within an organ or plant. **b** The lesion of tuberculosis. **4.** *Anat.* A small knoblike excrescence, esp., on the skin or on a bone. [< L < *tuber* a swelling] —**tu·ber·cu·loid** (tōō·bûr′kyə·loid, tyōō-) *adj.*

tubercle bacillus The rod-shaped bacterium that causes tuberculosis in man.

tu·ber·cu·lar (tōō·bûr′kyə·lər, tyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Covered with tubercles; nodular. **2.** Tuberculous. —*n.* One affected with tuberculosis. —**tu·ber′cu·late** *adj.*

tuberculo- *combining form* **1.** Tuberculosis; of tuberculosis. **2.** Tuberculous. Also, before vowels, **tubercul-.** [< L < *tuber* a swelling]

tu·ber·cu·lo·sis (tōō·bûr′kyə·lō′sis, tyōō-) *n. Pathol.* **1.** A communicable disease caused by infection with the tubercle bacillus, characterized by the formation of tubercles within some organ or tissue. **2.** Tuberculosis affecting the lungs: also called *consumption, phthisis, pulmonary tuberculosis*. [< NL < L (See TUBERCLE) + -OSIS]

tu·ber·cu·lous (tōō·bur′kyə·ləs, tyōō-) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or affected with tuberculosis.

tube rose (tōōb′rōz′, tyōōb′-, tōō′bə·rōs′, tyōō′-) *n.* A bulbous plant of the amaryllis family, bearing fragrant white flowers. [< NL < L *tuber* a swelling]

tu·ber·ous (tōō′bər·əs, tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Bearing projections or prominences. **2.** Resembling tubers. **3.** *Bot.* Bearing tubers. Also **tu′ber·ose.** —**tu′ber·os′i·ty** (-bə·ros′ə·tē) *n.*

tub·ing (tōō′bing, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** Tubes collectively. **2.** A piece of tube or material for tubes. **3.** Material for pillowcases. **4.** The act of making tubes.

tu·bu·lar (tōō′byə·lər, tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Having the form of a tube. **2.** Made up of or provided with tubes. Also **tu′bu·lous, tu′bu·lose** (-lōs). [< L *tubus* tube]

tu·bu·late (tōō′byə·lāt, tyōō′-) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To shape or fashion into a tube. **2.** To furnish with a tube. —*adj.* **1.** Shaped like or into a tube. **2.** Provided with a tube: also **tu′bu·lat′ed.** [< L *tubus* tube] —**tu′bu·la′tion** *n.*

tuck (tuk) *v.t.* **1.** To fold under; press in the ends or edges of. **2.** To wrap or cover snugly. **3.** To thrust or press into a close place; cram; hide. **4.** To make tucks in, by folding and stitching. —*v.i.* **5.** To contract; draw together. **6.** To make tucks. —*n.* **1.** A fold stitched into a garment for a better fit or for decoration. **2.** Any tucked piece or part. [Fusion of OE *tūcian* to tug and MDu. *tucken* to pluck]

tuck·er[1] (tuk′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which tucks. **2.** A covering of linen, lawn, etc., formerly worn over the neck and shoulders by women.

tuck·er[2] (tuk′ər) *v.t. Informal* To weary completely; exhaust: usu. with *out*. [Freq. of TUCK, v.]

-tude *suffix of nouns* Condition or state of being: *gratitude*. [< F < L *-tudo*]

Tu·dor (tōō′dər, tyōō′-) The royal family of England descended from **Sir Owen Tudor**, died 1461, a Welshman who married the widow of Henry V. —*adj.* Designating or pertaining to the architecture, poetry, etc., developed during the reigns of the Tudors.

Tues·day (tōōz′dē, -dā, tyōōz′-) *n.* The third day of the week. [OE *tīwesdæg* day of Tīw < *Tīw*, ancient Teutonic deity + *dæg* day]

tu·fa (tōō′fə, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** A porous calcium carbonate, deposited from springs and streams. **2.** Tuff. [< Ital. < L *tofus*] —**tu·fa·ceous** (tōō·fā′shəs, tyōō-) *adj.*

tuff (tuf) *n.* A fragmentary volcanic rock composed of material varying in size from fine sand to coarse gravel. [< MF < Ital. *tufo*. See TUFA.] —**tuff·a′ceous** *adj.*

tuft (tuft) *n.* **1.** A collection or bunch of small, flexible parts, as hair, grass, or feathers, held together at the base. **2.** A clump or knot, as a cluster of threads drawn tightly through a quilt, mattress, or upholstery to secure the stuffing. —*v.t.* **1.** To separate or form into tufts. **2.** To cover or adorn with tufts. —*v.i.* **3.** To form tufts. [< OF *tuffe*, prob. < Gmc.] —**tuft′ed** *adj.* —**tuft′er** *n.* —**tuft′y** *adj.*

tug (tug) *v.* **tugged, tug·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To pull at with effort; strain at. **2.** To pull, draw, or drag with effort. **3.** To tow with a tugboat. —*v.i.* **4.** To pull strenuously: to *tug* at an oar. **5.** To strive; toil. —*n.* **1.** An act of tugging; a violent pull. **2.** A strenuous contest. **3.** A tugboat. **4.** A trace of a harness. [ME < OE < *tēon* to tow] —**tug′ger** *n.*

tug·boat (tug′bōt′) *n.* A small, compact, ruggedly built vessel designed for towing: also called *towboat, tug*.

tug of war **1.** A contest in which a number of persons at one end of a rope pull against a like number at the other end, each side endeavoring to drag the other across a line marked between. **2.** A hard struggle for supremacy.

tu·i·tion (tōō·ish′ən, tyōō-) *n.* **1.** The charge or payment for instruction, esp. formal instruction. **2.** Teaching; instruction. [< AF & OF < L < *tueri* to look at, watch] —**tu·i′tion·al, tu·i′tion·ar′y** (-er′ē) *adj.*

tu·la·re·mi·a (tōō′lə·rē′mē·ə) *n.* A plaguelike disease of rodents, esp. rabbits, that may be transmitted to man: also called *rabbit fever*. Also **tu′la·rae′mi·a.** [< NL, after *Tulare* County, California + Gk. *haima* blood]

tu·lip (tōō′lip, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** Any of numerous hardy, bulbous herbs of the lily family, cultivated in many varieties for their large, variously colored, bell-shaped flowers. **2.** A bulb or flower of this plant. [< F < OF < Turkish < Persian *dulband* turban]

tulip tree **1.** A large tree of the magnolia family of the eastern U.S., with greenish cup-shaped flowers. **2.** Any of various other trees having tuliplike flowers.

tu·lip·wood (tōō′lip·wōōd′, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The wood of the tulip tree. **2.** Any of several ornamental cabinet woods yielded by various trees. **3.** Any of the trees themselves.

tulle (tōōl, *Fr.* tül) *n.* A fine, silk, open-meshed material, used for veils, etc. [< F, after *Tulle*, city in France]

tum·ble (tum′bəl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.i.* **1.** To roll or toss about. **2.** To perform acrobatic feats, as somersaults, etc. **3.** To fall violently or awkwardly. **4.** To move in a careless or headlong manner; stumble. **5.** *Informal* To understand: with *to*. —*v.t.* **6.** To toss carelessly; cause to fall. **7.** To throw into disorder or confusion; disturb; rumple. —*n.* **1.** The act of tumbling; a fall. **2.** A state of disorder or confusion. [ME < OE *tumbian* to fall, leap]

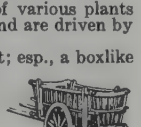
tum·ble·bug (tum′bəl·bug′) *n.* A beetle that rolls up a ball of dung to enclose its eggs.

tum·ble-down (tum′bəl·doun′) *adj.* Rickety, as if about to fall in pieces; dilapidated.

tum·bler (tum′blər) *n.* **1.** A drinking glass with a flat bottom. **2.** One who or that which tumbles; esp., an acrobat or gymnast. **3.** One of a breed of domestic pigeons noted for the habit of turning forward somersaults during flight. **4.** In a lock, a latch that prevents a bolt from being shot in either direction until it is raised by the key bit. For illus. see LOCK[1]. **5.** In a firearm lock, a piece attached to the hammer and receiving the thrust of the mainspring.

tum·ble·weed (tum′bəl·wēd′) *n.* Any of various plants that, when withered, break from the root and are driven by the wind, scattering their seed.

tum·brel (tum′bril) *n.* **1.** A farmer's cart; esp., a boxlike cart for carrying and dumping dung. **2.** A rude cart in which prisoners were taken to the guillotine during the French Revolution. Also **tum′bril.** [< OF *tomber* to fall, ult. < Gmc.]


TUMBREL

tu·me·fy (tōō′mə·fī, tyōō′-) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To swell or puff up; become tumid. [< MF < L < *tumere* to swell + *facere* to make] — **tu′me·fac′tion** (-fak′shən) *n.*

tu·mes·cent (tōō·mes′ənt, tyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Swelling; somewhat tumid. **2.** Beginning to swell. [< L *tumere* to swell] — **tu·mes′cence** *n.*

tu·mid (tōō′mid, tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Swollen; enlarged, as a part of the body. **2.** Inflated or pompous in style. **3.** Bursting; teeming. [< L < *tumere* to swell] — **tu·mid′i·ty** *n.* — **tu′mid·ly** *adv.* — **tu′mid·ness** *n.*

tu·mor (tōō′mər, tyōō′-) *n. Pathol.* A local swelling on or in any part of the body, esp. from some abnormal growth of tissue that may or may not become malignant. Also *Brit.* **tu′mour.** [< L *tumere* to swell] — **tu′mor·ous** *adj.*

tu·mult (tōō′mult, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The commotion, disturbance, or agitation of a multitude; an uproar; turbulence; hubbub. **2.** Any violent commotion or agitation, as of the mind. [< OF < L *tumere* to swell]

tu·mul·tu·ous (tōō·mul′chōō·əs, tyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by tumult; disorderly. **2.** Causing or affected by tumult or agitation; agitated or disturbed. Also **tu·mul′tu·ar′y** (-er′ē). — **tu·mul′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **tu·mul′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

tun (tun) *n.* **1.** A large cask. **2.** A varying measure of capacity, usu. equal to 252 gallons. — *v.t.* **tunned, tun·ning** To put into a cask or tun. [OE *tunne*]

tu·na (tōō′nə) *n. pl.* **·na** or **·nas** **1.** Any of several large marine food fishes of the mackerel family. **2.** Any of various similar or related fishes. **3.** The flesh of any of these fishes processed and eaten as food: also **tuna fish.** Also called *tunny.* [< Am. Sp., ult. < L < Gk. *thynnos*]

tun·dra (tun′drə, tōōn′-) *n.* A treeless, often marshy plain of Siberia, arctic North America, etc. [< Russian < Lapp]

tune (tōōn, tyōōn) *n.* **1.** A melody or air, usu. simple and easy to remember. **2.** The state or quality of being at the proper pitch, or, loosely, in the proper key: out of *tune.* **3.** Concord or unison. **4.** Suitable temper or humor. — **to change one's tune** To assume a different manner, style, or attitude. — **to sing a different** (or **another**) **tune** To assume a different manner or attitude; change one's tune. — **to the tune of** To the price of. — *v.* **tuned, tun·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To adjust the pitch of to a standard. **2.** To adapt to a particular tone, expression, or mood. **3.** To bring into harmony. **4.** To express musically. — *v.i.* **5.** To be in harmony. — **to tune in** To adjust a radio receiver to the frequency of (a station, broadcast, etc.). — **to tune out** To adjust a radio receiver to exclude (interference, a station, etc.). — **to tune up** **1.** To bring (musical instruments) to a standard or common pitch. **2.** To adjust (an engine, etc.) to proper working order. [Var. of TONE] — **tun′a·ble** or **tune′a·ble** *adj.*

tune·ful (tōōn′fəl, tyōōn′-) *adj.* **1.** Melodious; musical. **2.** Producing musical sounds. — **tune′ful·ly** *adv.* — **tune′ful·ness** *n.*

tune·less (tōōn′lis, tyōōn′-) *adj.* **1.** Not employed in making music; silent. **2.** Lacking in rhythm, melody, etc. — **tune′less·ly** *adv.* — **tune′less·ness** *n.*

tun·er (tōō′nər, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** One who or that which tunes. **2.** *Telecom.* A radio receiver without amplifiers.

tune-up (tōōn′up′, tyōōn′-) *n. Informal* An adjustment to bring a motor, etc., into proper operating condition.

tung oil (tung) A yellow to brown oil extracted from the seeds of a Chinese tree, used in paints, varnishes, etc. and also for waterproofing. [< Chinese *t'ung* tung tree]

tung·sten (tung′stən) *n.* A steel-gray, brittle, heavy metallic element of the chromium group (symbol W), having a high melting point and much used in the manufacture of filaments for electric lamps and high-speed cutting tools: also called *wolfram.* See ELEMENT. [< Sw. < *tung* weighty + *sten* stone] — **tung·sten·ic** (tung·sten′ik) *adj.*

tu·nic (tōō′nik, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** In ancient Greece and Rome, a garment with or without sleeves, reaching to the knees and usu. worn without a belt. **2.** A modern outer garment gathered at the waist, as a short overskirt or blouse. **3.** *Biol.* Any loose membranous skin or mantle of tissue enveloping an organ or part. [< L *tunica* < Semitic]

tu·ni·cate (tōō′nə·kit, -kāt, tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** *Zool.* Of or pertaining to a group of small marine chordates, having in the adult stage a cylindrical saclike body covered with a transparent membrane or tunic, as the ascidians. **2.** *Zool.* Having a tunic. — *n.* A tunicate animal. [< NL < L < *tunicare* to clothe with a tunic < *tunica* tunic]

tun·ing fork (tōō′ning, tyōō′-) A fork-shaped piece of steel that produces a tone of definite pitch when struck.

Tu·ni·sian (tōō·nish′ən, -nē′zhən, tyōō-) *adj.* Of or relating to Tunisia, or Tunis, or their inhabitants. — *n.* **1.** An inhabitant or native of Tunisia or Tunis. **2.** The speech of Tunisia, a North Arabic dialect.

tun·nel (tun′əl) *n.* **1.** An artificial subterranean passageway or gallery, esp. one under a hill, etc., as for a railway. **2.** Any similar passageway under or through something, as in a mine. — *v.* **tun·neled** or **·nelled, tun·nel·ing** or **·nel·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To make a tunnel through. **2.** To shape or make in the form of a tunnel: to *tunnel* a passage. — *v.i.* **3.** To make a tunnel. [Fusion of OF *tonnelle* partridge net and dim. of *tonne* cask] — **tun′nel·er** or **tun′nel·ler** *n.*

tun·ny (tun′ē) *n. pl.* **·ny** or **·nies** The tuna, a fish. [< OF < L < Gk. *thynnos*]

tup (tup) *n.* **1.** A ram, or male sheep. **2.** The striking part of a power hammer. — *v.t. & v.i.* **tupped, tup·ping** To copulate with (a female): said of the ram. [ME *tupe*]

Tu·pi (tōō·pē′) *n. pl.* **·pis** or **·pi** **1.** A member of any of a group of South American Indian tribes, comprising the northern branch of the Tupian stock. **2.** The language spoken by the Tupis, used as a lingua franca along the Amazon. [< Tupi, comrade]

Tu·pi·an (tōō·pē′ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Tupis or their language. — *n.* A large stock of South American Indians of some one hundred tribes of the Tupis and Guaranis: also **Tu·pí′-Gua′ra·ni′** (-gwä′rä·nē′).

tup·pence (tup′əns) *n. Brit. Informal* Twopence.

tuque (tōōk, tyōōk) *n. Canadian* A knitted cap, worn for tobogganing, etc. [< dial. F (Canadian) < F *toque* cap]

Tu·ra·ni·an (tōō·rā′nē·ən, tyōō-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a hypothetical nomadic people who antedated the Aryans in Europe and Asia. **2.** Pertaining to the hypothetical Ural-Altaic family of languages. [< Persian *Tūrān,* country north of the Oxus River]

tur·ban (tûr′bən) *n.* **1.** An Oriental head covering consisting of a sash or shawl, twisted about the head or about a cap. **2.** Any similar headdress. **3.** A round-crowned brimless hat for women or children. [< F < Ital. < Turkish < Persian < *dul* turn + *band* band] — **tur′baned** (-bənd) *adj.*

tur·bid (tûr′bid) *adj.* **1.** Opaque or cloudy, as a liquid with a suspension of foreign particles. **2.** Thick and dense, like heavy smoke or fog. **3.** Being in a state of confusion. [< L < *turbare* to trouble < *turba* crowd] — **tur′bid·ly** *adv.* — **tur′bid·ness, tur·bid·i·ty** (tûr·bid′ə·tē) *n.*

tur·bi·nate (tûr′bə·nit, -nāt) *adj.* Top-shaped; also, spinning like a top. [< L *turbo* whirlwind]

tur·bine (tûr′bin, -bīn) *n.* Any of various motors consisting of one or more rotary units, mounted on a shaft and provided with a series of curved vanes, actuated by the impulse of steam, water, gas, or other fluid under pressure. [< F < L *turbo* whirlwind, top]

turbo- *combining form* A turbine; related to or operated by a turbine or turbines. [< L *turbo* top]

tur·bo·gen·er·a·tor (tûr′bō·jen′ə·rā′tər) *n.* An electric power-generating machine adapted for direct coupling to a steam turbine.

tur·bo-jet engine (tûr′bō·jet′) *n. Aeron.* A type of jet engine using a gas turbine to drive an air compressor.

tur·bo-prop (tûr′bō·prop′) *n. Aeron.* A turbojet engine connecting directly with a propeller. Also called *propjet.*

tur·bot (tûr′bət) *n. pl.* **·bot** or **·bots** **1.** A large European flatfish, esteemed as food. **2.** One of various related flatfishes. [< AF *turbut,* OF *tourbout,* or MDu. *turbot*]

tur·bu·lence (tûr′byə·ləns) *n.* **1.** The state or condition of being violently disturbed, restless, or confused. **2.** *Physics* The irregular eddying flow of a gas or other fluid, esp. as caused by an obstacle or by friction, as of a ship or airplane in rapid motion. Also **tur′bu·len·cy.**

tur·bu·lent (tûr′byə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Being in violent agitation or commotion. **2.** Inclined to rebel; insubordinate. **3.** Having a tendency to disturb or throw into confusion. [< MF < L *turbare.* See TURBID.] — **tur′bu·lent·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn. 1.** agitated, boisterous, disorderly, disturbed, riotous, tumultuous, wild. **2.** insurgent, mutinous, refractory.

tur·dine (tûr′din, -dīn) *adj.* Belonging or pertaining to a large and widely distributed family of singing birds, including thrushes and bluebirds. [< NL < L *turdus* thrush]

tu·reen (tŏŏ·rēn′, tyŏŏ-) *n.* A deep, covered dish, as for holding soup to be served. [< F < LL < L *terra* earth]

turf (tûrf) *n.* *pl.* **turfs** (*Archaic* **turves**) **1.** The grass or other fine plants with their matted roots filling the upper stratum of certain soils; sod. **2.** A piece of peat for burning as fuel. **— the turf** **1.** A racetrack for horses. **2.** The practice of racing horses. [OE] **— turf′y** *adj.*

turf·man (tûrf′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man who is devoted to or connected with horse racing.

tur·ges·cence (tûr·jes′əns) *n.* The process of swelling up. [< Med.L < L *turgere* to swell] **— tur·ges′cent** *adj.*

tur·gid (tûr′jid) *adj.* **1.** Unnaturally distended, as by contained air or liquid; swollen. **2.** Inflated; bombastic, as language, etc. [< L *turgere* to swell] **— tur·gid′i·ty, tur′gid·ness** (tûr′jid·nis) *n.* **— tur′gid·ly** *adv.*

tur·gor (tûr′gər) *n.* The state of being turgid; turgidity.

Turk (tûrk) *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Turkey: sometimes called *Ottoman*. **2.** One of any of the peoples speaking any of the Turkic languages. **3.** A Moslem.

tur·key (tûr′kē) *n.* *pl.* **·keys** **1.** A large American bird related to the pheasant, having the head naked and the tail extensible; esp., the American domesticated turkey, much esteemed as food. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A play that is a failure. **— to talk turkey** To discuss in a practical and direct manner. [Short for *turkey cock* the guinea fowl, after *Turkey*; later applied erroneously to the American bird]

turkey buzzard A sooty black vulture of tropical America and the southern U.S., having a naked red head.

Tur·ki (tŏŏr′kē) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Turkic. **2.** Of or pertaining to any of the peoples speaking a Turkic language, as the Osmanlis. — *n.* *pl.* **·kis** **1.** The Turkic languages. **2.** A member of any of the Turki peoples.

Turk·ic (tûr′kik) *n.* A subfamily of the Altaic family of languages, including Osmanli or Turkish, Uzbek, etc. — *adj.* Pertaining to this linguistic subfamily, or to any of the peoples speaking these languages.

Turk·ish (tûr′kish) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Turkey or the Turks. **2.** Of or relating to the Turkic subfamily of Altaic languages, esp. to Osmanli. — *n.* Osmanli.

Turkish bath A bathing establishment where sweating is induced by exposure to high temperature, usu. in a room heated by steam, followed by washing, massage, etc.

Turkish towel A heavy, rough towel with loose, uncut pile. Also **turkish towel.**

tur·mer·ic (tûr′mər·ik) *n.* **1.** The root of an East Indian plant, used as a condiment, aromatic stimulant, dyestuff, etc. **2.** The plant yielding this root. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or saturated with turmeric. [? < F < Med.L *terra merita* deserving earth]

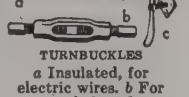
tur·moil (tûr′moil) *n.* Confused motion; disturbance; tumult. [? < OF < L *tremere* to tremble]

turn (tûrn) *v.t.* **1.** To cause to rotate, as about an axis. **2.** To change the position of, as by rotating: to *turn* a trunk on its side. **3.** To move so that the upper side becomes the under and the under side becomes the upper: to *turn* a page; to *turn* the soil; to *turn* a shirt collar. **4.** To reverse the arrangement or order of. **5.** To cause to rotate in order to tighten, loosen, open, etc.: to *turn* a screw. **6.** To revolve mentally; ponder: often with *over*. **7.** To sprain or strain: to *turn* one's ankle. **8.** To nauseate (the stomach). **9.** To give rounded or curved form to, as by turning in a lathe. **10.** To give graceful or finished form to: to *turn* a phrase. **11.** To perform by revolving: to *turn* cartwheels. **12.** To bend, curve, fold, twist, or blunt. **13.** To change or transform: to *turn* water into wine. **14.** To translate. **15.** To exchange for an equivalent: to *turn* stocks into cash. **16.** To adapt to some purpose; apply: to *turn* information to good account. **17.** To cause to become as specified: The sight *turned* him sick. **18.** To change the color of. **19.** To make sour or rancid. **20.** To change the direction or focus of. **21.** To direct or aim; point. **22.** To deflect or divert: to *turn* a blow. **23.** To repel: to *turn* a charge. **24.** To go around or to the other side of: to *turn* a corner. **25.** To pass or go beyond: to *turn* twenty-one. **26.** To cause to go; send; drive: to *turn* a beggar from one's door. — *v.i.* **27.** To move around an axis; rotate; revolve. **28.** To move partially on or as if on an axis: He *turned* and ran. **29.** To change position; also, to roll from side to side. **30.** To reverse position; become inverted. **31.** To change or reverse direction or flow: We *turned* north. The tide has *turned*. **32.** To change the direction or focus of one's thought, attention, etc. **33.** To depend; hinge: with *on* or *upon*. **34.** To whirl, as the head. **35.** To become nauseated, as the stomach. **36.** To become hostile: to *turn* on one's neighbors. **37.** To change one's position in order to act in retaliation: The worm *turns*. **38.** To become transformed: The water *turned* into ice. **39.** To become as specified: His hair *turned* gray. **40.** To change color: said esp. of leaves. **41.** To become sour, rancid, or fermented. **— to turn against** To become or cause to become opposed or hostile to. **— to turn down** **1.** To diminish the flow, volume, etc., of. **2.** *Informal* To reject or refuse, as a request; also, to refuse the request, etc., of. **— to turn in** **1.** To fold or double. **2.** To bend or incline inward. **3.** To deliver; hand over. **4.** *Informal* To go to bed. **— to turn loose** *Informal* To set free. **— to turn off** **1.** To stop the operation, flow, etc., of. **2.** To leave the direct road. **— to turn on** **1.** To set in operation, flow, etc. **2.** *Slang* To take or experience the effects of taking a psychedelic drug, as marijuana. **3.** *Slang* To evoke in (someone) a rapt response, as though under the influence of a psychedelic drug: Baroque music really *turned* him *on*. **— to turn out** **1.** To turn inside out. **2.** To eject or expel. **3.** To dismiss. **4.** To stop the operation, flow, etc., of. **5.** To bend or incline outward. **6.** To produce; make. **7.** To come or go out, as for duty or service. **8.** To prove (to be). **9.** To become or result. **10.** To equip: dress. **11.** *Informal* To get out of bed. **— to turn over** **1.** To change the position of; invert. **2.** To upset; overturn. **3.** To hand over; transfer or relinquish. **4.** To do business to the amount of. **5.** To invest and get back (capital). **6.** To buy and then sell: to *turn over* merchandise. **— to turn to** **1.** To set to work. **2.** To seek aid from. **3.** To refer or apply to. **4.** To open a book, etc., to (a specified page). **— to turn up** **1.** To bring or fold the under side upward. **2.** To bend or incline upward. **3.** To find or be found. **4.** To increase the flow, volume, etc., of. **5.** To put in an appearance; arrive. — *n.* **1.** The act of turning, or the state of being turned. **2.** A change to another direction, motion, or position. **3.** A deflection or deviation from a course; change in trend. **4.** The point at which a change takes place: a *turn* for the better. **5.** A rotation or revolution. **6.** A bend, as in a road. **7.** A regular time or chance in some succession: It's my *turn* to play. **8.** A round; spell: a *turn* at painting. **9.** Characteristic form, shape, or style: the *turn* of a phrase. **10.** A knack or special ability: a *turn* for study. **11.** Tendency; direction: The talk took a serious *turn*. **12.** A deed performed: a good *turn*. **13.** An advantage: It served his *turn*. **14.** A walk, drive, or trip to and fro: a *turn* in the park. **15.** A round in a skein, coil, etc.; also, a twist. **16.** *Music* An ornament formed by a group of four rapid notes, the first a degree above and the third a degree below the principal tone, that occupies the second and fourth positions. In an **inverted turn** the tones are reversed in order. **17.** *Informal* A shock to the nerves, as from alarm. **18.** A short theatrical act. **— at every turn** On every occasion; constantly. **— by turns** **1.** In alternation or sequence. **2.** At intervals. **— in turn** One after another; in proper order or sequence. **— out of turn** Not in proper order or sequence. **— to a turn** Just right: said esp. of cooked food. **— to take turns** To act, play, etc., one after another in proper order. [Fusion of OE *tyrnan* and *turnian* and OF *turner*, all < L *tornare* to turn in a lathe]

turn·a·bout (tûrn′ə·bout′) *n.* The act of turning completely about and taking the opposite direction, opinion, etc.

turn·a·round (tûrn′ə·round′) *n.* The act of unloading a ship, aircraft, etc., and loading it to begin its next trip.

turn·buck·le (tûrn′buk′əl) *n.* *Mech.* A form of coupling so threaded that when connected lengthwise between two metal rods or wires it may be turned so as to regulate the distance or tension between them.



TURNBUCKLES
a Insulated, for electric wires. *b* For metal tie rods. *c* For window shutters.

turn·coat (tûrn′kōt′) *n.* One who goes over to the opposite side or party; a renegade.

turn·down (tûrn′doun′) *adj.* Folded down, as a collar; also, capable of being turned down.

turn·er[1] (tûr′nər) *n.* One who turns; esp. one who fashions objects with a lathe.

turn·er[2] (tûr′nər) *n.* A gymnast; a member of a turnverein. [< G < *turnen* to engage in gymnastics < F *tourner*]

turn·ing (tûr′ning) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which turns. **2.** The art of shaping wood, metal, etc., in a lathe. **3.** Any deviation from a straight or customary course; a winding; bend. **4.** The point where a road forks. **5.** Fashioning or shaping, as of a literary work.

turning point **1.** The point of a decisive change in direction of action; a crisis. **2.** The point at which the direction of a motion is reversed.

tur·nip (tûr′nip) *n.* **1.** The fleshy, globular, edible root of either of two biennial herbs, of the mustard family, the **white turnip**, and the rutabaga. **2.** Either of the plants yielding this root. [Earlier *turnepe*, ? < F *tour* turn (< L *turnus* lathe) + ME *nepe* < OE *nǣp* < L *napus* turnip]

turn·key (tûrn′kē) *n.* One who has charge of the keys of a prison; a jailer.

turn·off (tûrn′ôf′, -of′) *n. Informal* A road, path, or way branching off from a main thoroughfare.
turn·out (tûrn′out′) *n.* **1.** An act of turning out or coming forth. **2.** An assemblage of persons; attendance. **3.** A quantity produced; output. **4.** Array; equipment; outfit. **5.** A railroad siding. **6.** A carriage or wagon with its horses and equipage. **7.** *Brit.* A labor strike; also, a striker.
turn·o·ver (tûrn′ō′vər) *n.* **1.** The act or process of turning over; an upset or overthrow, as of a vehicle. **2.** The rate at which persons hired by a given establishment within a given period are replaced by others; also, the number of persons hired. **3.** A change or revolution. **4.** A small pie or tart made by covering half of a circular crust with fruit, jelly, or the like, and turning the other half over on top. **5.** The amount of business accomplished, or of work achieved. **6.** A completed commercial transaction or course of business; also, the money receipts of a business for a given period: also called *overturn.* — *adj.* **1.** Designed for turning over or reversing. **2.** Capable of being turned over or folded down. **3.** Made with a part folded down: a *turnover* collar.
turn·pike (tûrn′pīk′) *n.* **1.** A road, now esp. a superhighway, on which there are tollgates. **2.** Loosely, any highway: also **turnpike road.** **3.** A tollbar or tollgate. [ME *turnpyke* spiked road barrier < TURN + *pyke* pike[1]]
turn·stile (tûrn′stīl′) *n.* A gate, having revolving horizontal arms, that admits passengers to subways, buses, etc., on the deposit of fares, or registers the number of persons entering a building, or restricts passage to one direction only.
turn·stone (tûrn′stōn′) *n.* A ploverlike migratory bird of northern regions: so called from its habit of turning over stones to obtain its food.
turn·ta·ble (tûrn′tā′bəl) *n.* **1.** A rotating disk, as one that carries a phonograph record. **2.** A rotating platform arranged to turn a section of a bridge in order to open a passage for ships. **3.** Such a platform to turn a locomotive, car, etc. Also *Brit.* **turn′plate′** (-plāt′).
turn·up (tûrn′up′) *n.* **1.** That which is turned up, as part of a garment. **2.** A particular card or die turned up in gambling. **3.** Pure chance; a tossup. — *adj.* Turned up.
turn·ver·ein (tōōrn′fə·rīn, tûrn′və·rīn) *n. Sometimes cap.* An athletic club. [< G < *turnen* to exercise + *verein* club]
tur·pen·tine (tûr′pən·tīn) *n.* An oleoresin obtained from any of several coniferous trees, esp. pines. — **oil of turpentine** The colorless essential oil formed when turpentine is distilled with steam; chiefly used to thin paint: also called *spirits of turpentine.* — *v.t.* **·tined, ·tin·ing 1.** To put turpentine with or upon; saturate with turpentine. **2.** To obtain crude turpentine from (a tree). [< OF < L < Gk. *terebinthos,* a tree from which it was originally obtained]
tur·pi·tude (tûr′pə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* Inherent baseness; vileness; depravity, or any action showing depravity. [< MF < L < *turpis* vile]
tur·quoise (tûr′koiz, -kwoiz) *n.* **1.** A blue or green aluminum phosphate, colored by copper, found massive, and in its highly polished blue varieties esteemed as a gemstone. **2.** A light greenish blue, the color of the turquoise: also **turquoise blue.** [< MF (*pierre*) *turquoise* Turkish (stone)]
tur·ret (tûr′it) *n.* **1.** *Mil.* **a** A rotating armored housing, large enough to contain a powerful gun or guns and gunners, forming part of a warship or of a fort. **b** A similar structure in a tank or a bombing or combat airplane. **2.** *Archit.* A small tower rising above a larger structure, as on a castle. **3.** *Mech.* In a lathe, a cylinder fitted with sockets or chucks for the reception of various tools, any one of which may be presented in the axial line of the work: also **turret head.** [< OF *torete,* dim. of *tor* tower] — **tur·ri·cal** (tûr′i·kəl) *adj.*
tur·ret·ed (tûr′it·id) *adj.* **1.** Provided with turrets. **2.** Having the form of a turret.
turret lathe A lathe having a turret.
tur·tle[1] (tûr′təl) *n.* **1.** Any of numerous reptiles having a horny, toothless beak, and a short, stout body enclosed within a carapace and plastron, into which all the members may be drawn for protection. **2.** A marine species as distinguished from a terrestrial or fresh-water species. **3.** The flesh of certain varieties of turtle, served as food. — **green turtle** An important food turtle of wide distribution in tropical and semitropical seas: so called from the greenish color of its flesh. — **to turn turtle** To capsize. — *v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** To hunt or catch turtles. [Appar. alter. of F *tortue* or Sp. *tortuga* < Med.L *tortuca* tortoise; infl. in form by TURTLE[2]]
tur·tle[2] (tûr′təl) *n. Archaic* A turtledove. [OE < L *turtur*]
tur·tle·back (tûr′təl·bak′) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* An arched covering, resembling the shell of a turtle, built over the bow or stern of a ship as protection against heavy seas. Also **turtle deck.** **2.** *Archeol.* A chipped stone implement rounded on one side.
tur·tle·dove (tûr′təl·duv′) *n.* A small Old World dove conspicuous for its white-edged black tail and soft, mournful coo. [< TURTLE[2] + DOVE]
turtle neck A high collar that fits snugly about the neck, usu. rolled or turned over double, used esp. on athletic sweaters. — **tur·tle-neck** (tûr′təl·nek′) *adj.*
Tus·can (tus′kən) *adj.* Pertaining to Tuscany. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Tuscany. **2.** Any Italian dialect used in Tuscany; esp. the one spoken in Florence.
Tus·ca·ro·ra (tus′kə·rôr′ə, -rō′rə) *n. pl.* **·ra** or **·ras** One of a tribe of North American Indians of Iroquoian stock formerly living in North Carolina, now surviving in New York and Ontario.
tush (tush) *interj.* An exclamation expressing disapproval, impatience, etc. [ME *tussch*]
tusk (tusk) *n.* **1.** A long, pointed tooth, generally one of a pair, as in the boar, walrus, or elephant. **2.** A sharp, projecting, toothlike point. **3.** A shoulder on a tenon, to strengthen it at its base; also, a tenon having such a shoulder. — *v.t.* **1.** To gore with the tusks. **2.** To root up with the tusks. [Metathetic var. of OE *tūx*] — **tusked** (tuskt) *adj.* — **tusk′less** *adj.*
tusk·er (tus′kər) *n.* A tusked elephant or boar.
tus·sah (tus′ə) *n.* **1.** An Asian silkworm that spins large cocoons yielding a coarse, brownish or yellowish silk. **2.** The silk, or the durable fabric woven from it. Also **tus·sar** (tus′ər), **tus·sore** (tus′ôr, -ōr). [< Hind. < Skt. *tasara, trasara,* lit., shuttle]
tus·sis (tus′is) *n. Pathol.* A cough. [< NL < L] — **tus′·sal, tus′sive** *adj.*
tus·sle (tus′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·sled, ·sling** To fight or struggle in a vigorous, determined way; scuffle; wrestle. — *n.* A disorderly struggle, as in sport; scuffle. [Var. of TOUSLE]
tus·sock (tus′ək) *n.* **1.** A tuft or clump of grass or sedge. **2.** A tuft, as of hair or feathers. Also **tus′suck.** [Prob. dim. of obs. *tusk* tuft of hair, ? < TUSK] — **tus′sock·y** *adj.*
tut (tut) *interj.* An exclamation to check rashness or express impatience. Also **tut tut.**
tu·te·lage (tōō′tə·lij, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The state of being under a tutor or guardian. **2.** The act or office of a guardian; guardianship. **3.** The act of tutoring; instruction. [< L < *tueri* to watch, guard]
tu·te·lar·y (tōō′tə·ler′ē, tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Invested with guardianship. **2.** Pertaining to a guardian. Also **tu′te·lar** (-lər).
tu·tor (tōō′tər, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** One who instructs another in one or more branches of knowledge; a private teacher. **2.** A college teacher who gives individual instruction. **3.** *Brit.* A college official entrusted with the tutelage and care of undergraduates assigned to him. **4.** *Law* A guardian of a minor or of a woman. — *v.t.* **1.** To act as tutor to; instruct; teach; train. **2.** To have the guardianship of. **3.** To treat severely or sternly, as a tutor might; discipline. — *v.i.* **4.** To do the work of a tutor. **5.** To be tutored or instructed. [< AF, OF < L < *tueri* to watch, guard] — **tu·to·ri·al** (tōō·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē, tyōō-) *adj.*
tu·tor·ship (tōō′tər·ship, tyōō′-) *n.* **1.** The office of a tutor or of a guardian. Also **tu′tor·age** (-ij). **2.** Tutelage.
tut·ti (tōō′tē) *Music adj.* All: a term used to indicate that all performers are to take part. — *n. pl.* **·tis** A composition, piece, movement, or passage for all the voices and instruments together. [< Ital., pl. of *tutto* all < L *totus*]
tut·ti-frut·ti (tōō′tē·frōō′tē) *n.* A confection, chewing gum, ice cream, etc., made with a mixture of fruits. — *adj.* Having fruit flavors. [< Ital., all fruits]
tu·tu (tōō′tōō′) *n. French* A short, full, projecting skirt consisting of many layers of sheer fabric, worn by ballet dancers.
tu·whit tu·whoo (tōō·hwit′, tōō·hwōō′) The cry of an owl.
tux·e·do (tuk·sē′dō) *n. pl.* **·dos** *U.S.* **1.** A man's semiformal dinner coat without tails: also called *dinner coat, dinner jacket.* **2.** *U.S.* The suit of which the coat is a part. Also **Tux·e′do.** [after *Tuxedo* Park, N.Y.]
TV (tē′vē) *n. pl.* **TVs** or **TV's** Television. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to television.
twad·dle (twod′l) *v.t. & v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** To talk foolishly and pretentiously. — *n.* Pretentious, silly talk. [Prob. alter. of TWATTLE] — **twad′dler** *n.*
twain (twān) *adj. Archaic & Poetic* Two. — *n.* **1.** A couple; two. **2.** In river navigation, two fathoms or twelve feet. [OE *twēgen,* masculine of *twā* two]
twang (twang) *v.t. & v.i.* **twanged, twang·ing 1.** To make or cause to make a sharp, vibrant sound, as a bowstring. **2.** To utter or speak nasally. — *n.* **1.** A sharp, vibrating sound, as of a tense string plucked. **2.** Excessive nasality of the voice. **3.** A sound resembling either of the foregoing. [Imit.] — **twang′y** *adj.*
twat·tle (twot′l) *v.t. & v.i.* **·tled, ·tling** *n.* Twaddle. [Short for *twittle-twattle,* var. of TITTLE-TATTLE]
tweak (twēk) *v.t.* To pinch and twist sharply; twitch. — *n.* A twisting pinch; twitch. [Var. of dial. *twick,* OE *twiccian* to twitch] — **tweak′y** *adj.*
tweed (twēd) *n.* **1.** A soft woolen fabric with a homespun surface, often woven in two or more colors to effect a check or plaid pattern. **2.** *pl.* Clothing of tweed. — **Harris tweed** A homespun woolen cloth, usu. of mixed colors, made at Harris in the Hebrides. [Alter. of dial. E (Scottish) *tweel,* var. of TWILL]
twee·dle (twēd′l) *v.* **·dling, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To play (a musical

instrument) casually or carelessly. **2.** To wheedle; cajole. — *v.i.* **3.** To produce a series of shrill tones. **4.** To play a musical instrument casually or carelessly. — *n.* A sound resembling the tones of a violin. [Imit.]

twee·dle·dum and twee·dle·dee (twē′d′l·dum′, twē′d′l·dē′) Two things between which there is only the slightest possible distinction. [Orig. imit. of low- and high-pitched musical instruments, respectively]

'tween (twēn) Contraction of BETWEEN.

tweet (twēt) *v.i.* To utter a thin, chirping note. — *n.* A twittering or chirping. Also **tweet′-tweet′**. [Imit.]

tweet·er (twē′tər) *n. Electronics* A small loudspeaker used to reproduce high-pitched sounds in high-fidelity sound equipment. Compare WOOFER. [< TWEET]

tweeze (twēz) *v.t.* **tweezed, tweez·ing** *Informal* To handle, pluck, etc., with tweezers. [Back formation < TWEEZERS]

tweez·ers (twē′zərz) *n.pl.* Small pincers for grasping and holding small objects. Also called **pair of tweezers.** [Alter. of *tweezes*, pl. of *tweeze*, earlier *etweese* case of small instruments < F *étuis*, pl. of *étui*.]

Twelfth-day (twelfth′dā′) *n.* Epiphany.

Twelfth-night (twelfth′nīt′) *n.* The evening (Jan. 5th) before Epiphany; sometimes, the evening (Jan. 6th) of Epiphany. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Twelfth-night.

twelve (twelv) *n.* **1.** The sum of eleven and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 12, xii, XII. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing twelve units. — **the Twelve** The twelve apostles. — *adj.* Being one more than eleven. [OE *twelf*] — **twelfth** (twelfth) *adj. & n.*

Twelve Apostles The twelve disciples of Jesus: more commonly *the Twelve.*

twelve·mo (twelv′mō) *adj. & n.* Duodecimo.

twelve·month (twelv′munth′) *n.* A year.

twelve-tone (twelv′tōn′) *adj. Music* **1.** Of, using, or composed in the technique developed by Arnold Schönberg, in which the tones of the chromatic scale are arranged in an arbitrary series, which is used as the basis of the composition. **2.** In 20th-century music, using or composed in a freely chromatic style.

twen·ty (twen′tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The sum of nineteen and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 20, xx, XX. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing twenty units. — *adj.* Being one more than nineteen. [OE *twēntig*] — **twen′ti·eth** *adj. & n.*

twen·ty-one (twen′tē·wun′) *n.* A card game in which each player bets against the dealer, the object being to draw cards whose value will equal or approach twenty-one without exceeding that amount: also called *blackjack, vingt-et-un.*

twi- *prefix* Two; double; twice: *twibil.* Also spelled *twy-.* [OE, double < *twā* two]

twi·bil (twī′bil) *n.* **1.** A battle-ax with two cutting edges. **2.** A mattock having one blade like an ax and the other an adz. Also **twi′bill.** [OE < *twi-* two + *bill* ax]

twice (twīs) *adv.* **1.** Two times. **2.** In double measure; doubly. [OE *twiges*, gen. of *twiga* twice]

twice-told (twīs′tōld) *adj.* Told more than once.

twid·dle (twid′l) *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To twirl idly; toy or play with. — *v.i.* **2.** To revolve or twirl. **3.** To toy with something idly. **4.** To be busy about trifles. — **to twiddle one's thumbs** **1.** To rotate one's thumbs idly around one another. **2.** To pass time in doing nothing. — *n.* A gentle twirling, as of the fingers. [Origin unknown] — **twid′dler** *n.*

wig (twig) *n.* A small shoot or branchlet of a tree. [OE *twigge*] — **twigged** *adj.* — **twig′less** *adj.*

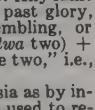
twig·gy (twig′ē) *adj.* **·gi·er, ·gi·est** Like, or full of, twigs.

wi·light (twī′līt′) *n.* **1.** The light diffused over the sky when the sun is below the horizon, esp. in the evening; also, the period during which this light is prevalent. **2.** Any faint light. **3.** A condition following the waning of past glory, achievement, etc. — *adj.* Pertaining to, resembling, or characteristic of twilight. [ME < OE *twi-* (< *twa* two) + LIGHT; used in the sense of "the light between the two," i.e., between day and night]

wilight sleep *Med.* A light or partial anesthesia as by injection of morphine and scopolamine, sometimes used to relieve childbirth pains. [Trans. of G *dämmerschlaf*]

will (twil) *n.* **1.** A weave characterized by diagonal ribs or lines in fabrics. **2.** A fabric woven with a twill. — *v.t.* To weave (cloth) so as to produce diagonal lines or ribs on the surface. [Var. of ME *twile*, OE < *twa* two, partial trans. of L *bilix* having a double thread]

willed (twild) *adj.* Woven so as to produce a diagonal rib or line; ribbed or ridged.



TWILL (Enlarged to show weave)

win (twin) *n.* **1.** One of two young produced at the same birth. **2.** The counterpart or exact mate of another. — *adj.* **1.** Being, or standing in the relation of, a twin or twins. **2.** Consisting of, forming, or being one of a pair of similar and closely related objects; twofold. — *v.* **twinned, twin·ning** *v.i.* **1.** To bring forth twins. **2.** To be matched or equal; agree. — *v.t.* **3.** To bring forth as twins. **4.** To couple; match. [OE *twinn*]

twine (twīn) *v.* **twined, twin·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To twist together, as threads. **2.** To form by such twisting. **3.** To coil or wrap about something. **4.** To encircle by winding or wreathing. **5.** To enfold; embrace. — *v.i.* **6.** To interlace. **7.** To proceed in a winding course; meander. — *adj.* Of or like twine. — *n.* **1.** A string composed of two or more strands twisted together: loosely, any small cord. **2.** The act of twining or entwining. **3.** A form or conformation produced by twining. **4.** An interweaving or interlacing. [OE *twin* twisted double thread < *twā* two] — **twin′er** *n.*

twinge (twinj) *n.* **1.** A sharp, darting, local pain. **2.** A mental or emotional pang. — *v.t. & v.i.* **twinged, twing·ing** To affect with or suffer a sudden pain or twinge. [OE *twengan* to pinch]

twin·kle (twing′kəl) *v.* **·kled, ·kling** *v.i.* **1.** To shine with fitful, intermittent gleams, as a star. **2.** To be bright, as with amusement: Her eyes *twinkled.* **3.** To move rapidly to and fro; flicker: *twinkling* feet. — *v.t.* **4.** To emit or cause to flash out, as gleams of light. — *n.* **1.** A tremulous gleam of light; sparkle; glimmer. **2.** A wink or sparkle of the eye. **3.** An instant; a twinkling. [OE *twinclian*] — **twin′kler** *n.*

twin·kling (twing′kling) *n.* **1.** The act of scintillating. **2.** A wink or twinkle. **3.** The act of winking, or the time required for it. **4.** A moment.

twin-screw (twin′skrōō′) *adj. Naut.* Having two propeller shafts, one on each side of a vessel's keel, and two propellers, normally turning in opposite directions.

twin·ship (twin′ship′) *n.* **1.** The character or condition of being a twin. **2.** The relation of a twin or twins.

twirl (twûrl) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To whirl or rotate. **2.** In baseball, to pitch. — *n.* **1.** A whirling motion. **2.** A quick twisting action, as of the fingers. **3.** A curl; coil. [Alter. of ME *tirlen*, var. of *trillen* to roll] — **twirl′er** *n.*

twist (twist) *v.t.* **1.** To wind (strands, etc.) around each other. **2.** To form by such winding: to *twist* thread. **3.** To give spiral, circular, or semicircular form to, as by turning at either end. **4.** To force out of natural shape; distort or contort. **5.** To distort the meaning of. **6.** To confuse; perplex. **7.** To wreathe, twine, or wrap. **8.** To cause to revolve or rotate. **9.** To impart spin to (a ball) so that it moves in a curve. — *v.i.* **10.** To become twisted. **11.** To move in a winding course. **12.** To squirm; writhe. **13.** To dance the twist. — *n.* **1.** The act, manner, or result of twisting or turning on an axis. **2.** The state of being twisted. **3.** A curve; turn; bend. **4.** A contortion or twisting of a facial or bodily feature: a smile with a certain *twist.* **5.** A wrench; strain, as of a joint or limb. **6.** A peculiar or perverted inclination or attitude: the *twist* of a criminal's mind. **7.** A deviation, variation, or distinctive difference: a *twist* of meaning. **8.** Thread or cord made of tightly twisted strands; also, one of the strands. **9.** A twisted roll or loaf of bread. **10.** Tobacco twisted in the form of a large cord. **11.** In baseball, tennis, etc.: **a** A spin or whirling motion given to a ball by a certain stroke or throw. **b** The stroke or throw producing such a spin. **12.** A dance characterized by a twisting or turning movement from side to side. [ME *twisten* to divide in two, combine two, prob. < OE *-twist* rope]

twist·er (twis′tər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which twists. **2.** A ball, as in cricket, bowled with a twist. **3.** In baseball, a curve; also, one who pitches a curve. **4.** *U.S.* A tornado.

twit (twit) *v.t.* **twit·ted, twit·ting** To taunt, reproach, or annoy by reminding of a mistake, fault, etc. — *n.* A taunting allusion; reproach. [Aphetic var. of ME *atwite*, OE *æwītan* to taunt < *æt-* at + *wītan* to accuse]

twitch (twich) *v.t.* **1.** To pull sharply; pluck with a jerky movement. **2.** In lumbering, to drag or skid (logs) along the ground with a chain. — *v.i.* **3.** To move with a quick, spasmodic jerk. — *n.* **1.** A sudden involuntary contraction of a muscle. **2.** A sudden jerk or pull. [ME *twicchen*] — **twitch′ing·ly** *adv.*

twit·ter (twit′ər) *v.i.* **1.** To utter a series of light chirping or tremulous notes, as a bird. **2.** To titter. **3.** To be excited; tremble. — *v.t.* **4.** To utter or express with a twitter. — *n.* **1.** The act of twittering. **2.** A succession of light, tremulous sounds. **3.** A state of nervous agitation. [Imit.] — **twit′ter·er** *n.* — **twit′ter·y** *adj.*

twixt (twikst) *prep. Poetic* Betwixt. Also **'twixt.**

two (tōō) *n.* **1.** The sum of one and one: a cardinal number. **2.** Any symbol of this number, as 2, ii, II. **3.** Anything consisting of or representing two units. **4.** A couple; pair. — **in two** So as to be in two parts or pieces; asunder. — **to put two and two together** To reach the obvious conclusion. — *adj.* Being one more than one. [OE *twā, tū*]

two-base hit (to͞o′bās′) In baseball, a base hit that enables the batter to reach second base; a double.
two-bit (to͞o′bit′) *adj. U.S. Slang* Cheap; small-time.
two bits *U.S. Informal* **1.** Twenty-five cents. **2.** A trifling or insignificant sum.
two-by-four (*adj.* to͞o′bī-fôr′, -fōr; *n.* to͞o′bī-fôr′, -fōr′) *adj.* **1.** Measuring two inches by four inches. **2.** *U.S. Slang* Of trifling size or significance. — *n.* A piece of lumber actually measuring 1⅝ inches by 3⅝ inches, much used in building.
two-edged (to͞o′ejd′) *adj.* **1.** Having an edge on each side, as a sword or knife blade. **2.** Having two meanings, effects, etc., as an argument, supposed compliment, etc.
two-faced (to͞o′fāst′) *adj.* **1.** Having two faces. **2.** Double-dealing. — **two′-fac′ed·ly** (-fā′sid-lē, -fāst′lē) *adv.*
two-fist·ed (to͞o′fis′tid) *adj. U.S. Informal* Vigorous and aggressive.
two·fold (to͞o′fōld′) *n.* An amount or number two times as great as a given unit. — *adv.* So as to be two times as many or as great. — *adj.* **1.** Consisting of two parts. **2.** Two times as many or as great.
two-hand·ed (to͞o′han′did) *adj.* **1.** Requiring both hands at once. **2.** Constructed for use by two persons. **3.** Ambidextrous. **4.** Having two hands.
two·mas·ter (to͞o′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* A ship with two masts.
two·pence (tup′əns) *n. Brit.* **1.** Money of account of the value of two pennies. **2.** A silver coin of the same value, now issued only for alms money, distributed on Maundy Thursday. Also, *Informal, tuppence.*
two·pen·ny (tup′ən-ē) *adj. Brit.* **1.** Of the price or value of twopence. **2.** Cheap; worthless. Also, *Informal, tuppenny.*
two-ply (to͞o′plī′) *adj.* **1.** Made of two united webs; woven double: a *two-ply* carpet. **2.** Made of two strands, layers, or thicknesses of material.
two·some (to͞o′səm) *n.* **1.** Two persons together; a couple. **2.** A match with one player on each side.
two-spot (to͞o′spot′) *n.* **1.** A playing card having two pips; a deuce. **2.** *U.S. Slang* A two-dollar bill.
two-step (to͞o′step′) *n.* A ballroom dance consisting of a sliding step in 2/4 meter; also, the music for it.
two-time (to͞o′tīm′) *v.t.* **-timed, -tim·ing** *Slang* To be unfaithful to in love; deceive. — **two′-tim′er** *n.*
two-way (to͞o′wā′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or permitting movement or communication in two directions. **2.** Of cocks and valves, having an arrangement that will permit a fluid to be directed in either of two channels.
twy- See TWI-.
-ty[1] *suffix of nouns* The state or condition of being: *sanity.* [< F *-té* < L *-tas*]
-ty[2] *suffix* Ten; ten times: used in numerals, as *thirty, forty,* etc. [OE *-tig* ten]
ty·coon (tī-ko͞on′) *n. U.S. Informal* A wealthy and powerful industrial or business leader. [< Japanese *taikun* mighty lord < Chinese *ta* great + *kiun* prince]
tyke (tīk) *n.* **1.** *Informal* A small child. **2.** A mongrel dog.
tym·bal (tim′bəl) See TIMBAL.
tym·pan (tim′pən) *n. Printing* A thickness of paper placed on the platen of a press to improve the quality of the press-work.
tym·pa·ni (tim′pə-nē) See TIMPANI.
tym·pan·ic (tim·pan′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of or resembling a drum. **2.** Of or pertaining to a tympanum or to the middle ear. Also **tym·pa·nal** (tim′pə-nəl).
tympanic membrane *Anat.* The membrane separating the middle ear from the external ear: also called *eardrum.* For illus. see EAR.
tym·pa·nist (tim′pə-nist) *n.* One who plays a kettledrum.
tym·pa·num (tim′pə-nəm) *n. pl.* **·na** (-nə) or **·nums** **1.** *Anat.* **a** The middle ear. **b** The tympanic membrane. **2.** *Archit.* An ornamental space, as over a doorway, enclosed by an arch or the coping of a pediment. **3.** A drumlike membrane or part. Also spelled *timpanum.* [< NL < L, drum < Gk. < *typtein* to beat]
typ- Var. of TYPO-.
ty·pal (tī′pəl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a type; typical.
type (tīp) *n.* **1.** Class; category; kind; sort. **2.** One who or that which has the characteristics of a group or class; embodiment. **3.** *Biol.* **a** An organism whose structural and functional characteristics make it representative of a group, species, class, etc. **b** A taxonomic group considered as representative of the next higher category in a system of classification: the *type* genus. **4.** *Printing* A piece or block of metal or of wood, bearing on its upper surface, usu. in relief, a letter or character for use in printing; also, such pieces collectively. **5.** Printed or typewritten characters. **6.** *Informal* A person. ◆ In business English and in informal speech, *type* is often used for *type of,* as in *This type car is very popular.* — *v.* **typed, typ·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To typewrite (something). **2.** To determine the type of; identify: to *type* a blood sample. **3.** To assign to a particular type. **4.** To represent; typify. **5.** To prefigure. — *v.i.* **6.** To typewrite. [< MF < L < Gk. < *typtein* to strike]
-type *combining form* **1.** Representative form; type: *prototype.* **2.** Printing; duplicating or photographic process; type: *Linotype, collotype.* [< Gk. *typos* stamp]
type·cast (tīp′kast′, -käst′) *v.t.* **·cast, ·cast·ing** To cast, as an actor, in a role suited to his appearance, personality, etc.
type foundry An establishment in which metal type is made. — **type founder** — **type founding**
type genus *Biol.* A genus that combines the essential characteristics of the family or higher group to which it belongs.
type metal *Printing* The alloy of which type is made, usu. of lead, tin, and antimony, in various proportions.
type·script (tīp′skript′) *n.* Typewritten matter.
type·set·ter (tīp′set′ər) *n.* **1.** One who sets type. **2.** A machine for composing type. — **type′set′ting** *n.*
type species *Biol.* The species regarded as most typical of the genus to which its name is given.
type·write (tīp′rīt′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·wrote, ·writ·ten, ·writ·ing** To write with a typewriter: also *type.*
type·writ·er (tīp′rī′tər) *n.* A machine equipped with a keyboard, that produces printed characters by impressing type upon paper through an inked ribbon.
type·writ·ing (tīp′rī′ting) *n.* **1.** The act or operation of one who uses a typewriter. **2.** Typescript.
typhlo- *combining form* **1.** Blindness. **2.** *Anat. & Med.* The cecum. Also, before vowels, **typhl-.** [< Gk. *typhlos* blind]
typho- *combining form* Typhus; typhoid. Also, before vowels, **typh-.** [< Gk. *typhos* smoke, stupor]
ty·phoid (tī′foid) *n.* Typhoid fever. — *adj.* Of or like typhoid fever: also **ty·phoi′dal, ty′phose** (-fōs). [< TYPH(US) + -OID]
typhoid bacillus A motile, flagellated bacterium, the pathogen of typhoid fever.
typhoid fever *Pathol.* An acute, infectious fever caused by the typhoid bacillus and characterized by severe intestinal disturbances, an eruption of rose-red spots on the chest and abdomen, and physical prostration.
ty·phoon (tī-fo͞on′) *n. Meteorol.* A hurricane originating over tropical waters in the western Pacific and the China Sea. [< dial. Chinese *tai feng,* lit., big wind]
ty·phus (tī′fəs) *n. Pathol.* An acute, contagious rickettsial disease, marked by high fever, with eruption of red spots, cerebral disorders, and extreme prostration. Also called *spotted fever.* Also **typhus fever.** [< NL < Gk. *typhein* to smoke] — **ty′phous** (-fəs) *adj.*
typ·i·cal (tip′i-kəl) *adj.* **1.** Having the nature or character of a type; constituting a type or pattern. **2.** Conforming to the essential features of a species, group, class, pattern of action or behavior, etc. Also **typ′ic.** [< Med.L < L < Gk. < *typos* type] — **typ′i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **typ′i·cal·ness** *n.*
typ·i·fy (tip′ə-fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To represent by a type; signify, as by an image or token. **2.** To constitute a type or serve as a characteristic example of. — **typ′i·fi·ca′tion** *n.* — **typ′i·fi′er** *n.*
typ·ist (tī′pist) *n.* **1.** One whose occupation is operating a typewriter. **2.** One who is able to operate a typewriter.
ty·po (tī′pō) *n. Informal* A typographical error.
typo- *combining form* Type; of or related to type. Also, before vowels, *typ-.* [< Gk. *typos* stamp, type]
ty·pog·ra·pher (tī-pog′rə-fər) *n.* A printer.
ty·po·graph·i·cal (tī′pə-graf′i-kəl) *adj.* Of or relating to typography or printing. Also **ty′po·graph′ic.** — **ty′po·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
ty·pog·ra·phy (tī-pog′rə-fē) *n. pl.* **·phies** **1.** The arrangement of composed type. **2.** The style and appearance of printed matter. **3.** The act or art of composing and printing from type.
ty·pol·o·gy (tī-pol′ə-jē) *n. pl.* **·gies** **1.** The study of types, as in systems of classification. **2.** A set or listing of types.
Tyr (tür, tir) In Norse mythology, the god of war and son of Odin: also **Tyrr.**
ty·ran·ni·cal (ti-ran′i-kəl, tī-) *adj.* Of or characteristic of a tyrant; harsh; despotic. Also **ty·ran′nic.** — **ty·ran′ni·cal·ly** *adv.* — **ty·ran′ni·cal·ness** *n.*
ty·ran·ni·cide (ti-ran′ə-sid, tī-) *n.* **1.** The killing of a tyrant. **2.** One who has killed a tyrant.
tyr·an·nize (tir′ə-nīz) *v.* **·nized, ·niz·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To exercise power cruelly or unjustly: often with *over.* **2.** To rule as a tyrant. — *v.t.* **3.** To treat tyrannically. Also *Brit.* **tyr′an·nise.** — **tyr′an·niz′er** *n.*
tyr·an·nous (tir′ə-nəs) *adj.* Despotic; tyrannical. — **tyr′an·nous·ly** *adv.* — **tyr′an·nous·ness** *n.*
tyr·an·ny (tir′ə-nē) *n. pl.* **·nies** **1.** Absolute power arbitrarily or unjustly administered; despotism. **2.** An arbitrarily cruel exercise of power; a tyrannical act. **3.** In Greek history, the office or the administration of a tyrant. **4.** Severity; roughness. [< OF < L < *tyrannus* tyrant]
ty·rant (tī′rənt) *n.* **1.** One who rules oppressively or cruelly; a despot. **2.** One who exercises absolute power without legal warrant, whether ruling well or badly. [< OF < L < Gk. *tyrannos* master, usurper]

tyre (tīr) See TIRE².
Tyr·i·an purple (tir′ē·ən) **1.** A purple or crimson dyestuff obtained by the ancient Greeks and Romans from certain species of the murex. **2.** A violet purple color of high saturation and low brightness. Also **Tyrian dye.** [after *Tyre*, the capital of ancient Phoenicia]
ty·ro (tī′rō) *n.* *pl.* **·ros** A beginner; novice: also spelled *tiro*. — **Syn.** See NOVICE. [< Med.L < L *tiro* recruit]
tzar (tsär) See CZAR.
tzet·ze (tset′sē) See TSETSE.
tzi·gane (tsē·gän′) *n.* *Sometimes cap.* A Gypsy, esp. a Hungarian Gypsy. [< F, < Hung. *czigány*]

U

u, U (yōō) *n.* *pl.* **u's, us, U's** or **Us** (yōōz) **1.** The twenty-first letter of the English alphabet. **2.** Any sound represented by the letter *u*. — *symbol.* **1.** Anything shaped like a U. **2.** *Chem.* Uranium (symbol U).
u·biq·ui·tous (yōō·bik′wə·təs) *adj.* Existing, or seeming to exist, everywhere at once; omnipresent. Also **u·biq′ui·tar′y** (-ter′ē). — **u·biq′ui·tous·ly** *adv.* — **u·biq′ui·tous·ness** *n.*
u·biq·ui·ty (yōō·bik′wə·tē) *n.* **1.** The state of being in an indefinite number of places at once; omnipresence. **2.** The state of existing always without beginning or end. [< L < *ubique* everywhere]
U-boat (yōō′bōt′) *n.* A German submarine. [< G *U-boot*, contr. of *Unterseeboot* undersea boat]
ud·der (ud′ər) *n.* A large, pendulous gland, secreting milk and provided with nipples or teats for the suckling of offspring, as in cows. [OE *ūder*]
ugh (ukh, u, ōōkh, ōō) *interj.* An exclamation of repugnance or disgust. [Imit.]
ug·li·fy (ug′lə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To make ugly. — **ug′li·fi·ca′tion** (-fə·kā′shən) *n.*
ug·ly (ug′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** **1.** Displeasing to the esthetic feelings; distasteful in appearance; ill-looking; unsightly. **2.** Repulsive to the moral sentiments; revolting. **3.** Bad in character or consequences, as a rumor, wound, etc. **4.** *Informal* Ill-tempered; quarrelsome. **5.** Portending storms; threatening: said of the weather. [< ON *uggligr* dreadful < *uggr* fear] — **ug′li·ly** *adv.* — **ug′li·ness** *n.*
ugly duckling Any ill-favored or unpromising child who unexpectedly grows beautiful or remarkable, as did the little swan in Hans Christian Andersen's story.
U·gri·an (ōō′grē·ən, yōō′-) *n.* **1.** A member of any of the Finno-Ugric peoples of Hungary and western Siberia. **2.** Ugric. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Ugrians, their culture, or their languages.
U·gric (ōō′grik, yōō′-) *n.* A branch of the Finno-Ugric subfamily of Uralic languages, comprising Magyar, Ostyak, and Vogul. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to any of these languages.
U·gro-Fin·nic (ōō′grō·fin′ik; yōō-) See FINNO-UGRIC.
u·lan (ōō′län, ōō·län′, yōō′lən) *n.* **1.** A cavalryman and lancer of a type originating in eastern Europe, formerly prominent in European armies, notably the German. **2.** One of a body of Tatar militia. Also **u′lan.** [< G < Polish < Turkish *oghlán* lad, servant]
u·kase (yōō′kās, yōō·kāz′) *n.* **1.** Any official decree. **2.** Formerly, an edict or decree of the imperial Russian government. [< Russian *ukaz*]
U·krain·i·an (yōō·krā′nē·ən, -krī′-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Ukraine, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of the Ukraine. **2.** The East Slavic language of the Ukrainians. Also *Little Russian, Ruthenian.*
u·ku·le·le (yōō′kə·lā′lē, *Hawaiian* ōō′kōō·lā′lā) *n.* A small guitarlike musical instrument having four strings. [< Hawaiian, flea < *uku* insect + *lele* to jump]
ul·cer (ul′sər) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* An open sore on an external or internal surface of the body, usu. accompanied by disintegration of tissue with the formation of pus. **2.** A corroding fault or vice; corruption; evil. [< L *ulcus, ulceris*]
ul·cer·ate (ul′sə·rāt) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To make or become ulcerous. [< L < *ulcus, ulceris* ulcer] — **ul′cer·a′tive** *adj.*
ul·cer·a′tion *n.* — **ul′cer·a′tive** *adj.*
ul·cer·ous (ul′sər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Like an ulcer. **2.** Affected with ulcers. — **ul′cer·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ul′cer·ous·ness** *n.*
·ule *suffix of nouns* Small; little: used to form diminutives: *granule.* [< F < L *-ulus, -ula, -ulum*, diminutive suffix]
·ulent *suffix of adjectives* Abounding in; full of: *opulent, truculent.* Corresponding nouns are formed in **-ulence,** as in *opulence, truculence.* [< L *-ulentus*]
ul·na (ul′nə) *n.* *pl.* **·nae** (-nē) or **·nas** *Anat.* **1.** That one of the two long bones of the forearm that is on the same side as the little finger. **2.** The corresponding bone in the forelimb of other vertebrates. [< L, elbow] — **ul′nar** *adj.*
-ulose *suffix of adjectives* Marked by or abounding in: used in scientific and technical terms: *ramulose.* [< L *-ulosus*]
-ulous *suffix of adjectives* **1.** Tending to do or characterized by (what is indicated by the root): *tremulous, ridiculous.* **2.** Full of: *meticulous, populous.* [< L *-ulus* and *-ulosus*]
ul·ster (ul′stər) *n.* A very long, loose overcoat, sometimes belted at the waist. [after *Ulster*, Ireland]
ul·te·ri·or (ul·tir′ē·ər) *adj.* **1.** More remote; not so pertinent as something else: *ulterior considerations.* **2.** Intentionally unrevealed; hidden: *ulterior motives.* **3.** Later in time or secondary in importance; following; succeeding. **4.** Lying beyond or on the farther side of a certain bounding line. [< L < *ulter* beyond] — **ul·te′ri·or·ly** *adv.*
ul·ti·ma (ul′tə·mə) *n.* The last syllable of a word. [< L]
ul·ti·mate (ul′tə·mit) *adj.* **1.** Beyond which there is no other; last of a series; final. **2.** Not susceptible of further analysis; fundamental or essential. **3.** Most distant; farthest; extreme. — *n.* **1.** The final result; last step; conclusion. **2.** A fundamental or final fact. [< LL < *ultimus* farthest, last] — **ul′ti·mate·ly** *adv.* — **ul′ti·mate·ness** *n.*
ul·ti·ma Thu·le (ul′tə·mə thōō′lē, tōō′lē) **1.** Farthest Thule; in ancient geography, the northernmost habitable regions of the earth. **2.** Any distant, unknown region. **3.** The farthest possible point, degree, or limit.
ul·ti·ma·tum (ul′tə·mā′təm, -mä′-) *n.* *pl.* **·tums** or **·ta** (-tə) A final statement, as concerning terms, conditions or concessions, esp., in diplomatic negotiations, the final terms offered. [< NL < LL. See ULTIMATE.]
ul·ti·mo (ul′tə·mō) *adv.* *Archaic* In the last month. [< L *ultimo* (*mense*) in the last (month)]
ul·tra (ul′trə) *adj.* Going beyond the bounds of moderation; extreme. — *n.* One who goes to extremes. [< L, beyond]
ultra- *prefix* **1.** On the other side of; beyond in space, as in: **ultra-Arctic, ultrastellar.** **2.** Going beyond the limits of; surpassing, as in: **ultra-atomic, ultrahuman.** **3.** Beyond what is usual or natural; excessively, as in: **ultra-ambitious, ultrafashionable.**
ul·tra·cen·tri·fuge (ul′trə·sen′trə·fyōōj) *n.* A centrifuge whose rotor will operate at extremely high velocities. — *v.t.* **·fuged, ·fug·ing** To subject to the action of an ultracentrifuge. — **ul′tra·cen′tri·fu·ga′tion** (-fyōō·gā′shən) *n.*
ul·tra·con·ser·va·tive (ul′trə·kən·sûr′və·tiv) *adj.* Unusually or excessively conservative. — *n.* An ultraconservative person; a reactionary.
ul·tra·high frequency (ul′trə·hī′) *Telecom.* A band of wave frequencies between 300 and 3,000 megacycles per second.
ul·tra·ism (ul′trə·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The policies or opinions of those who are in favor of extreme measures. **2.** An extreme view or action. — **ul′tra·ist** *n.* & *adj.* — **ul′tra·is′tic** *adj.*
ul·tra·ma·rine (ul′trə·mə·rēn′) *n.* **1.** A deep blue, permanent pigment made from powdered lapis lazuli. **2.** A similar pigment made artificially, as from kaolin, etc. **3.** A deep blue. — *adj.* Being beyond or across the sea. [< Med.L < L *ultra* beyond + *marinus* marine]
ul·tra·mi·crom·e·ter (ul′trə·mī·krom′ə·tər) *n.* A micrometer designed for measurements requiring a high order of precision and accuracy.
ul·tra·mi·cro·scope (ul′trə·mī′krə·skōp) *n.* An optical instrument for detecting objects too small to be seen with an ordinary microscope.
ul·tra·mi·cro·scop·ic (ul′trə·mī′krə·skop′ik) *adj.* **1.** Too minute to be seen by an ordinary microscope. **2.** Relating to the ultramicroscope. Also **ul′tra·mi′cro·scop′i·cal.** — **ul′tra·mi·cros′co·py** (-mī·kros′kə·pē) *n.*

ul·tra·mod·ern (ul′trə·mod′ərn) *adj.* Extremely modern. — **ul′tra·mod′ern·ism** *n.* — **ul′tra·mod′ern·ist** *n.* — **ul′·tra·mod′ern·is′tic** *adj.*

ul·tra·na·tion·al·ism (ul′trə·nash′ən·əl·iz′əm) *n.* Extreme devotion to or support of national interests or considerations. — **ul′tra·na′tion·al** *adj.* — **ul′tra·na′tion·al·ist** *n. & adj.* — **ul′tra·na′tion·al·is′tic** *adj.*

ul·tra·son·ic (ul′trə·son′ik) *adj. Physics* Pertaining to or designating sound waves having a frequency above the limits of human audibility, or in excess of about 20 kilocycles per second.

ul·tra·vi·o·let (ul′trə·vī′ə·lit) *adj. Physics* Lying beyond the violet end of the visible spectrum: said of high-frequency wavelengths ranging from about 3,900 to below 400 angstroms, the lower limit of X-rays. Compare INFRARED.

ul·u·late (yōōl′yə·lāt, ul′-) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To howl, hoot, or wail. [< L < *ululare* to howl] — **ul′u·lant** *adj.*

U·lys·ses (yōō·lis′ēz) The Latin name for Odysseus.

um·bel (um′bəl) *n. Bot.* A flower cluster spreading outward from a small area at the top of a very short axis, giving an umbrellalike appearance. [< L *umbella* parasol] — **um′bel·lar, um′bel·late, um′bel·lat′ed.**

um·ber (um′bər) *n.* **1.** A brown ferric oxide, containing some manganese oxide and clay, and used as a pigment. **2.** The color of such a pigment. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to umber; of a dusky hue; brownish. — *v.t.* To color with umber. [< F (*terre d')ombre* or Ital. *ombra*]

um·bil·i·cal (um·bil′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or situated near the umbilicus. **2.** Placed near the navel; central. [< LL < L *umbilicus* navel]

umbilical cord *Anat.* A ropelike tissue connecting the navel of the fetus with the placenta and serving to transmit nourishment to and remove wastes from the fetus.

um·bil·i·cus (um·bil′ə·kəs, um′bə·lī′kəs) *n. pl.* **·ci** (-sī) **1.** *Anat.* The navel. **2.** *Bot.* A hilum. [< L]

um·ble pie (um′bəl) See HUMBLE PIE.

um·bles (um′bəlz) *n.pl.* The entrails of a deer; humbles. [Var. of NUMBLES]

um·bra (um′brə) *n. pl.* **·brae** (-brē) **1.** A shadow or dark area; esp., the portion of a shadow from which direct light is entirely cut off. **2.** *Astron.* In an eclipse, that part of the shadow of the earth or moon within which the moon or the sun is entirely hidden. [< L, shadow]

um·brage (um′brij) *n.* **1.** Resentment; a sense of injury; offense: now usu., in **to take umbrage.** **2.** That which gives shade, as a leafy tree. **3.** *Poetic* Shade. [< F < L < *umbra* shade] — **um·bra′geous** (-brā′jəs) *adj.*

um·brel·la (um·brel′ə) *n.* A light, round, portable screen or shade on a folding frame, carried as a protection against sun or rain. [< Ital. < L *umbella* parasol]

umbrella tree **1.** A small magnolia of the southern U.S., with fragrant white flowers and oval leaves crowded in umbrellalike whorls. **2.** Any of several other trees.

u·mi·ak (ōō′mē·ak) *n. U.S. & Canadian* A large, open boat made by drawing skins over a wooden frame, used by Eskimos. Also **u′mi·ack.** [< Eskimo]

um·laut (ōōm′lout) *n.* **1.** *Ling.* **a** The change in quality of a vowel sound caused by its partial assimilation to a vowel or semivowel (often later lost) in the following syllable, esp. in the Germanic languages. **b** A vowel so altered. **2.** In German, the two dots (¨) put over a vowel modified by umlaut: Short for **umlaut-mark.** — *v.t.* To modify by umlaut. [< G, change of sound < *um* about + *laut* sound]

um·pire (um′pīr) *n.* **1.** In various games, as baseball, a person chosen to enforce the rules of the game and settle disputed points. **2.** A person called upon to settle a disagreement in opinion. — **Syn.** See JUDGE. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·pired, ·pir·ing** To decide as umpire; act as umpire (of or in). [< ME < OF < *non* not + *per* even, equal]

un-[1] *prefix* Not; opposed to. [OE] ◆ *Un-*[1] is used to express negation, lack, incompleteness or opposition. It is freely attached to adjectives and adverbs, less often to nouns. See UN-[2].

un-[2] *prefix* Back. [OE *un-, on-, and-*] ◆ *Un-*[2] is used to express reversal of the action of verbs, or to form verbs from nouns indicating removal from the state or quality expressed by the noun, or sometimes to intensify the force of negative verbs. At the bottom of this page and of following pages is a partial list of words that are formed with *un-*[1] and *un-*[2]. Other compounds of these prefixes, with strongly positive, specific, or special meanings, will be found in vocabulary place. In the verbs in the list, *un-* gives the sense of reversal: *unchain* "to loose the chains of." In the nouns and the adjectives it usually has negative or privative force. Thus, *unburdened* may be regarded as an adjective meaning "not burdened," or as a participle of the verb *unburden* meaning "relieved of a burden."

◆ **un-, in-** *In-* as a prefix of adjectives expresses in usage more of negation, *un-* more of mere lack or privation: a child's *unartistic* speech, a writer's *inartistic* diction.

unabashed
unabated
unabetted
unabolished
unabsolved
unacademic
unaccented
unacceptable
unaccepted
unacclimated
unacclimatized
unaccommodating
unaccounted
unaccredited
unacknowledged
unacquainted
unacquitted
unadaptable
unadjustable
unadjusted
unadorned
unadulterated
unadvisable
unadvisably
unaesthetic
unaffiliated
unafraid
unaggressive
unagitated
unaided
unaimed
unalike
unalleviated
unallied
unallowable
unalloyed
unalterable
unaltered
unaltering
unambiguous
unambitious
unamiable
unamplified
unamusing
unanalytic
unanalyzable
unanimated
unannealed
unannounced

unanswerable
unanswerably
unanswered
unapologetic
unappalled
unapparent
unappeasable
unappeased
unappetizing
unappreciated
unappreciative
unapproached
unapproved
unarmored
unarrested
unartful
unartistic
unashamed
unasked
unaspirated
unaspiring
unassailed
unassignable
unassigned
unassumed
unattainable
unattained
unattempted
unattended
unattested
unattired
unattracted
unattractive
unauspicious
unauthentic
unauthentical
unauthenticated
unauthorized
unavailability
unavailable
unavailably
unavenged
unavouched
unavowed
unavowedly
unawaked
unawakened
unawed
unbaptized

unbarbed
unbeatable
unbeaten
unbefitting
unbeloved
unbeneficed
unbenighted
unbenign
unbeseeming
unbesought
unbespoken
unbetrayed
unbetrothed
unbewailed
unblamable
unblamably
unblamed
unbleached
unblemished
unblissful
unboastful
unbookish
unborrowed
unbottomed
unbought
unbox
unboxed
unbraid
unbranched
unbranded
unbreakable
unbreathable
unbreech
unbreeched
unbribable
unbridgeable
unbridged
unbridle
unbrotherly
unbruised
unbrushed
unchristened
unclaimed
unclarified
unclassed
unclassic
unclassifiable
unclassified
uncleaned
uncleansed

uncalendered
uncanceled
uncandid
uncandidly
uncanonic
uncanonical
uncarbureted
uncarpeted
uncastrated
uncaught
unceasing
uncelebrated
uncensored
uncensured
uncertified
unchainable
unchained
unchallenged
unchambered
unchangeable
unchanged
unchanging
unchaperoned
uncharged
uncharted
unchartered
unchary
unchaste
unchastened
unchastised
unchastity
unchecked
uncheerful
uncheerfully
uncheerfulness
unchewed
unchilled
unchivalrous
uncholeric
unchosen
unchristened
uncivilized
uncleanly
uncleanness

uncleared
uncleavable
unclipped
unclog
unclogged
uncloud
unclouded
uncloyed
uncoagulable
uncoagulated
uncoated
uncocked
uncoerced
uncoffined
uncollectable
uncollected
uncollectible
uncolonized
uncolored
uncombed
uncombinable
uncombined
uncomely
uncomforted
uncomforting
uncommanded
uncommissioned
uncompanionable
uncomplaining
uncomplaisant
uncomplaisantly
uncompleted
uncompliable
uncompliant
uncomplicated
uncomplimentary
uncomplying
uncompounded
uncomprehended
uncomprehending
uncomprehensible
uncomprehensibly
uncompressed
uncompromised
uncomputed
unconcealable
unconcealed
unconceded
unconcerted

unconciliated
uncondemned
uncondensed
unconfined
unconfinedly
unconfirmed
unconfused
unconfusedly
unconfuted
uncongeal
uncongealable
uncongealed
uncongenial
uncongeniality
uncongenially
unconquerable
unconquered
unconscientious
unconsecrated
unconsenting
unconsidered
unconsoled
unconsonant
unconstant
unconstituted
unconstrained
unconstricted
unconsumed
uncontaminated
uncontemplated
uncontending
uncontested
uncontradictable
uncontradicted
uncontrite
uncontrolled
uncontrolledly
uncontroverted
uncontrovertible
uncontrovertibly
unconversant
unconvinced
unconvincing
unconvincingly
uncooked
uncooperative
uncoordinated
uncordial

un·a·ble (un·ā′bəl) *adj.* **1.** Lacking the necessary power or resources; not able: usu. used with an infinitive: *unable* to walk. **2.** Lacking mental capacity; incompetent.
un·a·bridged (un′ə·brijd′) *adj.* Not abridged or condensed; original and complete: an *unabridged* dictionary.
un·ac·com·mo·dat·ed (un′ə·kom′ə·dā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Not made suitable; ill-adapted or -adjusted. **2.** Being without accommodations or conveniences.
un·ac·com·pa·nied (un′ə·kum′pə·nēd) *adj.* **1.** Proceeding, acting, or accomplished without an escort or companion. **2.** *Music* Performing or intended to be performed without accompaniment.
un·ac·com·plished (un′ə·kom′plisht) *adj.* **1.** Having fallen short of accomplishment; not done or finished. **2.** Lacking accomplishments.
un·ac·count·a·ble (un′ə·koun′tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Impossible to be accounted for; inexplicable. **2.** Remarkable; extraordinary. **3.** Not accountable; irresponsible. — **un′ac·count′·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un′ac·count′a·bly** *adv.*
un·ac·count·ed·for (un′ə·koun′tid·fôr′) *adj.* Unexplained.
un·ac·cus·tomed (un′ə·kus′təmd) *adj.* **1.** Not accustomed or habituated: *unaccustomed* to hardship. **2.** Not familiar or well known; strange: an *unaccustomed* sight.
un·ad·vised (un′əd·vīzd′) *adj.* **1.** Not advised; not having received advice. **2.** Rash or imprudent; ill-considered. — **un′ad·vis′ed·ly** (-vī′zid·lē) *adv.* — **un′ad·vis′ed·ness** *n.*
un·af·fect·ed (un′ə·fek′tid) *adj.* **1.** Not showing affectation; natural; sincere; real. **2.** Not influenced or changed. — **un′af·fect′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un′af·fect′ed·ness** *n.*
un·A·mer·i·can (un′ə·mer′ə·kən) *adj.* **1.** Not American in character, style, etc. **2.** Not consistent with the ideals, objectives, spirit, etc., of the U.S.; lacking patriotism or national feeling; a derogatory term.
u·na·nim·i·ty (yōō′nə·nim′ə·tē) *n.* The state of being unanimous; complete agreement in opinion, etc.
u·nan·i·mous (yōō·nan′ə·məs) *adj.* **1.** Sharing the same views or sentiments; harmonious. **2.** Showing or resulting from the assent of all concerned. [< L < *unus* one + *animus* mind] — **u·nan′i·mous·ly** *adv.* — **u·nan′i·mous·ness** *n.*
un·ap·proach·a·ble (un′ə·prō′chə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not easy to know or make personal contact with; aloof. **2.** Inaccessible. — **un′ap·proach′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un′ap·proach′a·bly** *adv.*
un·arm (un·ärm′) *v.t.* To deprive of weapons; disarm. — **un·armed′** *adj.*
un·as·sail·a·ble (un′ə·sāl′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not capable of being disproved, denied, or contested; incontrovertible. **2.** Proof against attack or destruction; impregnable. — **un′as·sail′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un′as·sail′a·bly** *adv.*
un·as·sum·ing (un′ə·sōō′ming) *adj.* Unpretentious; modest. — **un′as·sum′ing·ly** *adv.*
un·at·tached (un′ə·tacht′) *adj.* **1.** Not attached. **2.** Not engaged or married.
un·a·vail·ing (un′ə·vā′ling) *adj.* Futile; unsuccessful; ineffective. — **un′a·vail′ing·ly** *adv.*
un·a·void·a·ble (un′ə·voi′də·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be avoided; inevitable. — **un′a·void′a·bil′i·ty, un′a·void′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un′a·void′a·bly** *adv.*
un·a·ware (un′ə·wâr′) *adj.* **1.** Not aware or cognizant, as of something specified. **2.** Carelessly unmindful; inattentive; heedless. — *adv. Archaic* Unawares.
un·a·wares (un′ə·wârz′) *adv.* **1.** Unexpectedly; without warning. **2.** Without premeditation; unwittingly.
un·bal·ance (un·bal′əns) *v.t.* **·anced, ·anc·ing** **1.** To deprive of balance. **2.** To disturb or derange, as the mind. — *n.* The state or condition of being unbalanced.
un·bal·anced (un·bal′ənst) *adj.* **1.** Not in a state of equilibrium. **2.** In bookkeeping, not adjusted so as to balance. **3.** Lacking mental balance; unsound; erratic.
un·bar (un·bär′) *v.* **·barred, ·bar·ring** *v.t.* **1.** To remove the bar from. — *v.i.* **2.** To become unlocked or unbarred; open.
un·bear·a·ble (un′bâr′ə·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be borne or tolerated; unendurable. — **un′bear′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un′·bear′a·bly** *adv.*
un·be·com·ing (un′bi·kum′ing) *adj.* **1.** Not becoming; unsuited. **2.** Not befitting. **3.** Not decorous; improper. — **un′be·com′ing·ly** *adv.* — **un′be·com′ing·ness** *n.*
un·be·known (un′bi·nōn′) *adj.* Unknown: used with *to.* Also **un′be·knownst′** (-nōnst′).
un·be·lief (un′bi·lēf′) *n.* **1.** Absence of positive belief; incredulity. **2.** A refusal to believe; disbelief, as in religion.
un·be·liev·er (un′bi·lē′vər) *n.* **1.** One who withholds belief. **2.** One who has no religious faith. **3.** One having a religion different from that of the speaker or writer.
un·be·liev·ing (un′bi·lē′ving) *adj.* **1.** Doubting; skeptical; incredulous. **2.** Disbelieving, esp., in religious matters. — **un′be·liev′ing·ly** *adv.* — **un′be·liev′ing·ness** *n.*
un·bend (un·bend′) *v.* **·bent, ·bend·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To relax, as from exertion or formality. **2.** To straighten (something bent or curved). **3.** To relax, as a bow, from tension. — *v.i.* **4.** To become free of restraint or formality; relax. **5.** To become straight or nearly straight again.
un·bend·ing (un·ben′ding) *adj.* **1.** Not bending easily; stiff. **2.** Unyielding, as in character; resolute. — *n.* Relaxation; ease. — **un·bend′ing·ly** *adv.* — **un·bend′ing·ness** *n.*
un·bi·ased (un·bī′əst) *adj.* Having no bias; esp., not prejudiced or warped; impartial; fair. Also **un·bi′assed.** — **un·bi′ased·ly** *adv.* — **un·bi′ased·ness** *n.*
un·bid·den (un·bid′n) *adj.* **1.** Not commanded; not invited. **2.** Not called forth: *unbidden* thoughts.
un·bind (un·bīnd′) *v.t.* **·bound, ·bind·ing** **1.** To free from bindings; undo; also, to release. **2.** To remove, as something that binds; unfasten. [OE *unbindan*]
un·blessed (un·blest′) *adj.* **1.** Deprived of a blessing. **2.** Unhallowed or unholy; evil. **3.** Deprived of good fortune; wretched. Also **un·blest′.**
un·blush·ing (un·blush′ing) *adj.* **1.** Not blushing. **2.** Immodest; shameless. — **un·blush′ing·ly** *adv.*
un·bolt (un·bōlt′) *v.t.* To release, as a door, by withdrawing a bolt; unlock; open.
un·bolt·ed[1] (un·bōl′tid) *adj.* Not fastened by bolts.
un·bolt·ed[2] (un·bōl′tid) *adj.* Not sifted: *unbolted* flour.
un·born (un·bôrn′) *adj.* **1.** Not yet born; being of a future time or generation; future. **2.** Not in existence.
un·bos·om (un·bōō′zəm, -bōō′zəm) *v.t.* **1.** To reveal, as one's thoughts or secrets; disclose or give vent to: often used reflexively. — *v.i.* **2.** To say what is troubling one; tell one's thoughts, feelings, etc. — **un·bos′om·er** *n.*
un·bound·ed (un·boun′did) *adj.* **1.** Having no bounds; of unlimited extent; very great; boundless. **2.** Having no boundary, as a closed surface. **3.** Going beyond bounds; unrestrained. — **un·bound′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un·bound′ed·ness** *n.*
un·bowed (un·boud′) *adj.* **1.** Not bent or bowed. **2.** Not subdued; proud in defeat or adversity.
un·brace (un·brās′) *v.t.* **·braced, ·brac·ing** **1.** To free from braces. **2.** To free from tension; loosen. **3.** To weaken.
un·bri·dled (un·brīd′ld) *adj.* **1.** Having no bridle on: an *unbridled* horse. **2.** Without restraint; unruly: an *unbridled* tongue. — **un·bri′dled·ly** *adv.* — **un·bri′dled·ness** *n.*
un·bro·ken (un·brō′kən) *adj.* **1.** Not broken; whole; entire. **2.** Unviolated. **3.** Uninterrupted; regular; smooth:

uncorked	**uncrystalline**	**undebatable**	**undelivered**	**undesignated**	**undignified**
uncorrected	**uncrystallizable**	**undecayed**	**undemocratic**	**undesigned**	**undilated**
uncorroborated	**uncrystallized**	**undecaying**	**undemonstrable**	**undesignedly**	**undiluted**
uncorrupt	**uncultivable**	**undeceived**	**undemonstrably**	**undesired**	**undiminishable**
uncorrupted	**uncultivated**	**undecipherable**	**undenied**	**undesirous**	**undiminished**
uncorruptly	**uncultured**	**deciphered**	**undenominational**	**undesisting**	**undimmed**
uncorruptness	**uncumbered**	**undeclared**	**undenounced**	**undespairing**	**undiplomatic**
uncountable	**uncurable**	**undeclinable**	**undependable**	**undestroyed**	**undisbanded**
uncourteous	**uncurb**	**undeclined**	**undeplored**	**undetachable**	**undiscerned**
uncourtliness	**uncurbed**	**undecomposable**	**undeposed**	**undetached**	**undiscernedly**
uncourtly	**uncurdled**	**undecomposed**	**undepraved**	**undetectable**	**undiscernible**
uncovered	**uncured**	**undecorated**	**undepreciated**	**undetected**	**undiscernibly**
uncrate	**uncurious**	**undefaceable**	**undepressed**	**undetectible**	**undiscerning**
uncrated	**uncurl**	**undefaced**	**undeputed**	**undeterminable**	**undischarged**
uncredited	**uncurled**	**undefeated**	**underived**	**undetermined**	**undisciplined**
uncrippled	**uncurrent**	**undefended**	**underogating**	**undeterred**	**undisclosed**
uncritical	**uncursed**	**undefensible**	**underogatory**	**undeveloped**	**undisconcerted**
uncriticizable	**uncurtained**	**undefiled**	**undescribable**	**undeviating**	**undiscordant**
uncropped	**uncushioned**	**undefinable**	**undescribed**	**undevoured**	**undiscouraged**
uncross	**uncustomary**	**undefined**	**undescried**	**undevout**	**undiscoverable**
uncrossed	**undamaged**	**undeformed**	**undeserved**	**undifferentiated**	**undiscoverably**
uncrowded	**undated**	**undelayed**	**undeservedly**	**undiffused**	**undiscovered**
uncrown	**undaughterly**	**undelineated**	**undeservedness**	**undigested**	**undiscredited**
uncrushable	**undazzled**	**undeliverable**	**undeserving**	**undigestible**	**undiscriminating**

unbroken sleep. **4.** Not weakened; firm. **5.** Not broken to harness or service, as a draft animal. **6.** Not disarranged. **— un·bro′ken·ly** *adv.* **— un·bro′ken·ness** *n.*

un·buck·le (un·buk′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·led, ·ling** To unfasten the buckle or buckles (of).

un·bur·den (un·bûr′dən) *v.t.* To free from a burden.

un·but·ton (un·but′n) *v.t. & v.i.* To unfasten the button or buttons (of).

un·caged (un·kājd′) *adj.* **1.** Not locked up in a cage; free. **2.** Released from a cage; freed.

un·called-for (un·kôld′fôr′) *adj.* Not justified by circumstances; improper; unnecessary; gratuitous.

un·can·ny (un·kan′ē) *adj.* **1.** Strange and inexplicable, esp. so as to excite wonder or dismay; weird; unnatural. **2.** So good as to seem almost supernatural in origin: *uncanny* accuracy. **— un·can′ni·ly** *adv.* **— un·can′ni·ness** *n.*

un·cap (un·kap′) *v.* **·capped, ·cap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To take off the cap or covering of. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To remove the hat or cap, as in respect.

un·cer·e·mo·ni·ous (un′ser·ə·mō′nē·əs) *adj.* Informal; abrupt; discourteous. **— un′cer·e·mo′ni·ous·ly** *adv.*

un·cer·tain (un·sûr′tən) *adj.* **1.** That cannot be certainly predicted; doubtful. **2.** Not having certain knowledge or assured conviction. **3.** Not capable of being relied upon; variable. **4.** Not surely or exactly known: a lady of *uncertain* age. **5.** Having no exact or precise significance. **— un·cer′tain·ly** *adv.* **— un·cer′tain·ness** *n.*

un·cer·tain·ty (un·sûr′tən·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being uncertain; doubt. **2.** A doubtful matter.

un·chain (un·chān′) *v.t.* To release from a chain; set free.

un·char·i·ta·ble (un·char′ə·tə·bəl) *adj.* Not charitable; harsh in judgment; censorious. **— un·char′i·ta·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·char′i·ta·bly** *adv.*

un·chris·tian (un·kris′chən) *adj.* **1.** Unbecoming to a Christian. **2.** Contrary to Christian precepts; uncharitable, ungracious, rude, etc. **3.** Non-Christian; pagan.

un·church (un·chûrch′) *v.t.* **1.** To deprive of membership in a church; expel from a church. **2.** To deny the validity of the sacraments and order of, as a sect.

un·cial (un′shəl, -shē·əl) *adj.* Pertaining to or consisting of a form of letters found in manuscripts from the fourth to the eighth century, and resembling rounded modern capitals. **—** *n.* **1.** An uncial letter. **2.** An uncial manuscript. [< L < *uncia* inch, ounce]

un·ci·nate (un′sə·nit, -nāt) *adj.* Hooked or bent at the end. Also **un′ci·nal, un′ci·nat′ed.** [< L < *uncus* hook]

un·cir·cum·cised (un·sûr′kəm·sīzd) *adj.* **1.** Not circumcised. **2.** Not Jewish; Gentile. **3.** Heathen; pagan. **—** *n.* Gentiles or heathens collectively: used with *the*.

un·civ·il (un·siv′əl) *adj.* Wanting in civility; discourteous; ill-bred. **— un·civ′il·ly** *adv.*

un·civ·i·lized (un·siv′ə·līzd) *adj.* Not civilized; barbarous.

un·clad (un·klad′) Alternate past tense and past participle of UNCLOTHE. **—** *adj.* Being without clothes; naked.

un·clasp (un·klasp′, -kläsp′) *v.t.* **1.** To release from a clasp. **2.** To release the clasp of. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To become released from a clasp.

un·cle (ung′kəl) *n.* The brother of one's father or mother; also, the husband of one's aunt. ◆ Collateral adjective: *avuncular*. [< F < L *avunculus* mother's brother]

un·clean (un·klēn′) *adj.* **1.** Not clean; foul. **2.** Characterized by impure thoughts; unchaste; depraved. **3.** Ceremonially impure. **— un·clean′ness** *n.*

un·clean·ly[1] (un·klen′lē) *adj.* **1.** Lacking cleanliness. **2.** Impure; indecent; not chaste. **— un·clean′li·ness** *n.*

un·clean·ly[2] (un·klēn′lē) *adv.* In an unclean manner.

un·clear (un′klir′) *adj.* **1.** Not clear. **2.** Not easily understandable; confused or muddled: *unclear* reasoning.

Uncle Sam (sam) The personification of the government or the people of the U.S., represented as a tall, lean man with chin whiskers, wearing a plug hat, a blue swallow-tailed coat, and red-and-white striped pants. [Nickname of *Samuel* Wilson, 1766–1854, businessman]

Uncle Tom (tom) *U.S. Slang* A Negro who is servile to white men: a contemptuous term. [After the chief character in Harriet Beecher Stow's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a faithful, elderly Negro slave] **— Uncle Tom′ism**

un·cloak (un·klōk′) *v.t.* **1.** To remove the cloak or covering from. **2.** To unmask; expose. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To remove one's cloak or outer garments.

un·close (un·klōz′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·closed, ·clos·ing** **1.** To open or set open. **2.** To reveal; disclose.

un·clothe (un·klōth) *v.t.* **·clothed** or **·clad** (klad), **·cloth·ing** **1.** To remove clothes from; undress. **2.** To uncover.

un·coil (un·koil′) *v.t. & v.i.* To unwind or become unwound.

un·com·fort·a·ble (un·kum′fər·tə·bəl, -kumpf′tə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not at ease; feeling discomfort. **2.** Causing physical or mental uneasiness; disquieting. **— un·com′fort·a·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·com′fort·a·bly** *adv.*

un·com·mit·ted (un′kə·mit′id) *adj.* Not committed; esp., not pledged to a particular action, viewpoint, etc.

un·com·mon (un·kom′ən) *adj.* Not common or usual; remarkable. **— un·com′mon·ly** *adv.* **— un·com′mon·ness** *n.*

un·com·mu·ni·ca·tive (un′kə·myōō′nə·kə·tiv, -nə·kā′tiv) *adj.* Not communicative; silent; reserved. **— un′com·mu′ni·ca·tive·ly** *adv.* **— un′com·mu′ni·ca·tive·ness** *n.*

un·com·pro·mis·ing (un·kom′prə·mī′zing) *adj.* Making or admitting of no compromise; inflexible; strict. **— un·com′pro·mis′ing·ly** *adv.* **— un·com′pro·mis′ing·ness** *n.*

un·con·cern (un′kən·sûrn′) *n.* Absence of or freedom from concern or anxiety; indifference.

un·con·cerned (un′kən·sûrnd′) *adj.* Undisturbed; not anxious; indifferent. **— un′con·cern′ed·ly** (-sûr′nid·lē) *adj.* **— un′con·cern′ed·ness** *n.*

un·con·di·tion·al (un′kən·dish′ən·əl) *adj.* Limited by no conditions; absolute. **— un′con·di′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

un·con·di·tioned (un′kən·dish′ənd) *adj.* **1.** Not restricted; unconditional, absolute. **2.** *Psychol.* Not acquired; natural. **3.** Admitted without condition.

un·con·form·i·ty (un′kən·fôr′mə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** Want of conformity; nonconformity.

un·con·scion·a·ble (un·kon′shən·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Going beyond reasonable bounds; unjustifiable. **2.** Not governed by prudence; unconscientious. **— un·con′scion·a·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·con′scion·a·bly** *adv.*

un·con·scious (un·kon′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Temporarily deprived of consciousness. **2.** Unaware: with *of*: *unconscious* of his charm. **3.** Not known or felt to exist; not produced by conscious effort. **4.** Not endowed with consciousness or a mind. **—** *n. Psychoanal.* That extensive area of the psyche that is not in the immediate field of awareness. **— un·con′scious·ly** *adv.* **— un·con′scious·ness** *n.*

un·con·sti·tu·tion·al (un′kon·sti·tōō′shən·əl, -tyōō′-) *adj.* Contrary to the constitution or basic law of a state. **— un′con·sti·tu′tion·al′i·ty** *n.* **— un′con·sti·tu′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

un·con·ven·tion·al (un′kən·ven′shən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Not adhering to conventions. **2.** Not usual or ordinary. **— un′con·ven′tion·al′i·ty** *n.* **— un′con·ven′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

un·cork (un·kôrk′) *v.t.* To draw the cork from.

un·count·ed (un·koun′tid) *adj.* **1.** Not counted. **2.** Beyond counting; innumerable.

un·coup·le (un·kup′əl) *v.* **·led, ·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To disconnect or unfasten. **2.** To set loose. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To break loose.

un·couth (un·kōōth′) *adj.* **1.** Rough; crude; unrefined. **2.** Awkward or odd; ungainly. [OE *uncūth* unknown] **— un·couth′ly** *adv.* **— un·couth′ness** *n.*

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undiscriminatingly
undiscussed
undisguised
undisguisedly
undisheartened
undishonored
undisillusioned
undismantled
undismayed
undismembered
undismissed
undispatched
undispelled
undispensed
undisputable
undisputed
undissected
undissembling
undisseminated
undissolved
undissolving
undistilled
undistinguishable
undistinguished

undistinguishing
undistracted
undistraught
undistressed
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undisturbed
undisturbedly
undiversified
undiverted
undivested
undivided
undivorced
undivulged
undomestic
undomesticated
undoubting
undrained
undramatic
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undramatically
undramatized
undrape
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unecclesiastic
uneclipsed
uneconomic
uneconomical
unedible
unedifying
uneducable
uneducated
uneffaced
uneliminated
uneludicated

unemancipated
unembarrassed
unembellished
unemotional
unemotionally
unemphatic
unemphatically
unemptied
unenclosed
unencumbered
unendangered
unendeared
unendearing
unendearingly
unended
unending
unendorsed
unendowed
unendurable
unenduring
unenforceable
unenforced
unenfranchised
unengaged

unengaging
unengagingly
un-English
unenjoyable
unenjoyed
unenlightened
unenlivened
unenriched
unenrolled
unenslaved
unentangled
unentered
unenterprising
unentertaining
unenthralled
unenthusiastic
unenthusiastically
unentitled
unenviable
unenvied
unenvious
unenvying
unequipped
unerasable

unerased
unescapable
unessayed
unessential
unestablished
unesthetic
unestimated
unethical
unetymological
unexacting
unexaggerated
unexalted
unexamined
unexcavated
unexcelled
unexchangeable
unexcited
unexciting
unexcluded
unexcused
unexecuted
unexercised
unexhausted
unexorcised

un·cov·er (un·kuv′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To remove the covering from. **2.** To make known; disclose. — *v.i.* **3.** To remove a covering. **4.** To raise or remove the hat, as in respect.

unc·tion (ungk′shən) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being unctuous. **2.** *Eccl.* **a** A ceremonial anointing with oil. **b** The sacramental rite of anointing those in danger of death: also called *extreme unction*. **3.** The act of anointing, as with oil. **4.** The unguent used in anointing; ointment. [< F < L < *ungere* to anoint] — **unc′tion·less** *adj.*

unc·tu·ous (ungk′chōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by affected emotion; oily-tongued; unduly suave. **2.** Characterized by deep sympathetic feeling. **3.** Greasy; slippery to the touch, as an unguent [< Med.L < L < *ungere* to anoint] — **unc′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **unc′tu·os′i·ty** (-chōō·os′ə·tē), **unc′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

un·cut (un·kut′) *adj.* **1.** Not cut. **2.** In bookbinding, having untrimmed margins. **3.** Unground, as a gem.

un·damped (un·dampt′) *adj. Physics* **1.** Pertaining to or designating oscillations that continue without change in amplitude. **2.** Not damped; unrepressed.

un·daunt·ed (un·dôn′tid, -dän′-) *adj.* Not daunted or intimidated; fearless; intrepid. — **un·daunt′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un·daunt′ed·ness** *n.*

un·de·ceive (un′di·sēv′) *v.t.* **·ceived, ·ceiv·ing** To free from deception, error, or illusion.

un·de·cid·ed (un′di·sī′did) *adj.* **1.** Not having the mind made up. **2.** Not decided upon; not determined. — **un′de·cid′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un′de·cid′ed·ness** *n.*

un·de·ni·a·ble (un′di·nī′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** That cannot be denied; indisputably true; obviously correct. **2.** Unquestionably good; excellent. — **un′de·ni′a·bly** *adv.*

un·der (un′dər) *prep.* **1.** Beneath, so as to have something directly above; covered by: layer *under* layer. **2.** In a place lower than; at the foot or bottom of: *under* the hill. **3.** Beneath the shelter of. **4.** Beneath the guise or assumption of: *under* a false name. **5.** Less than in number, degree, etc.: *under* 10 tons. **6.** Inferior to in quality, character, or rank. **7.** Dominated by; owing allegiance to; subordinate to. **8.** Subject to the guidance or tutorship of. **9.** Subject to the moral sanction of: *under* oath. **10.** With the liability of incurring: *under* penalty of the law. **11.** Subject to the pressure of; swayed by: *under* the circumstances. **12.** Driven or propelled by: *under* sail. **13.** In the group or class of: included *under* History. **14.** Being the subject of: *under* treatment. **15.** During the period of; in the reign of. **16.** By virtue of; attested or warranted by: *under* his own signature. **17.** In conformity to or in accordance with. **18.** Planted or sowed with. — *adv.* **1.** In or into a position below something; underneath. **2.** In or into a lower degree or rank. **3.** So as to be covered or hidden. **4.** So as to be less than the required amount. — **to go under** To fail, as a business. — *adj.* **1.** Situated or moving under something else; lower or lowermost. **2.** *Zool.* Ventral. **3.** Lower in rank; subordinate. **4.** Less than usual, standard, or prescribed; insufficient.

under- *combining form* **1.** Below in position; situated or directed beneath; on the underside, as in: **underlip, undersole.** **2.** Below a surface or covering; lower, as in: **underflooring, underpainting.** **3.** Inferior in rank or importance; subordinate; subsidiary, as in: **underofficer, undertreasurer.** **4.** Insufficient or insufficiently; less than is usual or proper, as in: **underpaid, underpopulated.** **5.** Subdued; hidden, as in: **underemphasis, underplot.**

un·der·age (un′dər·āj′) *adj.* Not of a requisite age; immature. Also **un′der-age′.**

un·der·arm[1] (un′dər·ärm′) *adj.* Situated, placed, or used under the arm. — *n.* The armpit.

un·der·arm[2] (un′dər·ärm′) *adj.* In various sports, as tennis, baseball, etc., executed with the hand lower than the elbow. — *adv.* In an underarm manner. Also *underhand.*

un·der·bid (un′dər·bid′) *v.t.* **·bid, ·bid·ding** To bid lower than, as in a competition. — **un′der·bid′der** *n.*

un·der·brush (un′dər·brush′) *n.* Small trees and shrubs growing beneath forest trees; undergrowth. Also **un′der·bush′** (-bŏŏsh′).

un·der·buy (un′dər·bī′) *v.t.* **·bought, ·buy·ing** **1.** To buy at a price lower than that paid by (another). **2.** To pay less than the value for.

un·der·car·riage (un′dər·kar′ij) *n.* **1.** The framework supporting the body of a structure, as an automobile. **2.** The principal landing gear of an aircraft.

un·der·charge (*v.* un′dər·chärj′; *n.* un′dər·chärj′) *v.t.* **·charged, ·charg·ing** **1.** To make an inadequate charge for. **2.** To load with an insufficient charge, as a gun. — *n.* An inadequate or insufficient charge.

un·der·class·man (un′dər·klas′mən, -kläs′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A freshman or sophomore in a school or college.

un·der·clothes (un′dər·klōz′, -klōthz′) *n.pl.* Clothes designed for underwear, or to be worn next to the skin. Also **un′der·cloth′ing** (-klōth′ing).

un·der·coat (un′dər·kōt′) *n.* **1.** A coat worn under another coat. **2.** Underfur. **3.** A layer of paint, varnish, etc., beneath another layer: also **un′der·coat′ing.** — *v.t.* To provide with an undercoat (def. 3).

un·der·cov·er (un′dər·kuv′ər) *adj.* Secret; surreptitious; esp., engaged in spying or secret investigation.

un·der·cur·rent (un′dər·kûr′ənt) *n.* **1.** A current, as of water or air, below another or below the surface. **2.** A hidden drift or tendency, as of popular sentiments.

un·der·cut (*n. & adj.* un′dər·kut′; *v.* un′dər·kut′) *n.* **1.** The act or result of cutting under. **2.** The tenderloin. **3.** Any part that is cut away below. **4.** In sports, a cut or backspin imparted to the ball. — *v.t.* **·cut ·cut·ting** **1.** To cut under. **2.** To cut away a lower portion of. **3.** To work or sell for lower payment than (a rival). **4.** In sports, to give an undercut to (the ball). — *adj.* Done by undercutting.

un·der·dog (un′dər·dôg′, -dog′) *n.* **1.** One who is at a disadvantage in a struggle; a probable loser. **2.** One who is victimized or downtrodden by society.

un·der·done (un′dər·dun′) *adj.* **1.** Insufficiently done. **2.** Not cooked to the full; rare.

un·der·es·ti·mate (*v.* un′dər·es′tə·māt; *n.* un′dər·es′tə·mit) *v.t.* **·mat·ed, ·mat·ing** To put too low an estimate upon. — *n.* An estimate that is too low. — **un′der·es′ti·ma′tion** *n.*

un·der·ex·pose (un′dər·ik·spōz′) *v.t.* **·posed, ·pos·ing** *Photog.* To expose (a film) less than is required for proper development. — **un′der·ex·po′sure** (-spō′zhər) *n.*

un·der·feed (un′dər·fēd′) *v.t.* **·fed, ·feed·ing** **1.** To feed insufficiently. **2.** To fuel (an engine) from beneath.

un·der·foot (un′dər·fŏŏt′) *adv.* **1.** Beneath the feet; down on the ground; immediately below. **2.** In the way.

un·der·fur (un′dər·fûr′) *n.* The coat of dense, fine hair forming the main part of a pelt, as in seals.

un·der·gar·ment (un′dər·gär′mənt) *n.* A garment to be worn under the outer garments.

un·der·go (un′dər·gō′) *v.t.* **·went, ·gone, ·go·ing** **1.** To be subjected to; have experience of; suffer. **2.** To endure.

un·der·grad·u·ate (un′dər·graj′ŏŏ·it) *n.* A university or college student who has not received a bachelor's degree.

un·der·ground (*adj.* un′dər·ground′; *adv.* un′dər·ground′)

unexpanded	**unfaded**	**unfetter**	**unforeseeable**	**unfreezable**	**ungirded**
unexpectant	**unfading**	**unfettered**	**unforeseeing**	**unfreeze**	**ungladdened**
unexpended	**unfallen**	**unfilial**	**unforeseen**	**un-French**	**unglazed**
unexpendible	**unfaltering**	**unfilled**	**unforested**	**unfrequent**	**unglossed**
unexpert	**unfashionable**	**unfilmed**	**unforetold**	**unfrequented**	**unglove**
unexpiated	**unfashioned**	**unfiltered**	**unforfeited**	**unfrequently**	**ungloved**
unexpired	**unfastened**	**unfired**	**unforged**	**unfrozen**	**unglue**
unexplainable	**unfatherly**	**unfittingly**	**unforgetful**	**unfruitful**	**ungoverned**
unexplained	**unfathomable**	**unfixed**	**unforgetting**	**unfulfilled**	**ungowned**
unexplicit	**unfathomed**	**unfixedness**	**unforgivable**	**unfunded**	**ungraced**
unexploded	**unfatigued**	**unflagging**	**unforgiven**	**unfurnished**	**ungraceful**
unexploited	**unfavored**	**unflaggingly**	**unforgiving**	**unfurrowed**	**ungracefully**
unexplored	**unfeared**	**unflattered**	**unforgot**	**ungallant**	**ungraded**
unexported	**unfearing**	**unflattering**	**unforgotten**	**ungalled**	**ungrafted**
unexposed	**unfeasible**	**unflavored**	**unformulated**	**ungarnished**	**ungrained**
unexpressed	**unfed**	**unflickering**	**unforsaken**	**ungartered**	**ungratified**
unexpunged	**unfederated**	**unfoiled**	**unfortified**	**ungathered**	**ungrounded**
unexpurgated	**unfeigningly**	**unforbearing**	**unfought**	**ungenerous**	**ungrudging**
unextended	**unfelt**	**unforbidden**	**unfound**	**ungenial**	**ungrudgingly**
unexterminated	**unfeminine**	**unforced**	**unframed**	**ungenteel**	**unguided**
unextinguishable	**unfenced**	**unforcedly**	**unfranchised**	**ungentle**	**unhackneyed**
unextinguished	**unfermented**	**unfordable**	**unfraternal**	**ungentlemanly**	**unhailed**
unextraditable	**unfertile**	**unforeboding**	**unfraught**	**ungently**	**unhalved**
unfadable	**unfertilized**	**unforeknown**	**unfree**	**ungifted**	**unhammered**

adj. **1.** Situated, done, or operating beneath the surface of the ground. **2.** Done in secret; clandestine. — *n.* **1.** That which is beneath the surface of the ground. **2.** A group secretly organized to oppose those in control of a government or country. **3.** *Brit.* A subway (def. 1). — *adv.* **1.** Beneath the surface of the ground. **2.** Secretly.

Underground Railroad A system of cooperation among antislavery people, before 1861, for assisting fugitive slaves to escape to Canada and the free States.

un·der·growth (un′dər·grōth′) *n.* **1.** A growth of smaller plants among larger ones; esp., a thicket or copse in or as in a forest. **2.** The condition of being undergrown.

un·der·hand (un′dər·hand′) *adj.* **1.** Done or acting in a treacherously secret manner; sly. **2.** In sports, underarm. — *adv.* **1.** Underhandedly; slyly. **2.** Underarm².

un·der·hand·ed (un′dər·han′did) *adj.* **1.** Underhand. **2.** Short-handed. — **un′der·hand′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un′der·hand′ed·ness** *n.*

un·der·lay (*v.* un′dər·lā′; *n.* un′dər·lā′) *v.t.* **·laid, ·lay·ing** **1.** To place (one thing) under another. **2.** To furnish with a base or lining. **3.** *Printing* To support or raise by underlays. — *n.* **1.** *Printing* A piece of paper, etc., placed under certain parts of a printing form.

un·der·lie (un′dər·lī′) *v.t.* **·lay, ·lain, ·ly·ing** **1.** To lie below or under. **2.** To be the basis or support of: the principle that *underlies* a scheme. [OE *underlicgan*]

un·der·line (un′dər·līn′) *v.t.* **·lined, ·lin·ing** **1.** To mark with a line underneath. **2.** To emphasize.

un·der·ling (un′dər·ling) *n.* A subordinate; an inferior.

un·der·ly·ing (un′dər·lī′ing) *adj.* **1.** Lying under. **2.** Fundamental. **3.** Prior in claim or lien.

un·der·mine (un′dər·mīn′, un′dər·mīn) *v.t.* **·mined, ·min·ing** **1.** To excavate beneath; dig a mine or passage under: to *undermine* a fortress. **2.** To weaken by wearing away at the base. **3.** To weaken or impair secretly or by degrees: to *undermine* one's health. — **un′der·min′er** *n.*

un·der·most (un′dər·mōst′) *adj.* Having the lowest place or position.

un·der·neath (un′dər·nēth′, -nēth′) *adv.* **1.** In a place below. **2.** On the under or lower side. — *prep.* **1.** Beneath; under; below. **2.** Under the form or appearance of. **3.** Under the authority of; in the control of. — *adj.* Lower. — *n.* The lower or under part or side. [OE *underneothan*]

un·der·nour·ish (un′dər·nûr′ish) *v.t.* To provide with nourishment insufficient in amount or quality for proper health and growth. — **un′der·nour′ish·ment** *n.*

un·dern·song (un′dərn·sông′, -song′) *n.* Tierce (def. 3). [OE *undern* midday, midday meal + SONG]

un·der·pants (un′dər·pants′) *n.pl.* *U.S.* An undergarment worn over the loins.

un·der·pass (un′dər·pas′, -päs′) *n.* *U.S.* A passage beneath; esp., the section of a way or road that passes under railway tracks or under another road.

un·der·pay (un′dər·pā′) *v.t.* **·paid, ·pay·ing** To pay insufficiently.

un·der·pin·ning (un′dər·pin′ing) *n.* **1.** Material or framework used to support a wall or building from below. **2.** *pl.* *Informal* The legs.

un·der·pitch vault (un′dər·pich′) *Archit.* A vault formed by the intersection of two vaults that spring from the same level but are of uneven widths. For illus. see VAULT¹.

un·der·priv·i·leged (un′dər·priv′ə·lijd) *adj.* Not privileged to enjoy certain rights to which everyone is theoretically entitled, as because of poverty, illiteracy, etc.

un·der·pro·duc·tion (un′dər·prə·duk′shən) *n.* Production below capacity or below requirements.

un·der·proof (un′dər·prōōf′) *adj.* Having less strength than proof spirit.

un·der·quote (un′dər·kwōt′) *v.t.* **·quot·ed, ·quot·ing** To undersell or offer to undersell, as goods or stocks.

un·der·rate (un′dər·rāt′) *v.t.* **·rat·ed, ·rat·ing** To rate too low; underestimate. — **Syn.** See UNDERESTIMATE.

un·der·run (un′dər·run′) *v.t.* **·ran, ·run, ·run·ning** **1.** To run or pass beneath. **2.** *Naut.* To examine (a line, hawser, etc.) from below by drawing a boat along beneath it.

un·der·score (*v.* un′dər·skōr′, -skôr′; *n.* un′dər·skōr′, -skôr′) *v.t.* **·scored, ·scor·ing** To underline. — *n.* A line drawn beneath a word, etc., as for emphasis.

un·der·sea (un′dər·sē′) *adj.* Existing, carried on, or adapted for use beneath the surface of the sea. — *adv.* Beneath the surface of the sea: also **un′der·seas′** (-sēz′).

un·der·sec·re·tar·y (un′dər·sek′rə·ter′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·tar·ies** In a government department, the official who ranks next below the secretary.

un·der·sell (un′dər·sel′) *v.t.* **·sold, ·sell·ing** **1.** To sell at a lower price than. **2.** To sell for less than the real value. — **un′der·sell′er** *n.*

un·der·set (un′dər·set′) *n.* An undercurrent in the ocean.

un·der·sher·iff (un′dər·sher′if) *n.* A deputy sheriff, esp. one upon whom the sheriff's duties devolve in his absence.

un·der·shirt (un′dər·shûrt′) *n.* A garment worn beneath the shirt, generally of cotton.

un·der·shoot (un′dər·shōōt′) *v.* **·shot, ·shoot·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To shoot short of or below (the mark, target, etc.). **2.** *Aeron.* To land an airplane or deliver a bomb short of (the mark). — *v.i.* **3.** To shoot or land short of the mark.

un·der·shot (un′dər·shot′) *adj.* **1.** Propelled by water that flows underneath: said of a water wheel. **2.** Projecting, as the lower jaw or teeth; also, having a projecting lower jaw or teeth.

un·der·side (un′dər·sīd′) *n.* The lower or under side or surface.

un·der·sign (un′dər·sīn′) *v.t.* To sign at the foot, end, or bottom of: used chiefly in the past participle.

un·der·signed (un′dər·sīnd′) *adj.* **1.** Having one's signature at the foot of a document. **2.** Signed at the foot of a document. — *n.* The subscriber or subscribers to a document: with *the*.

un·der·sized (un′dər·sīzd′) *adj.* Of less than the normal or average size. Also **un′der·size′**.

un·der·slung (un′dər·slung′) *adj.* *Mech.* Having the springs fixed to the axles from below, instead of resting upon them: said of certain automobiles: also *underhung*.

un·der·soil (un′dər·soil′) *n.* Subsoil.

un·der·stand (un′dər·stand′) *v.* **·stood, ·stand·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To come to know the meaning or import of; apprehend. **2.** To comprehend the nature or character of. **3.** To have comprehension or mastery of: Do you *understand* German? **4.** To be aware of; realize: She *understands* her position. **5.** To have been told: I *understand* that she went home. **6.** To infer the meaning of: How am I to *understand* that remark? **7.** To accept as a condition or stipulation: It is *understood* that the tenant will provide his own heat. **8.** To supply in thought when unexpressed. **9.** To be in agreement with; be privately in sympathy with. — *v.i.* **10.** To have understanding; comprehend. **11.** To be informed; believe. — **Syn.** See APPREHEND. [OE < *under-* under + *standan* to stand] — **un′der·stand′a·ble** *adj.* — **un′der·stand′a·bly** *adv.*

un·der·stand·ing (un′dər·stan′ding) *n.* **1.** The act of one who understands, or the resulting state; comprehension. **2.** The power by which one understands. **3.** The sum of the mental powers by which knowledge is acquired, retained, and extended. **4.** The facts or elements of a case as apprehended by any one individual. **5.** An informal or confidential compact; also, the thing agreed on. **6.** An arrangement

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unhampered
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unharvested
unhastily
unhasty
unhatched
unhealed
unhealthful
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unheedful

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unhelped
unhelpful
unheralded
unheroic
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unhesitant
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unhired
unhistoric
unhistorical
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unhomogeneous
unhonored
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unhostile
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unhyphenated
unhyphened
unideal
unidentified
unidiomatic
unilluminated
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unillustrated
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unimpaired
unimpassioned

unimpeached
unimpeded
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unimportant
unimposing
unimpregnated
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unintermitting
uninterpolated
uninterpreted
uninterrupted
unintimidated
unintoxicated
uninvaded
uninvented
uninventive
uninventively
uninverted
uninvested
uninvited
uninviting
uninvitingly
uninvoked
uninvolved
unissued
unjacketed

or settlement of differences, or of disputed points. — *adj.* **1.** Possessing comprehension and good sense. **2.** Tolerant or sympathetic. — **un/der·stand/ing·ly** *adv.* — **un/der·stand/ing·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **2.** reason, intelligence, intuition, judgment.

un·der·state (un/dər·stāt/) *v.* **·stat·ed, ·stat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To state with less force than the truth warrants or allows. **2.** To state, as a number or dimension, as less than the true one. — *v.i.* **3.** To make an understatement.

un·der·state·ment (un/dər·stāt/mənt) *n.* A statement that is deliberately unemphatic or restrained in tone.

un·der·stood (un/dər·stōōd/) Past tense and past participle of UNDERSTAND. — *adj.* **1.** Assumed; agreed upon by all. **2.** Assumed when unexpressed, as the subject of a sentence.

un·der·stra·tum (un/dər·strā/təm, -strat/əm) *n.* *pl.* **·stra·ta** (-strā/tə, -strat/ə) or **·stra·tums** A substratum.

un·der·stud·y (un/dər·stud/ē) *v.t. & v.i.* **·stud·ied, ·stud·y·ing** **1.** To study (a part) in order to be able, if necessary, to take the place of the actor playing it. **2.** To act as an understudy (to another actor). — *n.* *pl.* **·stud·ies** **1.** An actor or actress who can take the place of another actor in a given role when necessary. **2.** A person prepared to perform the work or fill the position of another.

un·der·take (un/dər·tāk/) *v.* **·took, ·tak·en, ·tak·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To take upon oneself; agree or attempt to do; begin. **2.** To contract to do; pledge oneself to. **3.** To guarantee or promise. **4.** To take under charge or guidance. — *v.i.* **5.** To make oneself responsible or liable: with *for*.

un·der·tak·er (un/dər·tā/kər *for def. 1*; un/dər·tā/kər *for def. 2*) *n.* **1.** One who undertakes any work or enterprise. **2.** One whose business it is to arrange for the cremation or burial of the dead and to oversee funerals.

un·der·tak·ing (un/dər·tā/king; *for def. 3* un/dər·tā/king) *n.* **1.** The act of one who undertakes any task or enterprise. **2.** The thing undertaken; a task. **3.** The business of an undertaker (def. 2). **4.** An engagement, promise, or guaranty.

un·der·ten·ant (un/dər·ten/ənt) *n.* A subtenant.

un·der·tone (un/dər·tōn/) *n.* **1.** A tone of lower pitch or loudness than is usual; esp., the tone of a subdued voice or a whisper. **2.** A subdued shade of a color; also, a color upon which other colors have been imposed and which is seen through them. **3.** An implicit meaning or suggestion.

un·der·took (un/dər·tōōk/) Past tense of UNDERTAKE.

un·der·tow (un/dər·tō/) *n.* **1.** The flow of water beneath and in a direction opposite to the surface current. **2.** The seaward undercurrent below the surf.

un·der·val·ue (un/dər·val/yōō) *v.t.* **·ued, ·u·ing** To value too lightly; underrate; underestimate. — **Syn.** See UNDERESTIMATE. — **un/der·val/u·a/tion** *n.*

un·der·wa·ter (un/dər·wô/tər, -wot/ər) *adj.* & *adv.* Below the surface of a body of water; also, below the water line of a ship. — *n.* The region below the surface of water.

un·der·way (un·dər·wā/) *adv.* In progress or into operation: The meeting was already *underway*. Also **under way**.

un·der·wear (un/dər·wâr/) *n.* Garments worn underneath the ordinary outer garments; underclothes.

un·der·weight (un/dər·wāt/) *adj.* Having less than the normal weight. — *n.* Insufficiency of weight; also, weight below normal.

un·der·went (un/dər·went/) Past tense of UNDERGO.

un·der·wood (un/dər·wōōd/) *n.* Underbrush.

un·der·world (un/dər·wûrld/) *n.* **1.** In Greek and Roman mythology, the abode of the dead; Hades. **2.** The part of society engaged in crime or vice; esp., organized criminals.

un·der·write[1] (un/dər·rīt/) *v.* **·wrote, ·writ·ten, writ·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To write beneath; subscribe. **2.** In finance, to execute and deliver (a policy of insurance on specified property); insure; assume (a risk) by way of insurance. **3.** To engage to buy, at a determined price and time, all or part of the stock in (a new enterprise or company) that is not subscribed for by the public. **4.** Loosely, to assume responsibility for, as an enterprise. **5.** To undertake to pay, as a written pledge of money. — **un/der·writ/er** *n.*

un·der·write[2] (un/dər·rīt/) *v.t. & v.i.* **·wrote, ·writ·ten, ·writ·ing** To write in a deliberately restrained style.

un·de·sir·a·ble (un/di·zīr/ə·bəl) *adj.* Not desirable; objectionable. — *n.* An objectionable person. — **un/de·sir/a·bil/i·ty, un/de·sir/a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un/de·sir/a·bly** *adv.*

un·did (un·did/) Past tense of UNDO.

un·dies (un/dēz) *n.* *pl.* *Informal* Women's or children's underwear.

un·do (un·dōō/) *v.t.* **·did, ·done, ·do·ing** **1.** To cause to be as if never done; reverse; annul. **2.** To loosen or untie, as a knot, etc. **3.** To unfasten and open, as a parcel. **4.** To bring to ruin; destroy. [OE *undōn*] — **un·do/er** *n.*

un·do·ing (un·dōō/ing) *n.* **1.** Reversal, cancellation, etc., of what has been done. **2.** Destruction; ruin; also, the cause of ruin. **3.** The act or process of unfastening, etc.

un·done[1] (un·dun/) *adj.* **1.** Untied; unfastened. **2.** Ruined. [Orig. pp. of UNDO]

un·done[2] (un·dun/) *adj.* Not done. [< UN- + DONE]

un·doubt·ed (un·dou/tid) *adj.* Assured beyond question; being beyond a doubt; indubitable. — **un·doubt/ed·ly** *adv.*

un·draw (un·drô/) *v.t. & v.i.* **·drew, ·drawn, ·draw·ing** To draw open, away, or aside.

un·dreamed-of (un·drēmd/uv/, -ov/) *adj.* Not conceived of in the mind; unimaginable. Also **un·dream/t-of** (-dremt/-).

un·dress (*v.* & *n.* un·dres/; *adj.* un/dres/) *v.t.* **1.** To divest of clothes; strip. **2.** To remove the dressing or bandages from, as a wound. — *v.i.* **3.** To remove one's clothing. — *n.* **1.** Ordinary attire, as distinguished from formal dress. **2.** Comfortable, informal clothing. — *adj.* Informal.

un·due (un·dōō/, -dyōō/) *adj.* **1.** Excessive; disproportionate. **2.** Not justified by law; illegal. **3.** Not due; not yet demandable. **4.** Not appropriate; improper.

un·du·lant (un/dyə·lənt, -də-) *adj.* Undulating; waving.

undulant fever *Pathol.* A disease transmitted to man in the milk of infected cows and goats, and characterized by recurrent fever, swelling of the joints, neuralgic pains, etc.

un·du·late (*v.* un/dyə·lāt, -də-; *adj.* un/dyə·lit, -lāt, -də-) *v.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move like a wave or in waves. **2.** To give a wavy appearance to. — *v.i.* **3.** To move like waves. **4.** To have a wavy appearance. — *adj.* **1.** Having a wavy margin, as a leaf. **2.** Having wavelike markings, as of color: also **un/du·lat/ed** (-lā/tid). [< L *undulatus* having wavelike markings < *unda* wave]

un·du·la·tion (un/dyə·lā/shən, -də-) *n.* **1.** The act of undulating. **2.** A waving or sinuous motion. **3.** A wave. **4.** An appearance as of waves; a gentle rise and fall. — **un/du·la·to/ry** (-lə·tôr/ē, -tō/rē), **un/du·lous** (-ləs) *adj.*

un·du·ly (un·dōō/lē, -dyōō/-) *adv.* **1.** Excessively. **2.** In violation of a moral or of a legal standard; unjustly.

un·dy·ing (un·dī/ing) *adj.* Immortal; everlasting.

un·earth (un·ûrth/) *v.t.* **1.** To dig or root up from the earth. **2.** To reveal by or as by searching.

un·earth·ly (un·ûrth/lē) *adj.* **1.** Not earthly; sublime. **2.** Weird; terrifying; supernatural. **3.** *Informal* Ridiculously unconventional or inconvenient. — **un·earth/li·ness** *n.*

un·eas·y (un·ē/zē) *adj.* **·eas·i·er, ·eas·i·est** **1.** Lacking ease, assurance, or security; disturbed. **2.** Not affording ease or

unjaded	unlashed	unlocated	unmannishly	unmenaced	unmoistened
unjoined	unlaundered	unlocked	unmanufacturable	unmendable	unmold
unjointed	unleased	unlovable	unmanufactured	unmended	unmolded
unjoyful	unled	unloved	unmarked	unmensurable	unmolested
unjoyfully	unlessened	unloveliness	unmarketable	unmentionability	unmollified
unjudged	unlessoned	unloverlike	unmarketed	unmentioned	unmolten
unjudicial	unliet	unloving	unmarred	unmercenary	unmortgaged
unjustifiable	unletted	unlovingly	unmarriageable	unmerchantable	unmotivated
unjustifiably	unlevel	unlubricated	unmarried	unmerited	unmounted
unkept	unlevied	unmagnified	unmastered	unmeriting	unmourned
unkindled	unlibidinous	unmaidenliness	unmatched	unmethodical	unmovable
unkindliness	unlicensed	unmaidenly	unmated	unmilitary	unmoved
unkingly	unlifelike	unmailable	unmaternal	unmilled	unmoving
unkissed	unlighted	unmalleable	unmatted	unmingle	unmown
unknelled	unlikable	unmanageable	unmatured	unmingled	unmurmuring
unknightly	unlikeable	unmanful	unmeant	unmirthful	unmusical
unknowing	unlined	unmanfully	unmeasurable	unmirthfully	unmuzzle
unknowingly	unlink	unmanfulness	unmeasurably	unmistaken	unmuzzled
unknowingness	unliquefiable	unmangled	unmeasured	unmitigable	unmystified
unlabeled	unliquefied	unmanifested	unmechanical	unmixed	unnail
unlabelled	unliquidated	unmanipulated	unmediated	unmixt	unnamable
unladylike	unlit	unmanned	unmedicated	unmodified	unnameable
unlamented	unliveliness	unmannered	unmelodious	unmodish	unnamed
unlash	unlively	unmannish	unmelted	unmodishly	unnaturalized

rest; causing discomfort. **3.** Showing embarrassment or constraint; strained. — **un·ease′i·ly** *adv.* — **un·ease′i·ness** *n.*

un·em·ploy·a·ble (un′əm·ploi′ə·bəl) *adj.* Not employable. — *n.* A person who, because of illness, age, mental or physical incapacity, etc., cannot be employed.

un·em·ployed (un′əm·ploid′) *adj.* **1.** Having no remunerative employment; out of work. **2.** Not being put to use; idle. — *n.* A jobless person. — **the unemployed** Unemployed persons collectively. — **un′em·ploy′ment** *n.*

unemployment insurance *U.S.* A system of insurance authorized by the Federal Social Security Act of 1935, providing those who are involuntarily out of work with temporary compensation. Also **unemployment compensation.**

un·e·qual (un·ē′kwəl) *adj.* **1.** Not having equal extension, duration, proportions, amounts, etc. **2.** Not equal in strength, ability, status, etc. **3.** Inadequate for the purpose: with *to*. **4.** Inequitable; unfair. **5.** Varying; irregular. **6.** Not balanced; unsymmetrical. — **un·e′qual·ly** *adv.*

un·e·qualed (un·ē′kwəld) *adj.* Not equaled or matched; unrivaled; supreme. Also **un·e′qualled.**

un·e·quiv·o·cal (un′i·kwiv′ə·kəl) *adj.* Understandable in only one way; not equivocal. — **un′e·quiv′o·cal·ly** *adv.*

un·err·ing (un·ûr′ing, -er′-) *adj.* **1.** Making no mistakes; not erring. **2.** Certain; accurate. — **un·err′ing·ly** *adv.*

UNESCO (yōō·nes′kō) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Also **U·nes′co.**

un·e·ven (un·ē′vən) *adj.* **1.** Not even, smooth, parallel, or level; rough. **2.** Not divisible by two without remainder; odd: said of numbers. **3.** Not uniform; variable; spasmodic. — **un·e′ven·ly** *adv.* — **un·e′ven·ness** *n.*

un·e·vent·ful (un′i·vent′fəl) *adj.* Devoid of noteworthy events; quiet. — **un′e·vent′ful·ly** *adv.*

un·ex·am·pled (un′ig·zam′pəld) *adj.* Having no precedent.

un·ex·cep·tion·a·ble (un′ik·sep′shən·ə·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be objected to; irreproachable. — **un′ex·cep′tion·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un′ex·cep′tion·a·bly** *adv.*

un·ex·cep·tion·al (un′ik·sep′shən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Not exceptional; ordinary. **2.** Subject to no exception.

un·ex·pect·ed (un′ik·spek′tid) *adj.* Not expected; unforeseen. — **un′ex·pect′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un′ex·pect′ed·ness** *n.*

un·fail·ing (un·fā′ling) *adj.* **1.** Giving or constituting a supply that never fails; inexhaustible: an *unfailing* spring. **2.** Not falling short of need, hope, or expectation. **3.** Sure; infallible. — **un·fail′ing·ly** *adv.* — **un·fail′ing·ness** *n.*

un·fair (un·fâr′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by partiality or prejudice; not fair or just. **2.** Dishonest; fraudulent. — **un·fair′ly** *adv.* — **un·fair′ness** *n.*

un·faith·ful (un·fāth′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Not having kept faith; unworthy of trust; faithless. **2.** Not true to marriage vows; adulterous. **3.** Not accurate or exact. — **un·faith′ful·ly** *adv.* — **un·faith′ful·ness** *n.*

un·fa·mil·iar (un′fə·mil′yər) *adj.* **1.** Not having acquaintance: with *with*. **2.** Not known or recognizable. — **un′fa·mil′i·ar′i·ty** (-mil′ē·ar′ə·tē) *n.* — **un′fa·mil′iar·ly** *adv.*

un·fa·vor·a·ble (un·fā′vər·ə·bəl) *adj.* Not favorable; unpropitious; adverse. Also *Brit.* **un·fa′vour·a·ble.** — **un·fa′vor·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un·fa′vor·a·bly** *adv.*

un·feel·ing (un·fē′ling) *adj.* **1.** Not sympathetic; hard; cruel. **2.** Devoid of feeling or sensation. — **un·feel′ing·ly** *adv.* — **un·feel′ing·ness** *n.*

un·feigned (un·fānd′) *adj.* Not feigned; not pretended; sincere; genuine. — **un·feign·ed·ly** (un·fā′nid·lē) *adv.*

un·fin·ished (un·fin′isht) *adj.* **1.** Not finished; incomplete. **2.** Having no finish or special surface treatment, as wood. **3.** Of fabrics: **a** Not bleached. **b** Having a slight nap.

un·fit (un·fit′) *adj.* **1.** Having no fitness; unsuitable. **2.** Not appropriate; improper. **3.** Not in sound physical condition. — *v.t.* **·fit·ted** or **·fit, ·fit·ting** To make unfit; disqualify. — **un·fit′ly** *adv.* — **un·fit′ness** *n.*

un·fix (un·fiks′) *v.t.* **1.** To unfasten. **2.** To unsettle.

un·flap·pa·ble (un·flap′ə·bəl) *adj.* Characterized by unshakable composure; imperturbable. — **un·flap′pa·bil′i·ty** *n.*

un·fledged (un·flejd′) *adj.* **1.** Not yet fledged, as a young bird. **2.** Immature; inexperienced.

un·flesh·ly (un·flesh′lē) *adj.* Ethereal; spiritual.

un·flinch·ing (un·flin′ching) *adj.* Not shrinking from danger, pain, etc.; brave. — **un·flinch′ing·ly** *adv.*

un·fold (un·fōld′) *v.t.* **1.** To open or spread out (something folded). **2.** To lay open to view. **3.** To make clear by detailed explanation; explain: to *unfold* a plan. **4.** To evolve; develop. — *v.i.* **5.** To become opened; expand. **6.** To become manifest. [OE *unfealdan*] — **un·fold′er** *n.*

un·for·get·ta·ble (un′fər·get′ə·bəl) *adj.* Not forgettable; memorable. — **un′for·get′ta·bly** *adv.*

un·formed (un·fôrmd′) *adj.* **1.** Devoid of shape or form. **2.** Not fully developed in character. **3.** Unorganized.

un·for·tu·nate (un·fôr′chə·nit) *adj.* **1.** Not fortunate; unhappy, unsuccessful, etc. **2.** Causing or attended by ill fortune; disastrous. — *n.* One who is unfortunate. — **un·for′tu·nate·ly** *adv.* — **un·for′tu·nate·ness** *n.*

un·found·ed (un·foun′did) *adj.* **1.** Having no foundation; groundless; baseless. **2.** Not founded or established. — **un·found′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un·found′ed·ness** *n.*

un·friend·ly (un·frend′lē) *adj.* **1.** Unkindly disposed; inimical; hostile. **2.** Not favorable or propitious. — *adv.* In an unfriendly manner. — **un·friend′li·ness** *n.*

un·frock (un·frok′) *v.t.* **1.** To depose, as a monk or priest, from ecclesiastical rank. **2.** To divest of a frock or gown.

un·furl (un·fûrl′) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** To unroll, as a flag. **2.** To spread out; expand; unfold.

un·gain·ly (un·gān′lē) *adj.* Lacking grace; awkward. — *adv.* In an awkward manner. — **un·gain′li·ness** *n.*

un·gird (un·gûrd′) *v.t.* **1.** To divest of or free from a belt, girdle, or confining band. **2.** To loosen or unfasten by or as by removing a belt, etc.

un·god·ly (un·god′lē) *adj.* **1.** Having no reverence for God; impious. **2.** Wicked; sinful. **3.** *Informal* Outrageous; unseemly. — **un·god′li·ness** *n.*

un·gov·ern·a·ble (un·guv′ər·nə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not capable of being governed or controlled. **2.** Refractory; unruly. — **un·gov′ern·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un·gov′ern·a·bly** *adv.*

un·gra·cious (un·grā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Lacking in graciousness of manner; unmannerly. **2.** Not pleasing; offensive; unacceptable. — **un·gra′cious·ly** *adv.* — **un·gra′cious·ness** *n.*

un·gram·mat·i·cal (un′grə·mat′i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Not in accordance with the rules of grammar. **2.** Characterized by or using grammar at variance with the rules. — **un′gram·mat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

un·grate·ful (un·grāt′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Not feeling or showing gratitude; not thankful. **2.** Not pleasant; disagreeable. **3.** Unrewarding. — **un·grate′ful·ly** *adv.* — **un·grate′ful·ness** *n.*

un·guard·ed (un·gär′did) *adj.* **1.** Having no guard; being without protection. **2.** Characterized by lack of caution or discretion: *unguarded* speech. — **un·guard′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un·guard′ed·ness** *n.*

un·guent (ung′gwənt) *n.* Any ointment or salve. [< L < *unguere* to anoint]

un·gu·la (ung′gyə·lə) *n.* *pl.* **·lae** (-lē) **1.** *Zool.* A hoof, claw, or nail. **2.** *Geom.* That which is left of a cone or cylinder when the top is cut off by a plane oblique to the base. **3.** *Bot.* An unguis. [< L < *unguis* nail] — **un′gu·lar** *adj.*

un·gu·late (ung′gyə·lit, -lāt) *adj.* **1.** Having hoofs. **2.** Designating, pertaining to, or belonging to a large group of hoofed mammals, including the elephant, rhinoceros, horse, hog, and all the ruminants. **3.** Hoof-shaped. — *n.* A hoofed mammal. [< LL < L *ungula* hoof]

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unnavigable
unnavigated
unneeded
unneedful
unnegotiable
unneighborliness
unneighborly
unnoted
unnoticeable
unnoticeably
unnoticed
unnurtured
unobjectionable
unobliged
unobliging
unobligingly
unobnoxious
unobscured
unobservable
unobservant
unobservantly
unobserved
unobserving
unobstructed

unobtainable
unobtained
unobtruding
unobtrusive
unobtrusively
unobtrusiveness
unoccasioned
unoffended
unoffending
unoffensive
unoffensively
unoffered
unofficial
unofficious
unofficiously
unoiled
unopen
unopened
unopposed
unoppressed
unordained
unoriginal
unornamental
unornate

unorthodoxy
unostentatious
unostentatiously
unostentatiousness
unowned
unoxidized
unpacified
unpaid
unpainful
unpainfully
unpainfulness
unpaired
unpalatable
unpalatably
unparagraphed
unpardonable
unpardonably
unpardoned
unparental
unparted
unpartisan
unpartizan
unpasteurized
unpatched

unpatented
unpatriotic
unpatriotically
unpaved
unpeaceable
unpeaceful
unpedigreed
unpen
unpenetrated
unpensioned
unperceivable
unperceived
unperceiving
unperfected
unperformed
unperplexed
unpersuadable
unpersuaded
unpersuasive
unpersuasively
unpersuasiveness
unperturbed
unperused
unphilanthropic

unphilological
unphilosophic
unphilosophical
unphonetic
unpicked
unpicturesque
unpierced
unpile
unpitied
unpitying
unpityingly
unplaced
unplagued
unplait
unplanned
unplanted
unplayed
unpleased
unpleasing
unpledged
unpliable
unpliant
unplighted
unploughed

unplowed
unplucked
unplug
unplugged
unpoetic
unpoetical
unpointed
unpoised
unpolarized
unpolished
unpolitical
unpolluted
unpondered
unpopulated
unposted
unpractical
unpracticality
unpractically
unpredictable
unpredictably
unpreoccupied
unprepared
unprepossessing
unprepossessingly

un·hal·lowed (un·hal′ōd) *adj.* **1.** Not consecrated or made holy. **2.** Unholy; wicked.
un·hand (un·hand′) *v.t.* To remove one's hand from; release from the hand or hands; let go.
un·hand·y (un·han′dē) *adj.* **·hand·i·er, ·hand·i·est 1.** Inconvenient; hard to handle. **2.** Clumsy; lacking in manual skill. **— un·hand′i·ly** *adv.* **— un·hand′i·ness** *n.*
un·hap·py (un·hap′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est 1.** Sad; miserable; depressed. **2.** Unlucky; unfortunate. **3.** Not tactful or appropriate. **— un·hap′pi·ly** *adv.* **— un·hap′pi·ness** *n.*
un·har·ness (un·här′nis) *v.t.* **1.** To remove the harness from; unyoke; release. **2.** To remove the armor from.
un·health·y (un·hel′thē) *adj.* **·health·i·er, ·health·i·est 1.** Lacking health or vigor; sickly; unsound: *unhealthy* animals or plants; also, indicating such a condition: *unhealthy* signs. **2.** Injurious to health. **3.** Morally unsound; unwholesome. **— un·health′i·ly** *adv.* **— un·health′i·ness** *n.*
un·heard (un·hûrd′) *adj.* **1.** Not perceived by the ear. **2.** Not granted a hearing. **3.** Obscure; unknown.
un·heard-of (un·hûrd′uv′, -ov′) *adj.* Not known of before; unknown or unprecedented.
un·hinge (un·hinj′) *v.t.* **·hinged, ·hing·ing 1.** To take from the hinges. **2.** To remove the hinges of. **3.** To detach; dislodge. **4.** To throw into confusion; disorder. **5.** To make unstable; unsettle, as the mind.
un·hitch (un·hich′) *v.t.* To unfasten.
un·ho·ly (un·hō′lē) *adj.* **·ho·li·er, ·ho·li·est 1.** Not sacred or hallowed. **2.** Lacking purity; wicked; sinful. **3.** *Informal* Terrible; dreadful: an *unholy* hour. [OE *unhālig*] **— un·ho′li·ly** *adv.* **— un·ho′li·ness** *n.*
un·hook (un·hŏŏk′) *v.t.* **1.** To remove from a hook. **2.** To unfasten the hook or hooks of. **— *v.i.* 3.** To become unhooked.
un·hoped-for (un·hōpt′fôr′) *adj.* Not expected or hoped for: an *unhoped-for* solution.
un·horse (un·hôrs′) *v.t.* **·horsed, ·hors·ing 1.** To throw from a horse. **2.** To dislodge; overthrow. **3.** To remove a horse or horses from: to *unhorse* a vehicle.
un·hur·ried (un·hûr′ēd) *adj.* Leisurely; not hurried.
uni- *combining form* Having or consisting of one only. [< L *unus* one]
U·ni·at (yōō′nē·at) *n.* A member of the Uniat Church. **—** *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Uniats or the Uniat Church. Also **U′ni·ate** (-it, -āt). [< Russian < *uniya* union < L *unus* one; from union with the Roman Catholic Church]
Uniat Church Any body of Eastern Christians forming a church that acknowledges the Pope as its supreme head and that has its own distinctive liturgy: also called *Eastern Church*. Also **Uniate Church.**
u·ni·ax·i·al (yōō′nē·ak′sē·əl) *adj.* Having one axis.
u·ni·cam·er·al (yōō′nə·kam′ər·əl) *adj.* Consisting of but one legislative chamber.
u·ni·cel·lu·lar (yōō′nə·sel′yə·lər) *adj. Biol.* Consisting of a single cell, as a protozoan; one-celled.
u·ni·col·or (yōō′nə·kul′ər) *adj.* Of one color.
u·ni·corn (yōō′nə·kôrn) *n.* A mythical horse-like animal with one horn. [< OF < L < *unus* one + *cornu* horn]

UNICORN

u·ni·cy·cle (yōō′nə·sī′kəl) *n.* A vehicle consisting of a metal frame mounted on one wheel and propelled by means of pedals.
u·ni·di·rec·tion·al (yōō′nə·di·rek′shən·əl, -dī-) *adj.* **1.** Having or moving in only one direction. **2.** *Telecom.* Designed or equipped to operate best in only one direction, as a radio antenna.
u·ni·fi·a·ble (yōō′nə·fī′ə·bəl) *adj.* That can be unified.
u·ni·fi·ca·tion (yōō′nə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* The act of unifying, or the state of being unified. **— u′ni·fi·ca′tion·ist** *n.*
unified command *Mil.* An armed force of two or more U.S. military services under a single commander.
u·ni·form (yōō′nə·fôrm) *adj.* **1.** Being always the same or alike, as in form, appearance, quality, degree, etc.; not varying: *uniform* temperature. **2.** Agreeing or identical with each other; alike: *uniform* tastes. **—** *n.* **1.** A distinctive form of dress having a uniform style and appearance and worn by members of the same organization or service, as soldiers, sailors, etc. **2.** A single suit of such clothes. **— *v.t.* 1.** To put into or clothe with a uniform. **2.** To make uniform. [< F < L < *unus* one + *forma* form] **— u′ni·form·ly** *adv.* **— u′ni·form·ness** *n.*
u·ni·formed (yōō′nə·fôrmd) *adj.* Dressed in uniform.
u·ni·form·i·ty (yōō′nə·fôr′mə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties 1.** The state or quality of being uniform; also, an instance of it. **2.** Conformity, as in opinions or religion. **3.** Monotony; sameness.
u·ni·fy (yōō′nə·fī) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To combine into a unit; become or cause to be one. [< F or LL < L *unus* one + *facere* to make] **— u′ni·fi′er** *n.*
u·ni·lat·er·al (yōō′nə·lat′ər·əl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or existing on one side only. **2.** Made, undertaken, done, or signed by only one of two or more people or parties. **3.** One-sided. **4.** Relating to or concerned with only one side of a question, dispute, etc. **5.** Turned to or showing only one side. **— u′ni·lat′er·al·ly** *adv.* **— u′ni·lat′er·al·ism, u′ni·lat′er·al′i·ty** (-al′ə·tē) *n.*
un·im·peach·a·ble (un′im·pē′chə·bəl) *adj.* Not to be called into question as regards truth, honesty, etc.; faultless; blameless. **— un′im·peach′a·bly** *adv.*
un·im·proved (un′im·prōōvd′) *adj.* **1.** Not improved, bettered, or advanced. **2.** Having no improvements; not cleared, cultivated, or built upon: *unimproved* land. **3.** Not made anything of; unused: *unimproved* opportunities.
un·in·ter·est·ed (un·in′tər·is·tid, -tris-) *adj.* **1.** Having no interest in, as in property. **2.** Taking no interest in; unconcerned. **— un·in′ter·est·ed·ly** *adv.* **— un·in′ter·est·ed·ness** *n.*
un·ion (yōōn′yən) *n.* **1.** The act of uniting, or the state of being united; also, that which is so formed. **2.** A combining or joining of nations, states, parties, etc., for some mutual interest or purpose. **3.** The harmony, agreement, or concord that results from such a combining or joining. **4.** The joining of two persons in marriage; also, the state of wedlock. **5.** A labor union. **6.** *Mech.* A device for connecting parts of machinery; esp., a coupling or connection for pipes or rods. **7.** A device emblematic of union, used in a flag or emblem and found in the corner near the staff or occupying the entire field. **—** *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or adhering to a union, esp. a labor union. [< F < LL < L *unus* one]

PIPE UNION

Un·ion (yōōn′yən) *n.* **1.** The U.S. regarded as a national unit: with *the*. **2.** The former Union of South Africa. **—** *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or loyal to the U.S.; esp., the Federal government during the Civil War: a *Union* soldier.
union catalogue A library catalogue that contains the contents of more than one library.
un·ion·ism (yōōn′yən·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The principle of combining for unity of purpose and action. **2.** The principle or the support of trade unions. **3.** *Usu. cap.* Adherence to the federal union during the Civil War. **— un′ion·is′tic** *adj.*
un·ion·ist (yōōn′yən·ist) *n.* **1.** An advocate of union or unionism. **2.** A member of a trade union.

unprescribed	**unprogressive**	**unpunishable**	**unreachable**	**unrecorded**	**unrelievable**
unpresentable	**unprohibited**	**unpunished**	**unreached**	**unrecounted**	**unrelieved**
unpresentably	**unpromising**	**unpurchasable**	**unreadable**	**unrecoverable**	**unrelished**
unpreserved	**unpromisingly**	**unpure**	**unrealizable**	**unrecruited**	**unremarkable**
unpressed	**unprompted**	**unpurged**	**unrealized**	**unrectified**	**unremarked**
unpresumptuous	**unpronounced**	**unpurified**	**unreasoned**	**unredeemed**	**unremedied**
unpretending	**unpropitiable**	**unpurposed**	**unrebukable**	**unredressed**	**unremembered**
unpretentious	**unpropitiated**	**unpursuing**	**unrebuked**	**unreelable**	**unremittable**
unpretentiously	**unpropitious**	**unpuzzle**	**unreceipted**	**unrefined**	**unremitted**
unpretentiousness	**unpropitiously**	**unquaffed**	**unreceivable**	**unreflected**	**unremorseful**
unprevailing	**unproportionate**	**unquailing**	**unreceived**	**unreflecting**	**unremorsefully**
unpreventable	**unproportioned**	**unquaking**	**unreceptive**	**unreformed**	**unremorsefulness**
unprevented	**unproposed**	**unqualifying**	**unreceptively**	**unrefreshed**	**unremovable**
unprimed	**unprosperous**	**unquelled**	**unreceptiveness**	**unrefreshing**	**unremoved**
unprincely	**unprotected**	**unquenchable**	**unreciprocated**	**unregarded**	**unremunerated**
unprinted	**unproved**	**unquenched**	**unreclaimable**	**unregistered**	**unremunerative**
unprivileged	**unproven**	**unquestioning**	**unreclaimed**	**unregretted**	**unrendered**
unprized	**unprovoked**	**unquotable**	**unrecognizable**	**unregulated**	**unrenewed**
unprobed	**unprovoking**	**unraised**	**unrecognizably**	**unrehearsed**	**unrenounced**
unprocessed	**unpruned**	**unransomed**	**unrecognized**	**unrelated**	**unrenowned**
unprocurable	**unpublishable**	**unrated**	**unrecommended**	**unrelatedness**	**unrent**
unprocured	**unpublished**	**unratified**	**unrecompensed**	**unrelaxed**	**unrented**
unprofaned	**unpucker**	**unravaged**	**unreconcilable**	**unrelaxing**	**unrepaid**
unprofited	**unpunctual**	**unrazed**	**unreconciled**	**unreliable**	**unrepairable**

Un·ion·ist (yōōn′yən·ist) *n.* During the U.S. Civil War, one who supported the Union cause and opposed secession.
un·ion·ize (yōōn′yən·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to join, or to organize into a union, especially a labor union. **2.** To make conform to the rules, etc., of a union. — *v.i.* **3.** To become a member of or organize a labor union. — **un′·ion·i·za′tion** *n.*
union jack A flag consisting of the union only.
Union Jack The British national flag, a combination of the flags of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
union shop An industrial establishment that hires only members of a labor union or those who promise to join a union within a specified time.
union suit A one-piece undergarment for men and boys consisting of shirt and drawers.
u·nip·a·rous (yōō·nip′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** *Biol.* Bringing forth but one offspring at a time, or not having borne more than one. **2.** *Bot.* Having but one axis or stem at each branching.
u·ni·po·lar (yōō′nə·pō′lər) *adj. Physics* Showing only one kind of polarity.
u·nique (yōō·nēk′) *adj.* **1.** Being the only one of its kind; sole. **2.** Being without or having no equal or like. **3.** Loosely, unusual, rare, or notable: a *unique* opportunity. [< F < L < *unus* one] — **u·nique′ly** *adv.* — **u·nique′ness** *n.*
u·ni·sex·u·al (yōō′nə·sek′shōō·əl) *adj. Biol.* Of only one sex; also, having one kind of sexual organs only.
u·ni·son (yōō′nə·sən, -zən) *n.* **1.** A speaking or sounding the same words, tones, etc., simultaneously: with *in*: they answered in *unison*. **2.** Complete accord or agreement; harmony. **3.** *Music* **a** A state in which instruments or voices perform identical parts simultaneously, in the same or different octaves. **b** The interval formed by two tones of the same pitch. [< L < *uni-* one + *sonus* sound]
u·nit (yōō′nit) *n.* **1.** A single person or thing regarded as an individual but belonging to an entire group. **2.** A body or group, as of soldiers, considered as a subdivision of a similar but larger body or group. **3.** An apparatus or piece of equipment, usu. part of a larger object and having a specific function: the cooling *unit* of a freezer. **4.** A standard quantity with which others of the same kind are compared for purposes of measurement and in terms of which their magnitude is stated. **5.** *Math.* A quantity whose measure is represented by the number 1; a least whole number. **6.** *Med.* The quantity of a drug, vaccine, serum, or antigen required to produce a given effect. [Back formation < UNITY]
u·ni·tar·i·an (yōō′nə·târ′ē·ən) *n.* One who rejects the doctrine of the Trinity; a non-Trinitarian monotheist. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to a unit. [< NL *unitarius* unitary]
U·ni·tar·i·an (yōō′nə·târ′ē·ən) *n.* A member of a religious denomination that rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and emphasizes complete freedom of religious opinion, the importance of personal character, and the independence of each local congregation. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Unitarians, or to their teachings. — **U·ni·tar′i·an·ism** *n.*
u·ni·tar·y (yōō′nə·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a unit. **2.** Characterized by or based on unity, as a system of government. **3.** Having the nature of a unit; whole.
u·nite (yōō·nīt′) *v.* **u·nit·ed, u·nit·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To join together so as to form a whole; combine; compound. **2.** To bring into close connection, as by legal, physical, social, or other tie; join in action, interest, etc. **3.** To join in marriage. **4.** To attach permanently or solidly; cause to adhere; bond. **5.** To show or possess (characteristics, etc.) in combination: to *unite* wit and beauty. — *v.i.* **6.** To become or be merged into one; combine. **7.** To join together for action; concur. [< LL *unitus*, pp. of *unire* to make one < L *unus* one]
— **Syn. 1.** consolidate, amalgamate, merge, blend, fuse. **2.** connect, join, link, associate. — **Ant.** divide, separate, disconnect.
u·nit·ed (yōō·nī′tid) *adj.* Incorporated into one; allied; combined. — **u·nit′ed·ly** *adv.* — **u·nit′ed·ness** *n.*
United Church of Canada A church made up of former denominational Methodists, Presbyterians, and others.
United Nations **1.** A coalition to resist the aggression of the axis powers in World War II, formed of 26 nations in January, 1942. **2.** An organization of sovereign states, having its permanent headquarters in an enclave of international territory in New York City since 1951, created by the **United Nations Charter** drafted in September–October, 1944 at Dumbarton Oaks, an estate in Washington, D.C., and adopted at San Francisco in May and June, 1945. The original membership was formed of 51 states. In 1964 there were 62 additional members. Formerly **United Nations Organization.** Abbr. *UN, U.N.*
United Nations Trust Territory See TRUST TERRITORY.
United Press International An organization for collecting and distributing news, formed in 1958 by a merger of two similar organizations, the International News Service and the United Press. Abbr. *UPI, U.P.I.*
unit modifier A conventional or improvised compound used adjectively before a substantive. Examples: *blue-green* algae, *bitter-sweet* chocolate, *suit-coat* pattern.
◆ The use of the hyphen in the unit modifier is to avoid ambiguity in a word sequence where the relationship is not immediately apparent from context: The house had faded red-brick walls (faded walls of red brick, *not* faded red walls of brick). The hyphen here is to be considered a nonce use and not a spelling form or variant.
u·ni·ty (yōō′nə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or fact of being one. **2.** Something that is wholly united and complete within itself. **3.** A state or quality of general concord and mutual understanding; harmony. **4.** The harmonious agreement of parts or elements into one united whole. **5.** The condition or fact of being free from variety or diversity. **6.** Singleness or constancy of purpose, action, etc. **7.** In art and literature, the arrangement of parts into a homogeneous whole exhibiting oneness of purpose, thought, spirit, and style. **8.** *Math.* **a** The number one. **b** The element of a number system that leaves any number unchanged under multiplication, that is, a number e such that $ex = xe = x$ for all x. [< OF < L < *unus* one]
u·ni·va·lent (yōō′nə·vā′lənt) *adj. Chem.* Having a valence or combining value of one; monovalent. — **u′ni·va′lence, u′ni·va′len·cy** *n.*
u·ni·valve (yōō′nə·valv′) *adj.* Having only one valve, as a mollusk. Also **u′ni·valved′, u′ni·val′vu·lar** (-val′vyə·lər). — *n.* **1.** A mollusk having a univalve shell; a gastropod. **2.** A shell of a single piece.
u·ni·ver·sal (yōō′nə·vûr′səl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or typical of all or the whole: a *universal* reaction. **2.** Including, involving, or intended for all: a *universal* law. **3.** Applicable to everyone or to all cases: a *universal* cure. **4.** That can be used or understood by all: a *universal* language. **5.** Accomplished or interested in all or many subjects, activities, etc.: a *universal* genius. **6.** Of, pertaining to, or occurring throughout the universe. **7.** Common to all in any specific group or field: a *universal* practice of politicians. **8.** *Mech.* **a** Adapted or adaptable to a great variety of uses, shapes, etc., as certain machine parts. **b** Permitting free movement within fixed extremes, as a joint. **9.** *Logic* **a** Including all the individuals of a class or genus; generic. **b** In a proposition, predicable of all the individuals denoted by the subject: opposed to *particular*: "All men are mortal" is a *universal* proposition. — *n.* **1.** *Logic* A universal proposition. **2.** Any general or universal notion, condition, principle, etc. — **u′ni·ver′sal·ly** *adv.* — **u′ni·ver′sal·ness** *n.*
U·ni·ver·sal·ism (yōō′nə·vûr′səl·iz′əm) *n. Theol.* The doc-

unrepaired **unrepealed** **unrepentant** **unrepented** **unrepenting** **unrepining** **unreplaced** **unreplenished** **unreported** **unrepresentative** **unrepresented** **unrepressed** **unreprievable** **unreprieved** **unreprovable** **unrequested** **unrequited** **unresented** **unresigned** **unresistant** **unresisted** **unresisting** **unresolved** **unrespectable**

unrespectful **unrespectfully** **unrespited** **unrested** **unresting** **unrestrainable** **unrestraint** **unrestricted** **unretarded** **unretentive** **unretracted** **unretrieved** **unreturned** **unrevealed** **unrevenged** **unreversed** **unrevised** **unrevoked** **unrewarded** **unrhetorical** **unrhymed** **unrhythmic** **unrhythmical** **unrhythmically**

unrighted **unrightful** **unrightfully** **unrimed** **unripened** **unrisen** **unroasted** **unrobe** **unromantic** **unromantically** **unroof** **unroofed** **unrough** **unrounded** **unrulable** **unruled** **unsafe** **unsafely** **unsaid** **unsaintliness** **unsaintly** **unsalability** **unsalable** **unsalaried**

unsaleability **unsaleable** **unsalted** **unsanctified** **unsanctioned** **unsanitarily** **unsanitary** **unsated** **unsatiable** **unsatiated** **unsatiating** **unsatisfactorily** **unsatisfactory** **unsatisfied** **unsatisfying** **unsatisfyingly** **unsaved** **unsawed** **unsawn** **unsayable** **unscabbarded** **unscaled** **unscanned** **unscarified**

unscarred **unscented** **unsceptical** **unscheduled** **unscholarly** **unschooled** **unscientific** **unscientifically** **unscorched** **unscorned** **unscoured** **unscourged** **unscraped** **unscratched** **unscreened** **unscriptural** **unsculptured** **unsealed** **unseated** **unseaworthiness** **unseaworthy** **unseconded** **unsectarian** **unsecured**

unseeded **unseeing** **unseemingly** **unsegmented** **unseized** **unselected** **unselective** **unselectively** **unsensitive** **unsent** **unsentimental** **unsentimentally** **unserved** **unserviceable** **unserviceableness** **unserviceably** **unset** **unsevered** **unsew** **unsewn** **unsexual** **unshaded** **unshadowed** **unshaken**

trine that all souls will finally be saved and that good will triumph universally. — **U/ni·ver/sal·ist** *adj. & n.*

u·ni·ver·sal·i·ty (yōō/nə·vər·sal/ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** 1. The state or quality of being universal. 2. Unrestricted fitness or adaptability. 3. An all-embracing range of knowledge, abilities, etc.

u·ni·ver·sal·ize (yōō/nə·vûr/səl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make universal.

universal joint *Mech.* A joint that permits connected parts of a machine to be turned in any direction within definite limits. Also **universal coupling.**

u·ni·ver·sal·ly (yōō/nə·vûr/səl·ē) *adv.* In a universal manner; on all occasions or in all places; without exception.

u·ni·verse (yōō/nə·vûrs) *n.* 1. The aggregate of all existing things; the whole creation embracing all celestial bodies and all of space; the cosmos. 2. In restricted sense, the earth. 3. Human beings collectively; mankind. [< F < L < *unus* one + *versus*, pp. of *vertere* to turn]

u·ni·ver·si·ty (yōō/nə·vûr/sə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** 1. An institution for higher instruction that includes one or more schools or colleges for graduate or professional study, as well as an undergraduate division, and grants master's and doctor's degree. 2. The faculty and students of a university. 3. The buildings and grounds of a university. [< OF < L *universitas* the whole, entire number]

u·niv·o·cal (yōō·niv/ə·kəl) *adj.* Having but one proper sense or meaning. — *n.* A word that has but one meaning. [< LL < L *unus* one + *vox, vocis* voice]

un·just (un·just/) *adj.* 1. Not legitimate, fair, or just; wrongful. 2. Acting contrary to right and justice; unrighteous. — **un·just/ly** *adv.* — **un·just/ness** *n.*

un·kempt (un·kempt/) *adj.* 1. Not combed. 2. Not clean or neat; untidy. 3. Without polish or refinement; rough. [< UN-[1] + *kempt* combed, pp. of dial. *kemb*, var. of COMB]

un·kind (un·kīnd/) *adj.* Showing lack of kindness; unsympathetic; cruel. — **un·kind/ly** *adv.* — **un·kind/ness** *n.*

un·knit (un·nit/) *v.* **·knit** or **·knit·ted, ·knit·ting** — *v.t.* 1. To untie or unravel (something tied or knit). 2. To smooth out (something wrinkled). — *v.i.* 3. To become unknitted.

un·known (un·nōn/) *adj.* 1. Not known or apprehended; not recognized, as a fact or person. 2. Not ascertained, discovered, or established: an *unknown* element. — *n.* An unknown person or quantity.

Unknown Soldier One of the unidentified dead of World War I who is honored as a symbol of all his compatriots who died in action, extended to include unknown dead of World War II and the Korean conflict.

un·la·bored (un·lā/bərd) *adj.* 1. Produced without strain or effort; seemingly free and easy; natural. 2. Uncultivated by labor; unworked; untilled. Also *Brit.* **un·la/boured.**

un·lace (un·lās/) *v.t.* **·laced, ·lac·ing** 1. To loosen or unfasten the lacing of; untie. 2. To loosen or remove (armor or clothing) in this way.

un·lade (un·lād/) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lad·ed, ·lad·ing** 1. To unload the cargo of (a ship). 2. To unload or discharge (cargo, etc.).

un·laid (un·lād/) *adj.* 1. Not laid or placed; not fixed. 2. Not allayed or pacified. 3. Not twisted, as the strands of a rope.

un·latch (un·lach/) *v.t.* 1. To open or unlock by releasing the latch. — *v.i.* 2. To come open or unlocked.

un·law·ful (un·lô/fəl) *adj.* 1. Contrary to or in violation of law; illegal. 2. Born out of wedlock; illegitimate. — **un·law/ful·ly** *adv.* — **un·law/ful·ness** *n.*

un·lay (un·lā/) *v.t. & v.i.* **·laid, ·lay·ing** To untwist: said of the strands of a rope.

un·learn (un·lûrn/) *v.t. & v.i.* **·learned** or **·learnt, ·learn·ing** To dismiss from the mind; forget.

un·learn·ed (un·lûr/nid; *for def. 3* un·lûrnd/) *adj.* 1. Not possessed of or characterized by learning; illiterate; ignorant. 2. Unworthy of or unlike a learned man. 3. Not acquired by learning or study. — **un·learn/ed·ly** *adv.*

un·leash (un·lēsh/) *v.t.* To set free from or as from a leash.

un·leav·ened (un·lev/ənd) *adj.* Not leavened: said esp. of the bread used at the feast of the Passover.

un·less (un·les/) *conj.* If it be not a fact that; supposing that . . . not; except that: *Unless* we persevere, we shall lose. — *prep.* Save; except; excepting: with an implied verb: *Unless* a miracle, he'll not be back in time. [Earlier *onlesse* (*that*) (than) in a less case < ON + LESS]

un·let·tered (un·let/ərd) *adj.* Not educated; illiterate.

un·like (un·līk/) *adj.* Having little or no resemblance; different. — *prep.* Dissimilar to or different from; not like: It was *unlike* him to go. — **un·like/ness** *n.*

un·like·ly (un·līk/lē) *adj.* 1. Not likely; improbable. 2. Not inviting or promising success. — *adv.* Improbably. — **un·like/li·ness, un·like/li·hood** *n.*

un·lim·ber (un·lim/bər) *v.t. & v.i.* To disconnect (a gun or caisson) from its limber; prepare for action.

un·lim·it·ed (un·lim/it·id) *adj.* 1. Having no limits in space, number, or time; unbounded. 2. Not limited by restrictions. 3. Not limited by qualifications; undefined. — — **un·lim/it·ed·ly** *adv.* — **un·lim/it·ed·ness** *n.*

un·load (un·lōd/) *v.t.* 1. To remove the load or cargo from. 2. To take off or discharge (cargo, etc.). 3. To relieve of something burdensome or oppressive. 4. To withdraw the charge of ammunition from. 5. *Informal* To dispose of. — *v.i.* 6. To discharge freight, cargo, or other burden. — **un·load/er** *n.*

un·lock (un·lok/) *v.t.* 1. To unfasten (something locked). 2. To open or undo; release. 3. To lay open; reveal or disclose. — *v.i.* 4. To become unlocked.

un·looked-for (un·lōōkt/fôr/) *adj.* Not anticipated.

un·loose (un·lōōs/) *v.t.* **·loosed, ·loos·ing** To release from fastenings; set loose or free.

un·loos·en (un·lōō/sən) *v.t.* To loose; unloose.

un·luck·y (un·luk/ē) *adj.* **·luck·i·er, ·luck·i·est** 1. Not favored by luck; unfortunate. 2. Resulting in or attended by ill luck. 3. Ill-omened; inauspicious: an *unlucky* day. — **un·luck/i·ly** *adv.* — **un·luck/i·ness** *n.*

un·make (un·māk/) *v.t.* **·made** (-mād/), **·mak·ing** 1. To reduce to the original condition or form. 2. To ruin; destroy. 3. To depose, as from a position of authority.

un·man (un·man/) *v.t.* **·manned, ·man·ning** 1. To cause to lose courage or fortitude; dishearten. 2. To render unmanly or effeminate. 3. To deprive of virility; castrate.

un·man·ly (un·man/lē) *adj.* 1. Not masculine or virile; effeminate. 2. Not honorable. — **un·man/li·ness** *n.*

un·man·ner·ly (un·man/ər·lē) *adj.* Lacking manners; rude. — *adv.* Impolitely; rudely. — **un·man/ner·li·ness** *n.*

un·mask (un·mask/, -mäsk/) *v.t.* 1. To remove a mask from. 2. To reveal or disclose the truth about. — *v.i.* 3. To remove one's mask or disguise.

un·mean·ing (un·mē/ning) *adj.* 1. Having no meaning. 2. Showing no expression of intelligence, interest, etc.; empty. — **un·mean/ing·ly** *adv.* — **un·mean/ing·ness** *n.*

un·meet (un·mēt/) *adj.* Not meet or suitable; not proper; unbecoming. — **un·meet/ly** *adv.* — **un·meet/ness** *n.*

un·men·tion·a·ble (un·men/shən·ə·bəl) *adj.* Not proper to be mentioned or discussed; embarrassing; shameful. — **un·men/tion·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un·men/tion·a·bly** *adv.*

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unshamed
unshapely
unshared
unshaved
unshaven
unshed
unshelled
unsheltered
unshielded
unshod
unshorn
unshrinkable
unshrinking
unshriven
unshrouded
unshrunk
unshunned
unshut
unsifted
unsigned
unsilenced
unsimilar
unsingable
unsinkable

unsisterly
unsized
unskeptical
unslacked
unslaked
unsleeping
unslumbering
unsmiling
unsmilingly
unsmirched
unsmoked
unsoaked
unsober
unsocial
unsoftened
unsoiled
unsold
unsoldierly
unsolicited
unsolicitous
unsolid
unsolidly
unsoluble
unsolvable

unsolved
unsoothed
unsophistication
unsorted
unsought
unsounded
unsoured
unsowed
unsown
unspecified
unspeculative
unspeculatively
unspelled
unspent
unspilled
unspilt
unspiritual
unspirituality
unspiritually
unspiritualness
unspoiled
unspoilt
unspoken
unsportsmanlike

unsprinkled
unsprung
unsquandered
unsquared
unstack
unstainable
unstained
unstalked
unstamped
unstandardized
unstarched
unstarred
unstated
unstatesmanlike
unsteadfast
unstemmed
unsterile
unsterilized
unstick
unstigmatized
unstinted
unstitched
unstrained
unstressed

unstripped
unstuffed
unstung
unsubdued
unsubmissive
unsubscribed
unsubsidized
unsubstantiated
unsuccess
unsuccessful
unsuggestive
unsuited
unsullied
unsunk
unsupportable
unsupportably
unsupported
unsupportedly
unsuppressed
unsure
unsurmountable
unsurpassable
unsurpassed
unsurprised

unsusceptible
unsuspicious
unsuspiciously
unsustainable
unsustained
unswayed
unsweetened
unswept
unswerving
unsworn
unsymmetrical
unsymmetrically
unsympathetic
unsympathetically
unsympathizing
unsympathizingly
unsystematic
unsystematically
unsystematized
untack
untactful
untactfully
untactfulness
untainted

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un·men·tion·a·bles (un·men′shən·ə·bəlz) *n.pl.* Things not ordinarily mentioned; usu., undergarments.
un·mer·ci·ful (un·mûr′sə·fəl) *adj.* Showing no mercy; pitiless. — **un·mer′ci·ful·ly** *adv.* — **un·mer′ci·ful·ness** *n.*
un·mind·ful (un·mīnd′fəl) *adj.* Neglectful; inattentive; careless. — **un·mind′ful·ly** *adv.* — **un·mind′ful·ness** *n.*
un·mis·tak·a·ble (un′mis·tā′kə·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be mistaken; evident; clear. — **un′mis·tak′a·bly** *adv.*
un·mit·i·gat·ed (un·mit′ə·gā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Not mitigated or lightened in effect: *unmitigated* sorrow. **2.** Absolute: an *unmitigated* rogue. — **un·mit′i·gat′ed·ly** *adv.*
un·mor·al (un·môr′əl, -mŏr′-) *adj.* Having no moral sense; neither moral nor immoral. — **un·mo·ral·i·ty** (un′mə·ral′ə·tē) *n.* — **un·mor′al·ly** *adv.*
un·nat·u·ral (un·nach′ər·əl) *adj.* **1.** Contrary to the laws of nature. **2.** Monstrous; inhuman: *unnatural* crimes. **3.** Not having, or inconsistent with, those attitudes, feelings, etc., considered normal; abnormal. **4.** Artificial; affected. — **un·nat′u·ral·ly** *adv.* — **un·nat′u·ral·ness** *n.*
un·nec·es·sar·y (un·nes′ə·ser′ē) *adj.* Not required or necessary; not essential. — **un·nec′es·sar′i·ly** *adv.*
un·nerve (un·nûrv′) *v.t.* **·nerved, ·nerv·ing** To deprive of strength; firmness, self-control, or courage; unman.
un·num·bered (un·num′bərd) *adj.* **1.** Not counted. **2.** Innumerable. **3.** Not marked with or assigned a number.
un·oc·cu·pied (un·ok′yə·pīd) *adj.* **1.** Empty; not dwelt in; uninhabited: an *unoccupied* house. **2.** Idle; unemployed.
un·or·gan·ized (un·ôr′gən·īzd) *adj.* **1.** Not organized in structure, system, government, etc. **2.** Not living; inorganic. **3.** Not unionized. Also *Brit.* **un·or′gan·ised.**
un·or·tho·dox (un·ôr′thə·doks) *adj.* Not orthodox in doctrine, manner, method, etc. — **un·or′tho·dox′ly** *adv.*
un·pack (un·pak′) *v.t.* **1.** To open and take out the contents of. **2.** To take out of the container, as something packed. — *v.i.* **3.** To unpack a trunk, etc. — **un·pack′er** *n.*
un·paged (un·pājd′) *adj.* Having the pages unnumbered: said of a book, magazine, etc.
un·par·al·leled (un·par′ə·leld) *adj.* Without parallel; unmatched; unprecedented.
un·par·lia·men·ta·ry (un′pär·lə·men′tər·ē) *adj.* Contrary to the rules that govern parliamentary bodies. — **un′par·lia·men′ta·ri·ly** *adv.* — **un′par·lia·men′ta·ri·ness** *n.*
un·peg (un·peg′) *v.t.* **·pegged, ·peg·ging** To open or unfasten by removing a peg or pegs.
un·peo·ple (un·pē′pəl) *v.t.* **·pled, ·pling** To take or remove people from; depopulate. — **un·peo′pled** *adj.*
un·pin (un·pin′) *v.t.* **·pinned, ·pin·ning** **1.** To remove the pins from. **2.** To unfasten by removing pins.
un·pleas·ant (un·plez′ənt) *adj.* Disagreeable; objectionable; not pleasing. — **un·pleas′ant·ly** *adv.* — **un·pleas′ant·ness** *n.*
un·plumbed (un·plumd′) *adj.* **1.** Not sounded or explored fully; unfathomed. **2.** Not furnished with plumbing.
un·polled (un·pōld′) *adj.* **1.** Not registered: an *unpolled* vote or voter. **2.** Not having voted at an election.
un·pop·u·lar (un·pop′yə·lər) *adj.* Having no popularity; generally disliked or condemned. — **un·pop′u·lar·ly** *adv.* — **un·pop′u·lar′i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.*
un·prac·ticed (un·prak′tist) *adj.* **1.** Being without practice, experience, or skill. **2.** Not carried out in practice; not used. **3.** Not yet tried.
un·prec·e·dent·ed (un·pres′ə·den′tid) *adj.* Being without precedent; unheard-of. — **un·prec′e·dent′ed·ly** *adv.*
un·prej·u·diced (un·prej′ŏŏ·dist) *adj.* **1.** Free from prejudice or bias; impartial. **2.** Not impaired, as a right.
un·priced (un·prist′) *adj.* Having no fixed price.
un·prin·ci·pled (un·prin′sə·pəld) *adj.* Lacking in moral principles; unscrupulous. — **un·prin′ci·pled·ness** *n.*
un·print·a·ble (un·prin′tə·bəl) *adj.* Not fit to be printed.
un·pro·fes·sion·al (un′prə·fesh′ən·əl) *adj.* **1.** Having no profession or no professional status. **2.** Violating the rules or ethical code of a profession. — **un′pro·fes′sion·al·ly** *adv.*
un·qual·i·fied (un·kwol′ə·fīd) *adj.* **1.** Being without the proper qualifications; unfit. **2.** Without limitation or restrictions; absolute; entire: *unqualified* approval. — **un·qual′i·fied′ly** *adv.* — **un·qual′i·fied′ness** *n.*
un·ques·tion·a·ble (un·kwes′chən·ə·bəl) *adj.* Too certain or sure to admit of question; being beyond a doubt; indisputable. — **un·ques′tion·a·bil′i·ty, un·ques′tion·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un·ques′tion·a·bly** *adv.*
un·qui·et (un·kwī′ət) *adj.* **1.** Not at rest; disturbed; restless. **2.** Causing unrest or discomfort. **3.** Uneasy; disturbing. — **un·qui′et·ly** *adv.* — **un·qui′et·ness** *n.*
un·quote (un·kwōt′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·quot·ed, ·quot·ing** To close (a quotation).
un·rav·el (un·rav′əl) *v.* **·eled** or **·elled, ·el·ing** or **·el·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To separate the threads of, as a tangled skein or knitted article. **2.** To free from entanglement; unfold; explain, as a mystery or a plot. — *v.i.* **3.** To become unraveled.
un·read (un·red′) *adj.* **1.** Not informed by reading; ignorant. **2.** Not yet perused.
un·read·y (un·red′ē) *adj.* **1.** Being without readiness or alertness. **2.** Not in a condition to act effectively; unprepared. — **un·read′i·ly** *adv.* — **un·read′i·ness** *n.*
un·real (un·rēl, -rē′əl) *adj.* **1.** Having no reality or substance. **2.** Artificial; insincere; also, fanciful. — **un·re·al·i·ty** (un′rē·al′ə·tē) *n.* — **un·re′al·ly** *adv.*
un·rea·son·a·ble (un·rē′zən·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Acting without or contrary to reason. **2.** Not according to reason; irrational. **3.** Immoderate; exorbitant. — **un·rea′son·a·bil′i·ty, un·rea′son·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un·rea′son·a·bly** *adv.*
un·rea·son·ing (un·rē′zən·ing) *adj.* Not accompanied by reason or control. — **un·rea′son·ing·ly** *adv.*
un·reck·on·a·ble (un·rek′ən·ə·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be reckoned or computed; unlimited.
un·re·con·struct·ed (un·rē′kən·struk′tid) *adj.* **1.** Not reconstructed. **2.** Not reconciled to or accepting the conditions of the Reconstruction.
un·reel (un·rēl′) *v.t. & v.i.* To unwind, as from a reel.
un·re·gen·er·ate (un′ri·jen′ər·it) *adj.* **1.** Not having been changed spiritually; remaining unreconciled to God. **2.** Sinful; wicked. Also **un′re·gen′er·at′ed** (-ā′tid). — **un′re·gen′er·a·cy** (-ə·sē) *n.* — **un′re·gen′er·ate·ly** *adv.*
un·re·lent·ing (un′ri·len′ting) *adj.* **1.** Not relenting; pitiless; inexorable. **2.** Not diminishing, or not changing, in pace, effort, speed, etc. — **un·re·lent′ing·ly** *adv.*
un·re·lig·ious (un′ri·lij′əs) *adj.* **1.** Irreligious; hostile to religion. **2.** Not connected in any way with religion.
un·re·mit·ting (un′ri·mit′ing) *adj.* Not relaxing or stopping; incessant. — **un′re·mit′ting·ly** *adv.* — **un′re·mit′ting·ness** *n.*
un·re·served (un′ri·zûrvd′) *adj.* **1.** Given or done without reserve; full; unlimited. **2.** Having no reserve of manner; informal; open; frank. — **un·re·serv·ed·ly** (un′ri·zûr′vid·lē) *adv.* — **un′re·serv′ed·ness** *n.*
un·rest (un·rest′) *n.* **1.** Restlessness, esp. of the mind. **2.**

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untaken
untalented
untamable
untame
untameable
untamed
untangled
untanned
untapped
untarnished
untasted
untaxable
untaxed
unteachable
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unworkmanlike
unworn
unworshiped
unworshipped
unwound
unwounded
unwoven
unwreathe
unwrought
unwrung
unyielding
unyieldingly
unyieldingness
unyouthful
unyouthfully
unyouthfulness
unzealous
unzealously
unzip

Trouble; turmoil, esp. with regard to public or political conditions and suggesting premonitions of revolt.

un·rid·dle (un·rid′l) *v.t.* **·dled, ·dling** To solve, as a mystery.

un·ri·fled[1] (un·rī′fəld) *adj.* Smoothbored, as a gun.

un·ri·fled[2] (un·rī′fəld) *adj.* Not rifled, seized, or plundered.

un·right·eous (un·rī′chəs) *adj.* **1.** Not righteous; wicked; sinful. **2.** Contrary to justice; unfair. **— un·right′eous·ly** *adv.* **— un·right′eous·ness** *n.*

un·ripe (un·rīp′) *adj.* Not arrived at maturity; not ripe; immature. [OE *unrīpe* untimely] **— un·ripe′ness** *n.*

un·ri·valed (un·rī′vəld) *adj.* Having no rival or competitor; unequaled; matchless. Also *Brit.* **un·ri′valled.**

un·roll (un·rōl′) *v.t.* **1.** To spread or open (something rolled up). **2.** To exhibit to view. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To become unrolled.

un·ruf·fled (un·ruf′əld) *adj.* Not disturbed or agitated emotionally; calm.

un·ru·ly (un·rōō′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Disposed to resist rule or discipline; intractable; ungovernable. **— un·ru′li·ness** *n.*

un·sad·dle (un·sad′l) *v.t.* **·dled, ·dling** **1.** To remove a saddle from. **2.** To throw from the saddle; unhorse.

un·sat·u·rat·ed (un·sach′ə·rā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Containing less of a solute required for equilibrium, as a solution. **2.** *Chem.* Capable of uniting with elements or radicals without loss of the original constituents.

un·sa·vor·y (un·sā′vər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Having a disagreeable taste or odor. **2.** Suggesting something disagreeable, offensive, or unclean; also, morally bad. Also *Brit.* **un·sa′vour·y.** **— un·sa′vor·i·ly** *adv.* **— un·sa′vor·i·ness** *n.*

un·say (un·sā′) *v.t.* **·said, ·say·ing** To retract (something said).

un·scathed (un·skāthd′) *adj.* Uninjured.

un·scram·ble (un·skram′bəl) *v.t.* **·bled, ·bling** *Informal* To resolve the confused or disordered condition of.

un·screw (un·skrōō′) *v.t.* **1.** To remove the screw or screws from. **2.** To remove or detach by withdrawing screws, or by turning. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To permit of being unscrewed.

un·scru·pu·lous (un·skrōō′pyə·ləs) *adj.* Not scrupulous; having no scruples or morals; unprincipled. **— un·scru′pu·lous·ly** *adv.* **— un·scru′pu·lous·ness** *n.*

un·seal (un·sēl′) *v.t.* **1.** To break the seal of. **2.** To open.

un·search·a·ble (un·sûr′chə·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be searched or explored; hidden; mysterious. **— un·search′a·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·search′a·bly** *adv.*

un·sea·son·a·ble (un·sē′zən·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not being in or characteristic of the season. **2.** Inappropriate; ill-timed. **— un·sea′son·a·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·sea′son·a·bly** *adv.*

un·seat (un·sēt′) *v.t.* **1.** To remove from a seat or fixed position. **2.** To unhorse. **3.** To deprive of office or rank; depose.

un·seem·ly (un·sēm′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Not seemly or proper; unbecoming; indecent. **—** *adv.* In an unseemly fashion. **— un·seem′li·ness** *n.*

un·self·ish (un·sel′fish) *adj.* Not selfish; generous. **— un·self′ish·ly** *adv.* **— un·self′ish·ness** *n.*

un·set·tle (un·set′l) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.t.* **1.** To change or move from a fixed or settled condition. **2.** To confuse; disturb. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To become unsteady or unfixed.

un·sex (un·seks′) *v.t.* To deprive of the distinctive qualities of a sex; esp., to render unfeminine or unwomanly.

un·shack·le (un·shak′əl) *v.t.* **·led, ·ling** To unfetter; free from or as from shackles.

un·sheathe (un·shēth′) *v.t.* **·sheathed, ·sheath·ing** To take from or as from a scabbard or sheath; bare.

un·ship (un·ship′) *v.t.* **·shipped, ·ship·ping** **1.** To unload from a ship or other vessel. **2.** To remove from the place where it is fixed or fitted, as a rudder or oar.

un·sight·ly (un·sīt′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Offensive to the sight; ugly. **— un·sight′li·ness** *n.*

un·skilled (un·skild′) *adj.* **1.** Destitute of skill or dexterity. **2.** Not requiring special skill or training: *unskilled* labor.

un·skil·ful (un·skil′fəl) *adj.* Lacking or not evincing skillfulness; awkward. Also *Brit.* **un·skil′ful.** **— un·skill′ful·ly** *adv.* **— un·skill′ful·ness** *n.*

un·snap (un·snap′) *v.t.* **·snapped, ·snap·ping** To undo the snap or snaps of; unfasten.

un·snarl (un·snärl′) *v.t.* To disentangle.

un·so·cia·ble (un·sō′shə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not sociable; not inclined to seek the society of others. **2.** Not congenial or in accord. **3.** Not encouraging social intercourse. **— un·so′cia·bil′i·ty, un·so′cia·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·so′cia·bly** *adv.*

un·sol·der (un·sod′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To disunite or take apart (something soldered). **2.** To separate; sunder.

un·so·phis·ti·cat·ed (un′sə·fis′tə·kā′tid) *adj.* **1.** Not sophisticated; artless; simple. **2.** Free from adulteration; genuine; pure. **— un′so·phis′ti·cat′ed·ly** *adv.* **— un′so·phis′ti·cat′ed·ness** *n.*

un·sound (un·sound′) *adj.* **1.** Lacking in soundness; not strong or solid; weak. **2.** Not sound in health; diseased. **3.** Not logically valid; erroneous. **4.** Disturbed; not profound: said of sleep. **— un·sound′ly** *adv.* **— un·sound′ness** *n.*

un·spar·ing (un·spâr′ing) *adj.* **1.** Not sparing or saving; lavish; liberal. **2.** Showing no mercy. **— un·spar′ing·ly** *adv.* **— un·spar′ing·ness** *n.*

un·speak·a·ble (un·spē′kə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** That cannot be expressed; unutterable. **2.** Extremely bad or objectionable. **— un·speak′a·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·speak′a·bly** *adv.*

un·sta·ble (un·stā′bəl) *adj.* **1.** Lacking in stability or firmness; not stable. **2.** Having no fixed purposes; easily influenced; inconstant. **3.** *Chem.* Readily decomposable, as certain compounds. **— un·sta′ble·ness** *n.* **— un·sta′bly** *adv.*

un·stead·y (un·sted′ē) *adj.* **1.** Not steady or firm; shaky. **2.** Not regular or constant; wavering: the motor's *unsteady* movement. **3.** Inconstant and erratic in behavior, habits, etc. **— un·stead′i·ly** *adv.* **— un·stead′i·ness** *n.*

un·stop (un·stop′) *v.t.* **·stopped, ·stop·ping** **1.** To remove a stopper from. **2.** To open by removing obstructions; clear.

un·strap (un·strap′) *v.t.* **·strapped, ·strap·ping** To unfasten or loosen the strap or straps of.

un·string (un·string′) *v.t.* **·strung, ·string·ing** **1.** To remove from a string. **2.** To take the string or strings from. **3.** To loosen the string or strings of. **4.** To weaken: usu., in the passive: Her nerves were *unstrung.*

un·strung (un·strung′) *adj.* **1.** Having the strings removed or relaxed. **2.** Unnerved; emotionally upset; weakened.

un·stud·ied (un·stud′ēd) *adj.* **1.** Not planned; unpremeditated. **2.** Not stiff or artificial; natural. **3.** Not acquainted through study; unversed: with *in.*

un·sub·stan·tial (un′səb·stan′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Lacking solidity, strength, or weight. **2.** Having no valid basis. **3.** Having no bodily existence; unreal; fanciful. **— un′sub·stan′tial·ly** *adv.* **— un′sub·stan′ti·al′i·ty** (-shē·al′ə·tē) *n.*

un·suit·a·ble (un·sōō′tə·bəl) *adj.* Not suitable; unfitting. **— un·suit′a·bil′i·ty** (un′sōō·tə·bil′ə·tē), **un·suit′a·ble·ness** *n.* **— un·suit′a·bly** *adv.*

un·sung (un·sung′) *adj.* **1.** Not celebrated in song or poetry; obscure. **2.** Not yet sung, as a song.

un·tan·gle (un·tang′gəl) *v.t.* **·gled, ·gling** **1.** To free from entanglement or snarls. **2.** To clear up; resolve.

un·taught (un·tôt′) *adj.* **1.** Not instructed; ignorant. **2.** Acquired without training or instruction; natural.

un·ten·a·ble (un·ten′ə·bəl) *adj.* That cannot be maintained or defended: *untenable* theories. **— un·ten′a·bil′i·ty, un·ten′a·ble·ness** *n.*

un·thank·ful (un·thangk′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Not grateful. **2.** Not received with thanks; unwelcome. **— un·thank′ful·ly** *adv.* **— un·thank′ful·ness** *n.*

un·think·ing (un·thingk′ing) *adj.* **1.** Not having the power of thought. **2.** Thoughtless; careless; heedless; inconsiderate. **— un·think′ing·ly** *adv.* **— un·think′ing·ness** *n.*

un·thought-of (un·thôt′uv′) *adj.* **1.** Not remembered or called to mind. **2.** Not conceived of; not discovered.

un·thread (un·thred′) *v.t.* **1.** To remove the thread from, as a needle. **2.** To find one's way out of, as a maze.

un·ti·dy (un·tī′dē) *adj.* **·di·er, ·di·est** Showing lack of tidiness. [ME *untīdi*] **— un·ti′di·ly** *adv.* **— un·ti′di·ness** *n.*

un·tie (un·tī′) *v.* **·tied, ·ty·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To loosen or undo, as a knot. **2.** To free from restraint. **3.** To clear up or resolve. **—** *v.i.* **4.** To become untied. [OE *untīgan*]

un·til (un·til′) *prep.* **1.** Up to the time of; till: We will wait *until* midnight. **2.** Before: used with a negative: The music doesn't begin *until* nine. **—** *conj.* **1.** To the time when: *until* I die. **2.** To the place or degree that: Walk east *until* you reach the river. **3.** Before: with a negative: He couldn't leave *until* noon. [ME < *un-* up to, as far as + TILL]

un·time·ly (un·tīm′lē) *adj.* **1.** Before the proper or expected time; premature. **2.** At the wrong time; ill-timed. **—** *adv.* Inopportunely. **— un·time′li·ness** *n.*

un·to (un′tōō) *prep.* **1.** *Poetic & Archaic* To. **2.** *Archaic* Until. [ME *un-* up to, as far as + TO]

un·told (un·tōld′) *adj.* **1.** That cannot be revealed or described; inexpressible: *untold* misery. **2.** That cannot be numbered or estimated: *untold* numbers. **3.** Not told.

un·touch·a·ble (un·tuch′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Inaccessible to the touch; out of reach. **2.** Intangible; unrivaled; unapproachable. **3.** Forbidden to the touch. **4.** Unpleasant, vile, or dangerous to touch. **—** *n.* In India, a member of the lowest caste, whose touch was formerly counted as pollution by Hindus of higher station. **— un′touch·a·bil′i·ty** (-bil′ə·tē) *n.*

un·to·ward (un·tôrd′, -tōrd′) *adj.* **1.** Causing hindrance; vexatious. **2.** Refractory; perverse. **3.** Unseemly; uncouth. **— un·to′ward·ly** *adv.* **— un·to′ward·ness** *n.*

un·trod·den (un·trod′n) *adj.* Not having been trodden upon; also, unfrequented. Also **un·trod′.**

un·true (un·trōō′) *adj.* **1.** Lacking truth; not true; not corresponding with fact. **2.** Not conforming to rule or standard. **3.** Not faithful; disloyal. **— un·tru′ly** *adv.*

un·truss (un·trus′) *v.t.* **1.** To unfasten. **2.** *Obs.* To undress.

un·truth (un·trōōth′) *n.* *pl.* **·truths** (-trōōths′, -trōōthz′) **1.** The quality or character of being untrue; want of veracity. **2.** A lie. — **Syn.** See LIE². [OE *untréowth*]

un·truth·ful (un·trōōth′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Not truthful; untrue. **2.** Given to telling lies. — **un·truth′ful·ly** *adv.* — **un·truth′ful·ness** *n.*

un·tu·tored (un·tōō′tərd, -tyōō′-) *adj.* **1.** Having had no tutor or teacher. **2.** Naive; simple.

un·twine (un·twīn′) *v.* **·twined, ·twin·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To undo (something twined); unwind by disentangling. — *v.i.* **2.** To become untwined.

un·twist (un·twist′) *v.t. & v.i.* To unwind or untwine.

un·used (un·yōōzd′ *for def. 1*; un·yōōst′ *for def. 2*) *adj.* **1.** Not made use of; also, never having been used. **2.** Not accustomed or wont: with *to*.

un·u·su·al (un·yōō′zhōō·əl) *adj.* Not usual, common, or ordinary; rare. — **un·u′su·al·ly** *adv.* — **un·u′su·al·ness** *n.*

un·ut·ter·a·ble (un·ut′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Too great or deep for verbal expression; ineffable. **2.** Unpronounceable. — **un·ut′ter·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **un·ut′ter·a·bly** *adv.*

un·var·nished (un·vär′nisht) *adj.* **1.** Having no covering of varnish. **2.** Having no embellishment; plain.

un·veil (un·vāl′) *v.t.* **1.** To remove the veil from; reveal. — *v.i.* **2.** To remove one's veil; reveal oneself.

un·voiced (un·voist′) *adj.* **1.** Not expressed. **2.** *Phonet.* **a** Voiceless. **b** Rendered voiceless: The final (v) in "have" is often heard *unvoiced* in "have to."

un·war·y (un·wâr′ē) *adj.* Not careful or cautious; imprudent; rash; careless. — **un·war′i·ly** *adv.* — **un·war′i·ness** *n.*

un·well (un·wel′) *adj.* Not well; ailing; sick. — **Syn.** See SICK¹. — **un·well′ness** *n.*

un·wept (un·wept′) *adj.* **1.** Not lamented or wept for, as a deceased person. **2.** Not shed, as tears.

un·whole·some (un·hōl′səm) *adj.* **1.** Harmful to physical or mental health. **2.** Unsound in condition; diseased or decayed: *unwholesome* provisions. **3.** Suggestive of illness or disease: an *unwholesome* look. **4.** Morally bad; pernicious. — **un·whole′some·ly** *adv.* — **un·whole′some·ness** *n.*

un·wield·y (un·wēl′dē) *adj.* Moved or managed with difficulty, as from great size or awkward shape; bulky; clumsy. — **un·wield′i·ly** *adv.* — **un·wield′i·ness** *n.*

un·will·ing (un·wil′ing) *adj.* **1.** Not willing; reluctant; loath. **2.** Done, said, etc., with reluctance. — **un·will′ing·ly** *adv.* — **un·will′ing·ness** *n.*

un·wind (un·wīnd′) *v.* **·wound, ·wind·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To reverse the winding of; untwist or wind off; uncoil. **2.** To disentangle. — *v.i.* **3.** To become unwound.

un·wise (un·wīz′) *adj.* Showing a lack of wisdom; imprudent; foolish. [OE *unwīs*] — **un·wise′ly** *adv.*

un·wit·ting (un·wit′ing) *adj.* **1.** Having no knowledge or consciousness of the thing in question. **2.** Unintentional. [OE *unwitende*] — **un·wit′ting·ly** *adv.*

un·wont·ed (un·wun′tid, -won′-) *adj.* **1.** Not according to habit or custom; unusual. **2.** *Obs.* Not accustomed; unfamiliar. — **un·wont′ed·ly** *adv.* — **un·wont′ed·ness** *n.*

un·wor·thy (un·wûr′thē) *adj.* **1.** Not deserving: usu., with *of*. **2.** Not befitting or becoming: often with *of*; improper. **3.** Lacking worth or merit. **4.** Shameful; contemptible. — **un·wor′thi·ly** *adv.* — **un·wor′thi·ness** *n.*

un·wound (un·wound′) Past tense and past participle of UNWIND.

un·wrap (un·rap′) *v.* **·wrapped, ·wrap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To take the wrapping from. — *v.i.* **2.** To become unwrapped.

un·wrin·kle (un·ring′kəl) *v.t.* **·kled, ·kling** To free from wrinkles; smooth.

un·writ·ten (un·rit′n) *adj.* **1.** Not written or in writing. **2.** Not reduced to writing; traditional; customary. **3.** Having no writing upon it; blank.

unwritten law **1.** A rule or custom established by general usage. **2.** Common law (which see). **3.** A custom in some communities granting a measure of immunity to those who commit criminal acts of revenge in support of personal or family honor, esp., in cases of adultery, etc.

un·yoke (un·yōk′) *v.* **·yoked, ·yok·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To release from a yoke. **2.** To separate; part. — *v.i.* **3.** To become unyoked. **4.** To stop work; cease. [OE *ungeocian*]

up (up) *adv.* **1.** From a lower to a higher place, level, position, etc.: Come *up*. **2.** In, on, or to a higher place, level, position, etc. **3.** Toward that which is figuratively or conventionally higher; as: **a** To or at a higher price. **b** To or at a higher place, rank, etc. **c** To or at a greater size or amount: to swell *up*. **d** To or at a place that is locally or arbitrarily regarded as higher: *up* north. **e** Above the surface or horizon. **f** From an earlier to a later period. **g** To a source, conclusion, etc.: Follow *up* this lead. **4.** To a vertical position; standing; also, out of bed. **5.** So as to be compact or secure: Tie *up* the boxes. **6.** So as to be even with in space, time, degree, etc.: *up* to date. **7.** In or into an excited state or some specific action: They were stirred *up* to mutiny. **8.** In or into view or existence: to draw *up* a will. **9.** In or into prominence; under consideration: *up* for debate. **10.** In or into a place of safekeeping; aside: Fruits are put *up* in jars. **11.** At an end: Your time is *up*. **12.** Completely; totally: The house was burned *up*. **13.** In baseball and cricket, at bat. **14.** In tennis and other sports: **a** In the lead; ahead. **b** Apiece; alike: said of a score. **15.** Running for as a candidate. **16.** *Naut.* Shifted to windward, as a tiller. ◆ In informal usage *up* is often added to a verb without affecting the meaning of the sentence: to light *up* a room. — **to be all up with** To be all over for. — **to be up against** *Informal* To meet with; confront. — **to be up against it** *Informal* To be in difficulty. — **to be up in** (or **on**) *Informal* To be well informed in or skilled at something. — **to be up to** **1.** *Informal* To be doing or plotting. **2.** To be equal to; be capable of. **3.** To be incumbent upon; be dependent upon: It's *up* to him to save us. — *adj.* **1.** Moving, sloping, or directed upward. **2.** At stake, as in gambling. **3.** *Informal* Going on; taking place: What's *up*? **4.** *Informal* Acquainted (with), equal (to): He is *up* in that subject. **5.** In golf, in advance of an opponent by a specified number of holes. **6.** Rising, risen, overflowing, or at flood. **7.** In an active or excited state: His temper was *up*. — **up and around** *Informal* Sufficiently recovered to walk. — **up to no good** Engaged in or contemplating some mischief. — *prep.* **1.** From a lower to a higher point or place of, on, or along. **2.** Toward a higher condition or rank on or in. **3.** To or at a point farther above or along: *up* the road. **4.** From the coast toward the interior of (a country). **5.** From the mouth toward the source of (a river). **6.** At, on, or near the height or top of. — *n.* **1.** A rise or ascent. **2.** A period of prosperity, etc.: chiefly in the phrase **ups and downs.** — **to be on the up and up** **1.** *Slang* To be honest. **2.** *Informal* Rising and improving. — *v.* **upped, up·ping** *Informal v.t.* **1.** To increase. **2.** To put or take up. — *v.i.* **3.** To rise. [OE *úp*]

up- *combining form* As a combining element *up* has adverbial force with various meanings: **1.** To a higher place or level, as in: **upgaze, uprise.** **2.** To a greater size or larger amount, as in: **upflooding, upswell.** **3.** To a vertical position, as in: **upprop, upstand.** **4.** In or into commotion or activity, as in: **upboil, upstir.** **5.** Completely; wholly, as in: **upbind, upgather.**

up-and-com·ing (up′ən·kum′ing) *adj.* Enterprising; energetic; promising.

up-and-down (up′ən·doun′) *adj.* **1.** Alternately rising and falling; fluctuating; varying: an *up-and-down* motion; an *up-and-down* career. **2.** Vertical; perpendicular.

u·pas (yōō′pəs) *n.* **1.** A tall evergreen Javanese tree of the mulberry family, having an acrid, poisonous sap. **2.** This sap. [< Malay (*pohon*) *upas* poison (tree)]

up·beat (up′bēt′) *n.* *Music* The relatively unaccented beat that precedes the downbeat. — *adj.* *Slang* Characterized by a lively, swinging rhythm.

up·braid (up·brād′) *v.t.* **1.** To reproach for some wrongdoing; scold or reprove. — *v.i.* **2.** To utter reproaches. [OE < *up-* up + *bregdan* to weave, twist] — **up·braid′er** *adj.* — **up·braid′ing** *n.* — **up·braid′ing·ly** *adv.*

up·bring·ing (up′bring′ing) *n.* The rearing and training received by a person during childhood.

up·coun·try (*n. & adj.* up′kun′trē; *adv.* up′kun′trē) *Informal n.* Country remote from the coast or from lowlands; inland country. — *adj.* Living in, from, or characteristic of inland places. — *adv.* In or toward the interior.

up·date (up·dāt′) *v.t.* **·dat·ed, ·dat·ing** To bring up to date; to revise, with corrections, additions, etc., as a textbook.

up·end (up′end′) *v.t. & v.i.* To set or stand on end.

up·grade (*n.* up′grād′; *v.* up·grād′; *adv.* up′grād′) *n.* An upward incline or slope. — *v.t.* **·grad·ed, ·grad·ing** To raise to a higher grade, rank, post, etc. — *adv.* Up a hill or slope. — **on the upgrade** **1.** Improving. **2.** Rising.

up·heav·al (up·hē′vəl) *n.* **1.** The act of upheaving, or the state of being upheaved. **2.** A violent disturbance or change.

up·heave (up·hēv′) *v.* **·heaved** or **·hove, ·heav·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To heave or raise up. — *v.i.* **2.** To be raised or lifted.

up·held (up·held′) Past tense and past participle of UPHOLD.

up·hill (*adv. & adj.* up′hil′; *n.* up′hil′) *adv.* Up or as up a hill or an ascent; against difficulties. — *adj.* **1.** Going up an ascent; sloping upward. **2.** Attended with difficulty or exertion. **3.** At a high place. — *n.* An upward slope.

up·hold (up·hōld′) *v.t.* **·held, ·hold·ing** **1.** To hold up; raise. **2.** To keep from falling. **3.** To support; agree with; encourage. **4.** To regard with approval. — **up·hold′er** *n.*

up·hol·ster (up·hōl′stər) *v.t.* To fit, as furniture, with coverings, cushioning, etc. [Back formation < UPHOLSTERER]

up·hol·ster·er (up·hōl′stər·ər) *n.* One who upholsters. [alter. of < ME *upholder* tradesman]

up·hol·ster·y (up·hōl′stər·ē, -strē) *n.* *pl.* **·ster·ies** **1.** Fabric and fittings used in upholstering. **2.** The act, art, or business of upholstering.

up·keep (up′kēp′) *n.* The act or state of maintaining something; also, the cost of maintenance.

up·land (up′lənd, -land′) *n.* **1.** The higher portions of a region, district, farm, etc. **2.** The country in the interior. — *adj.* Pertaining to or situated in an upland.

up·lift (*v.* up·lift′; *adj.*, *n.* up′lift′) *v.t.* **1.** To lift up; elevate. **2.** To raise the tone of; put on a higher plane, mentally or morally. — *n.* **1.** The act of raising, or the fact of being raised. **2.** A movement upward. **3.** Mental or spiritual stimulation or elevation. **4.** A movement aiming to improve the condition of the underprivileged. **5.** A brassiere designed to lift and support the breasts. — **up·lift′er** *n.*

up·most (up′mōst′) *adj.* Uppermost.

up·on (ə·pon′, ə·pôn′) *prep.* On, in all its meanings. — *adv.* On: completing a verbal idea: The paper has been written *upon*. [ME]

◆ **upon, on** *Upon* now differs little in use from *on*, the former being sometimes used for reasons of euphony and also when motion into position is involved. When *upon* means *up* and *on*, it is written as two words: Let's go *up on* the roof.

up·per (up′ər) *adj.* **1.** Higher than something else; being above. **2.** Higher or further inland in location, place, etc. **3.** Higher in station, rank, dignity, etc.; superior. — **to get the upper hand** To get the advantage. — *n.* **1.** That part of a boot or shoe above the sole; the vamp. **2.** *Informal* An upper berth. — **on one's uppers** *Informal* **1.** Having worn out the soles of one's shoes. **2.** At the end of one's resources; destitute. [ME, orig. compar. of UP]

Up·per (up′ər) *adj. Geol.* Designating a later period or a later formation of a specified period: the *Upper* Cambrian.

upper berth The top berth in a ship, railroad sleeping car, etc., where two bunks or beds are built one above the other.

up·per-brack·et (up′ər·brak′it) *adj.* Of or belonging to a higher bracket or level: an *upper-bracket* income.

upper case *Printing* **1.** Type for capital letters. See CASE². **2.** The capital letters of the alphabet.

up·per-case (up′ər·kās′) *Printing adj.* Of, in, or indicating capital letters, as distinguished from small letters. — *v.t.* **·cased, ·cas·ing** To set as or change to capital letters.

upper class The socially or economically superior group in society. — **up′per-class′** (up′ər·klas′, -kläs′) *adj.*

up·per-class·man (up′ər·klas′mən, -kläs′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A junior or senior in a school or college.

up·per-cut (up′ər·kut′) *n.* In boxing, a swinging blow upward, delivered under or inside the opponent's guard. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·cut, ·cut·ting** To strike with an uppercut.

upper hand Advantage: to get the *upper hand*.

Upper House The branch, in a bicameral legislature, where membership is usu., smaller and more restricted, as the British House of Lords. Also **upper house.**

up·per·most (up′ər·mōst′) *adj.* **1.** Highest in place, rank, authority, influence, etc. **2.** First to come into the mind: one's *uppermost* thoughts. Also *upmost*. — *adv.* In the highest place, rank, authority, etc.; also, first, as in time.

up·pish (up′ish) *adj. Informal* Inclined to be self-assertive, pretentious, or snobbish. Also **up·pi·ty** (up′ə·tē). — **up′·pish·ly** *adv.* — **up′pish·ness** *n.*

up·raise (up·rāz′) *v.t.* **·raised, ·rais·ing** To lift up; elevate.

up·right (up′rit′) *adj.* **1.** Being in a vertical position; straight up; erect. **2.** Just and honest. — *n.* **1.** Something having a vertical position, as an upright piano. **2.** The state of being upright. **3.** In football, one of the goal posts. — *adv.* In an upright position; vertically. [OE < *ūp-* up + *riht* right] — **up′right′ly** *adv.* — **up′right′ness** *n.*

upright piano A piano smaller than a grand piano, having strings arranged vertically in a rectangular case.

up·ris·ing (up·rī′zing, up′rī′zing) *n.* **1.** The act of rising. **2.** A revolt or insurrection. **3.** An ascent; a slope.

up·roar (up′rôr′, -rōr′) *n.* A violent disturbance, noise, or tumult. [< Du. < *op-* up + *roeren* to stir]

up·roar·i·ous (up·rôr′ē·əs, -rō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Accompanied by or making an uproar. **2.** Loud and noisy; tumultuous. **3.** Very funny: an *uproarious* play. — **up·roar′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **up·roar′i·ous·ness** *n.*

up·root (up·rōōt′, -rŏŏt′) *v.t.* **1.** To tear up by the roots. **2.** To destroy utterly; eradicate. — **up·root′er** *n.*

up·set (*v.* up·set′; *adj.* up·set′, up′set′; *n.* up′set′) *v.* **·set, ·set·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To overturn. **2.** To throw into confusion or disorder. **3.** To disconcert, derange, or disquiet. **4.** To defeat, esp., unexpectedly. — *v.i.* **5.** To become overturned. — *adj.* **1.** Tipped or turned over. **2.** Mentally or physically disturbed or ill. **3.** Confused; disordered. — *n.* **1.** The act of upsetting, or the state of being upset. **2.** *Informal* An unexpected defeat. **3.** A mental or physical disturbance or disorder. — **up·set′ter** *n.*

up·shot (up′shot′) *n.* The final outcome; result.

up·side (up′sīd′) *n.* The upper side or part.

up·side-down (up′sīd′doun′) *adj.* Having the upper side down; in disorder. — *adv.* With the upper side down. Also **upside down.** [< ME *up so down* up as if down]

up·si·lon (yōōp′sə·lon, up′sə·lon, *Brit.* yōōp·sī′lən) *n.* The twentieth letter and sixth vowel in the Greek alphabet (Υ, υ). See ALPHABET, Y. [< Gk. < *u* u + *psilon* smooth]

up·stage (up′stāj′) *adj.* **1.** Of the back half of a stage. **2.** *Informal* Haughty; supercilious. — *adv.* Toward or on the back of a stage. — *v.t.* **·staged, ·stag·ing 1.** To steal a scene from. **2.** *Informal* To treat in a haughty manner.

up·stairs (up′stârz′) *adj.* Pertaining to an upper story. — *n.* An upper story; esp., the part of a building above the ground floor. — *adv.* In, to, or toward an upper story. — **to kick upstairs** To promote so as to get out of the way.

up·stand·ing (up·stan′ding) *adj.* **1.** Honest; upright; straightforward. **2.** Standing up; erect.

up·start (*v.* up·stärt′; *adj. & n.* up′stärt′) *v.i.* To start or spring up suddenly. — *adj.* **1.** Suddenly raised to prominence, wealth, or power. **2.** Characteristic of an upstart; vulgar; pretentious. — *n.* **1.** One who or that which springs up suddenly. **2.** One who has suddenly risen from a humble position to one of wealth or importance and is usu. arrogant in tone or bearing.

up·state (up′stāt′) *U.S. adj.* Of, from, or designating that part of a State lying outside, usu. north, of the principal city. — *n.* The outlying, usu. northern, sections of a State. — *adv.* In or toward such sections. — **up′stat′er** *n.*

up·stream (up′strēm′) *adv.* Toward or at the source or upper part of a stream; against the current.

up·stretched (up′stretcht′) *adj.* Stretched or extended upward: *upstretched* arms.

up·stroke (up′strōk′) *n.* An upward stroke, as of a pen.

up·surge (*v.* up·sûrj′; *n.* up′sûrj′) *v.i.* **·surged, ·surg·ing** To surge up. — *n.* A surge or swell upward.

up·sweep (*n.* up′swēp′; *v.* up·swēp′) *n.* A sweeping up or upward; esp., a hairdo that is swept upward smoothly in the back and piled high on the top of the head. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·swept, ·sweep·ing** To brush or sweep upward or up.

up·swing (*n.* up′swing′; *v.* up·swing′) *n.* **1.** A swinging upward. **2.** An improvement. — *v.i.* **·swung, ·swing·ing 1.** To swing upward. **2.** To improve.

up·take (up′tāk′) *n.* **1.** The act of lifting or taking up. **2.** A boiler flue that unites the combustion gases and carries them toward the smokestack. **3.** An upward ventilating shaft in a mine. — **to be on** (or **in**) **the uptake** *Informal* To demonstrate mental comprehension or perception.

up·throw (up′thrō′) *n.* **1.** A throwing upward; an upheaval. **2.** *Geol.* An upward displacement of the rock on one side of a fault.

up·thrust (up′thrust′) *n.* **1.** An upward thrust. **2.** *Geol.* An upheaval of rocks in the earth's crust.

up·tight (up′tīt′) *adj. U.S. Slang* Uneasy, anxious, or tense; nervous. Also **up′-tight′, up tight.**

up-to-date (up′tə·dāt′) *adj.* **1.** Having the latest information, improvements, etc. **2.** Modern in manner.

up to date To the present time.

up·town (up′toun′) *adv.* In or toward the upper part of a town. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or resident in the upper part of a town or city, or the part that is regarded as the upper part. — *n.* The upper part of a town or city.

up·turn (*v.* up·tûrn′; *n.* up′tûrn′) *v.t.* **1.** To turn up or over, as sod with the plow. **2.** To overturn; upset. — *n.* A turning upward; an increase; an improvement.

up·ward (up′wərd) *adv.* **1.** In, to, or toward a higher place or position. **2.** To or toward the source, origin, etc.: to trace a stream *upward*. **3.** Toward a higher rank, amount, age, etc. **4.** Toward that which is better, nobler, etc. **5.** In excess; more. Also **up′wards.** — **upward** (or **upwards**) **of** Higher than; in excess of. — *adj.* In, on, turned, or directed toward a higher place. — **up′ward·ly** *adv.*

ur-¹ Var. of URO-¹.

ur-² Var. of URO-².

Ur (ûr) An ancient city of Sumer, southern Mesopotamia, the site of which is on the Euphrates in SE Iraq. Old Testament **Ur of the Chal·dees** (kal·dēz′, kal′dēz).

u·rae·mi·a (yōō·rē′mē·ə), **u·rae·mic** (yōō·rē′mik) See UREMIA, etc.

U·ral-Al·ta·ic (yōōr′əl·al·tā′ik) *n.* A hypothesized family of languages comprising the Uralic and Altaic subfamilies. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Ural and Altai mountain ranges. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or designating the Ural-Altaic languages or the peoples speaking these languages.

U·ral·ic (yōō·ral′ik) *n.* A family of languages comprising the Finno-Ugric and Samoyedic subfamilies: sometimes classified with Altaic in a Ural-Altaic family. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to this family. Also **U·ra·li·an** (yōō·rā′lē·ən).

u·ra·nal·y·sis (yōōr′ə·nal′ə·sis) See URINALYSIS.

U·ra·ni·a (yōō·rā′nē·ə) The Muse of astronomy. [< L < Gk. *ouranos* heaven]

U·ra·ni·an (yōō·rā′nē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the planet Uranus. **2.** Celestial.

u·ra·ni·um (yŏŏ·rā′nē·əm) *n.* A heavy, white, radioactive, metallic element (symbol U), found only in combination. It is important in the generation of atomic energy. See ELEMENT. [< URANUS]

urano- *combining form Astron.* The heavens; of or pertaining to the heavens, or to celestial bodies. Also, before vowels, **uran-**. [< Gk. *ouranos* heaven]

U·ra·nus (yŏŏr′ə·nəs) In Greek mythology, the son and husband of Gaea (Earth) and father of the Titans, Furies, and Cyclopes, overthrown by his son Cronus. — *n.* The third largest planet of the solar system and seventh in order from the sun. See PLANET. [< L < Gk. < *ouranos* heaven]

u·ra·re (yŏŏ·rä′rē) *n.* Curare. Also **u·ra′ri**. [Var. of CURARE]

ur·ban (ûr′bən) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, characteristic of, including, or constituting a city. **2.** Situated or dwelling in a city. [< L *urbanus*. See URBANE.]

urban district An administrative subdivision of a county of England, Wales, or Northern Ireland, usu. comprising several thickly populated communities.

ur·bane (ûr·bān′) *adj.* Characterized by or having refinement or elegance, esp. in manner; suave. [< L *urbs, urbis* city] — **ur·bane′ly** *adv.* — **ur·bane′ness** *n.*

ur·ban·ism (ûr′bən·iz′əm) *n.* The character or condition of the life of people living in urban areas.

ur·ban·i·ty (ûr·ban′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The character or quality of being urbane; refined or elegant courtesy. **2.** *pl.* Amenities or courtesies. [< F or L < *urbs, urbis* city]

ur·ban·ize (ûr′bən·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To render urban, as in character or manner. — **ur′ban·i·za′tion** *n.*

urban renewal The planned upgrading of a deteriorating urban area, usu. using public funds and coordinated by a local government agency.

ur·chin (ûr′chin) *n.* **1.** A roguish, mischievous boy. **2.** A cylinder in a carding machine. **3.** A sea urchin. [ME < OF < L *ericius* hedgehog < *er* hedgehog]

Ur·du (ŏŏr′dōō, ŏŏr·dōō′, ûr′dōō) *n.* A variety of Hindustani spoken by Moslems in India, containing many Persian and Arabic elements and written in a Persian-Arabic script: the official language of Pakistan. [< Hind. < Turkish *ordū* camp < Persian *urdū*]

-ure *suffix of nouns* **1.** The act, process, or result of: *pressure.* **2.** The function, rank, or office of: *prefecture.* **3.** The means or instrument of: *ligature.* [< F < L *-ura*]

u·re·a (yŏŏ·rē′ə) *n. Biochem.* A colorless crystalline compound, $CO(NH_2)_2$, formed in the body, and also made synthetically, used in medicine and in the making of plastics and fertilizers. [< NL < F < Gk. *ouron*] — **u·re′al** *adj.*

u·re·mi·a (yŏŏ·rē′mē·ə) *n. Pathol.* A condition of the blood due to the presence of urinary constituents ordinarily excreted by the kidneys. Also *uraemia.* — **u·re′mic** *adj.*

-uret *suffix Chem.* Used to denote a compound: now replaced by *-ide.* [< F < *-ure.* See -URE.]

u·re·ter (yŏŏ·rē′tər) *n. Anat.* The duct by which urine passes from the kidney to the bladder or the cloaca. For illus. see KIDNEY. [< NL < Gk. < *ourein* to urinate] — **u·re′ter·al, u·re·ter·ic** (yŏŏr′ə·ter′ik) *adj.*

u·re·thra (yŏŏ·rē′thrə) *n. Anat.* The duct by which urine is discharged from the bladder of most mammals, and which, in males, carries the seminal discharge. — **u·re′thral** *adj.*

urethro- *combining form Med.* The urethra; of or pertaining to the urethra. Also, before vowels, **urethr-**. [< Gk. *ourēthra* the urethra]

u·ret·ic (yŏŏ·ret′ik) *adj. Med.* Of or pertaining to the urine; urinary. [< LL *ureticus* < Gk. *ourētikos* < *ouron* urine]

urge (ûrj) *v.* **urged, urg·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To drive or force forward; impel; push. **2.** To plead with or entreat earnestly, as with arguments or explanations. **3.** To press or argue the doing, consideration, or acceptance of. **4.** To move or force to some course or action. **5.** To stimulate or excite. **6.** To ply or use vigorously, as oars. — *v.i.* **7.** To present or press arguments, claims, etc. **8.** To exert an impelling or prompting force. — **Syn.** See ACTUATE. — *n.* **1.** A strong impulse to perform a certain act. **2.** The act of urging; the state of being urged. [< L *urgere* to drive, urge]

ur·gen·cy (ûr′jən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The quality of being urgent. **2.** Pressure by entreaty; pressure of necessity. **3.** The act of urging. **4.** Something urgent.

ur·gent (ûr′jənt) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by urging or importunity; requiring prompt attention; pressing. **2.** Eagerly importunate or insistent. — **ur′gent·ly** *adv.*

-urgy *combining form* Development of or work with a (specified) material or product: *metallurgy, chemurgy.* [< Gk. *-ourgia* < *ergon* work]

-uria *combining form Pathol.* A (specified) condition of the urine: usu. used to indicate disease or abnormality. [< NL < Gk. *-ouria* < *ouron* urine]

U·ri·ah (yŏŏ·rī′ə) A Hittite captain in the Israelite army, husband of Bathsheba, treacherously sent to his death by David, II *Sam.* xi 15–17.

u·ric (yŏŏr′ik) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or derived from urine.

uric acid *Biochem.* A colorless dibasic acid, $C_5H_4N_4O_3$, of varying crystalline forms and slight solubility, found in the urine of man and animals and, in man, forming the nucleus of most urinary and renal calculi.

u·ri·nal (yŏŏr′ə·nəl) *n.* **1.** An upright wall fixture with facilities for flushing, for men's use in urination; also the room containing such a fixture. **2.** A glass receptacle for urine.

u·ri·nal·y·sis (yŏŏr′ə·nal′ə·sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** (-sēz) Chemical analysis of the urine: also spelled *uranalysis.*

u·ri·nar·y (yŏŏr′ə·ner′ē) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or involved in the production and excretion of urine: the *urinary* organs. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** **1.** A reservoir for storing urine, etc., for use as manure. **2.** A urinal.

u·ri·nate (yŏŏr′ə·nāt) *v.i.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** To void or pass urine. [< Med.L *urinatus*, pp. of *urinare* to pass urine < *urina* urine] — **u′ri·na′tion** *n.*

u·rine (yŏŏr′in) *n.* A liquid containing body wastes, secreted by the kidneys, stored in the bladder, and voided through the urethra. [< F < L *urina*]

urino- *combining form* Urine. Also, before vowels, **urin-**, as in *urinalysis.* [< L *urina* urine]

u·ri·no·gen·i·tal (yŏŏr′ə·nō·jen′ə·təl) *adj.* Urogenital.

u·ri·nos·co·py (yŏŏr′ə·nos′kə·pē) *n. pl.* **·pies** *Med.* Uroscopy.

u·ri·nous (yŏŏr′ə·nəs) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, containing, or resembling urine. Also **u′ri·nose** (-nōs).

urn (ûrn) *n.* **1.** A rounded or angular vase having a foot, variously used in antiquity as a receptacle for the ashes of the dead, a water vessel, etc. **2.** A vessel for preserving the ashes of the dead. **3.** In ancient Rome, a receptacle used to hold lots drawn in voting. **4.** A vase-shaped receptacle having a faucet, and designed for keeping tea, coffee, etc., hot, as by means of a spirit lamp. [< L *urna*]

uro-[1] *combining form* Urine; pertaining to urine or to the urinary tract: *urology.* Also, before vowels, *ur-*. [< Gk. *ouron* urine]

uro-[2] *combining form* A tail; of or related to the tail; caudal. Also, before vowels, *ur-*. [< Gk. *oura* tail]

u·ro·gen·i·tal (yŏŏr′ō·jen′ə·təl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the urinary and genital organs and their functions.

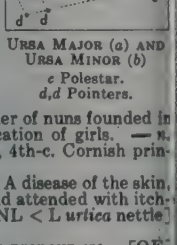
u·rol·o·gy (yŏŏ·rol′ə·jē) *n.* The branch of medicine that deals with the urine and the genitourinary tract. — **u·ro·log·ic** (yŏŏr′ə·loj′ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **u·rol′o·gist** *n.*

u·ros·co·py (yŏŏ·ros′kə·pē) *n. pl.* **·pies** *Med.* Diagnosis by examination of the urine: also *urinoscopy.* — **u·ro·scop·ic** (yŏŏr′ə·skop′ik) *adj.* — **u·ros′co·pist** *n.*

ur·sa (ûr′sə) *n. Latin* A she-bear: used in the phrases *Ursa Major* and *Ursa Minor.*

Ursa Major A constellation, the Great Bear, containing seven bright stars: also called *Big Dipper, Charles's Wain.* [< L]

Ursa Minor A constellation, the Lesser Bear, containing the polestar Polaris: also called *Cynosure, Little Bear, Little Dipper.* [< L]



URSA MAJOR (*a*) AND URSA MINOR (*b*)
c Polestar.
d,d Pointers.

ur·sine (ûr′sīn, -sin) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or like a bear. **2.** Clothed with dense bristles, as certain caterpillars. [< L *ursinus* < *ursus* bear]

Ur·su·line (ûr′syə·lin, -sə-, -līn) *adj.* Pertaining to Saint Ursula or to an order of nuns founded in 1537, and engaged chiefly in the education of girls. — *n.* An Ursuline nun. [after Saint *Ursula*, 4th-c. Cornish princess and martyr]

ur·ti·car·i·a (ûr′tə·kâr′ē·ə) *n. Pathol.* A disease of the skin, characterized by transient eruptions and attended with itching. Also called *hives, nettle rash.* [< NL < L *urtica* nettle] — **ur′ti·car′i·al** or **·i·ous** *adj.*

us (us) *pron.* The objective case of the pronoun *we.* [OE]

us·a·ble (yōō′zə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being used. **2.** That can be used conveniently. Also **use′a·ble.** — **us′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **us′a·bly** *adv.*

us·age (yōō′sij, -zij) *n.* **1.** The manner of using or treating a person or thing; treatment; also, the act of using. **2.** Customary or habitual practice, or something permitted by it or done in accordance with it. **3.** Uniform practice. **4.** The customary way of using words, sounds, and grammatical forms in a language. **5.** A particular verbal or written expression or application of such an expression: a contemptuous *usage.*

us·ance (yōō′zəns) *n.* **1.** A period of time, variable as between various countries, that, by commercial usage, is allowed, exclusive of days of grace, for payment of bills of exchange, esp. foreign. **2.** *Econ.* An income derived from the possession of wealth, as by investment.

use (*v.* yōōz; *n.* yōōs) *v.* **used** (yōōzd; yōōst *for defs. 5, 7*), **us·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To employ for the accomplishment of a purpose; make use of. **2.** To put into practice or employ habitually; make a practice of: to *use* diligence in business. **3.** To expend the whole of; consume: often with *up.* **4.** To conduct

oneself toward; treat: to *use* one badly. **5.** To make familiar by habit or practice; inure: now only in the past participle: He is *used* to exposure. **6.** To partake of; smoke or chew: He does not *use* tobacco. — *v.i.* **7.** To do something customarily or habitually: now only in the past tense as an auxiliary to form a phrase equivalent to a frequentative past tense: I *used* to go there. — *n.* **1.** The act of using; the fact or condition of being employed. **2.** Suitableness or adaptability to an end: the *uses* of adversity. **3.** Way or manner of using. **4.** Occasion or need to employ; purpose. **5.** Habitual practice or employment; custom. **6.** Any special form, ceremony, or ritual, or any individual service that arose in or was perpetuated by a church, diocese, or branch of a church: Roman *use*. **7.** *Law* The permanent equitable right that a beneficiary has to the enjoyment of the rents and profits of lands and tenements of which the legal title and possession are vested in another in trust for the beneficiary. — **to have no use for** **1.** To have no need **of.** **2.** *Informal* To have a contempt or dislike for; want nothing to do with. [< OF < L *usus*, pp. of *uti* to use]

use·ful (yōōs′fəl) *adj.* Serviceable; serving a use or purpose, esp. a valuable one. — **use′ful·ly** *adv.* — **use′ful·ness** *n.*

use·less (yōōs′lis) *adj.* **1.** Unserviceable; being of no use; not capable of serving any beneficial purpose. **2.** Futile; in vain. — **use′less·ly** *adv.* — **use′less·ness** *n.*

us·er (yōō′zər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which uses. **2.** *Law* The exercise or enjoyment of a right.

ush·er (ush′ər) *n.* **1.** One who acts as doorkeeper, as of a court or other assembly room. **2.** An officer whose duty it is to introduce strangers or walk before a person of rank. **3.** One who conducts persons to seats, etc., as in a church or theater. **4.** *Brit.* An assistant or subordinate teacher in a school. — *v.t.* **1.** To act as an usher to; escort; conduct. **2.** To precede as a harbinger; be a forerunner of: usu. with *in*. [< OF < L *ostiarius* doorkeeper < *ostium* door]

ush·er·ette (ush′ə·ret′) *n.* A female usher, as in a theater.

us·nic acid (us′nik) A yellow, crystalline substance, $C_{18}H_{16}O_7$, derived from lichens, used as an antibiotic.

u·su·al (yōō′zhōō·əl) *adj.* Such as occurs in the ordinary course of events; frequent; common. [< OF < LL < L *usus* use] — **u′su·al·ly** *adv.* — **u′su·al·ness** *n.*.

u·su·fruct (yōō′zyōō·frukt, yōō′syōō-) *n. Law* The right of using the property of another and of drawing the profits it produces without wasting its substance. [< LL < L < *usus et fructus* use and fruit]

u·su·fruc·tu·ar·y (yōō′zyōō·fruk′chōō·er′ē, yōō′syōō-) *n. pl.* **·ar·ies** One who holds property for use by usufruct, as a tenant. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to a usufruct.

u·su·rer (yōō′zhər·ər) *n.* One who practices usury; one who lends money, esp. at an exorbitant or illegal rate.

u·su·ri·ous (yōō·zhōōr′ē·əs) *adj.* Practicing usury; having the nature of usury. — **u·su′ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **u·su′ri·ous·ness** *n.*

u·surp (yōō·zûrp′, -sûrp′) *v.t.* **1.** To seize and hold (the office, rights, or powers of another) without right or legal authority; take possession of by force. **2.** To take arrogantly, as if by right. — *v.i.* **3.** To practice usurpation; encroach: with *on* or *upon*. [< OF < L, ? < *usus* use + *rapere* to seize] — **u·surp′er** *n.* — **u·surp′ing·ly** *adv.*

u·sur·pa·tion (yōō′zər·pā′shən, -sər-) *n.* The act of usurping: said esp. of unlawful or forcible seizure of kingly power.

u·su·ry (yōō′zhər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** The act or practice of exacting a rate of interest beyond what is allowed by law. **2.** A premium paid for the use of money beyond the rate of interest established by law. [< OF < L < *usus* used]

ut (ōōt) *n. Music* The first syllable in the Guido solmization system: now commonly *do*. [See GAMUT.]

Ute (yōōt, yōō′tē) *n.* One of a group of tribes of North American Indians of Shoshonean stock living in Colorado and Utah.

u·ten·sil (yōō·ten′səl) *n.* A vessel, tool, implement, etc., serving a useful purpose, esp. for domestic or farming use. [< OF < L *utensilis* fit for use < *utens*, ppr. of *uti* to use]

u·ter·ine (yōō′tər·in, -īn) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to the uterus. **2.** Born of the same mother, but having a different father. [< LL *uterinus* born of the same mother]

utero- *combining form* The uterus; of or pertaining to the uterus. Also, before vowels, **uter-**. [< L *uterus* uterus]

u·ter·us (yōō′tər·əs) *n. pl.* **u·ter·i** (yōō′tər·ī) *Anat.* The organ of a female mammal in which the young are protected and developed before birth; the womb. [< L]

u·tile (yōō′til) *adj. Rare* Useful. [< OF < L *uti* to use]

u·til·i·dor (yōō·til′i·dôr) *n. Canadian* A system of pipes, cables, etc., raised and insulated to provide utilities to communities on the permafrost.

u·til·i·tar·i·an (yōō·til′ə·târ′ē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Relating to utility; esp., placing utility above beauty or the amenities of life. **2.** Pertaining to or advocating utilitarianism. — *n.* **1.** An advocate of utilitarianism. **2.** One devoted to mere material utility.

u·til·i·tar·i·an·ism (yōō·til′ə·târ′ē·ən·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** *Philos.* **a** The doctrine that actions derive their moral quality from their usefulness as means to some end, as happiness. **b** The ethical theory, held by Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, that the greatest human happiness determines the highest moral good. **2.** Devotion to mere material interests.

u·til·i·ty (yōō·til′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Fitness for some desirable, practical purpose; also, that which is necessary. **2.** Fitness to supply the natural needs of man. **3.** A public service, as gas, water, etc. **4.** *pl.* Shares of utility company stocks. **5.** In utilitarianism, the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. [< F < L *utilis* useful]

u·til·ize (yōō′təl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make useful; turn to practical account; make use of. Also *Brit.* **u′til·ise.** — **u′til·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **u′til·i·za′tion** *n.* — **u′til·iz′er** *n.*

ut·most (ut′mōst) *adj.* **1.** Of the highest degree or the largest amount or number; greatest. **2.** Being at the farthest limit or point. — *n.* The greatest possible extent; the most possible. Also *uttermost*. [OE *ūtmest, ȳtemest*]

U·to-Az·tec·an (yōō′tō·az′tek·ən) *n.* **1.** One of the chief stocks of North and Central American Indians, formerly occupying two large regions of the NW and SW U.S., comprising three branches (Shoshonean, Piman, and Nahuatlan) and embracing about fifty tribes, still surviving in the U.S. and Mexico. **2.** The family of languages spoken by these peoples. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Uto-Aztecans or their languages.

u·to·pi·a (yōō·tō′pē·ə) *n.* **1.** Any state, condition, or place of ideal perfection. **2.** A visionary, impractical scheme for social improvement. [after *Utopia*]

U·to·pi·a (yōō·tō′pē·ə) An imaginary island described as the seat of a perfect social and political life in a romance by Sir Thomas More, published in 1516. [< NL < Gk. *ou* not + *topos* place] — **U·to′pi·an** *n.* & *adj.*

u·to·pi·an (yōō·tō′pē·ən) *adj.* Excellent, but existing only in fancy or theory; ideal. — *n.* One who advocates impractical reforms; a visionary. — **u·to′pi·an·ism** *n.*

u·tri·cle (yōō′tri·kəl) *n. Anat.* The larger of two saclike cavities found in the bony vestibule of the inner ear. [< L *utriculus*, dim. of *uter* skin bag]

u·tric·u·lar (yōō·trik′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Resembling a utricle or small sac. **2.** Bladderlike; bearing or provided with utricles. Also **u·tric′u·late** (-lit, -lāt).

ut·ter[1] (ut′ər) *v.t.* **1.** To give out or send forth with audible sound; say. **2.** *Law* To put in circulation; now, esp. to deliver or offer (something forged or counterfeit) to another. [ME *outre*, freq. of obs. *out* to say, speak out < OE *ūt*] — **ut′ter·a·ble** *adj.* — **ut′ter·er** *n.*

ut·ter[2] (ut′ər) *adj.* **1.** Absolute; total: *utter* misery. **2.** Being or done without conditions or qualifications; final; absolute: *utter* denial. [OE *ūtera*, orig. compar. of *ūt* out]

ut·ter·ance (ut′ər·əns) *n.* **1.** The act of uttering; vocal expression; manner of speaking; also, the power of speech. **2.** A thing uttered or expressed. **3.** *Ling.* Any stretch of speech capable of being isolated from the flow of connected discourse, as a word, phrase, or sentence.

ut·ter·ly (ut′ər·lē) *adv.* Thoroughly; entirely.

ut·ter·most (ut′ər·mōst′) *adj.* & *n.* Utmost.

U-turn (yōō′tûrn′) *n. Informal* A continuous turn that reverses the direction of a vehicle on a road.

u·vu·la (yōō′vyə·lə) *n. pl.* **·las** or **·lae** (-lē) *Anat.* The pendent fleshy portion of the soft palate. For illus. see MOUTH, THROAT. [< LL, dim. of *uva* grape]

u·vu·lar (yōō′vyə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or of the uvula. **2.** *Phonet.* Produced by vibration of, or with the back of the tongue near or against, the uvula. — *n. Phonet.* A uvular sound.

ux·o·ri·al (uk·sôr′ē·əl, -sō′rē-, ug·zôr′ē·əl, -zō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, characteristic of, or becoming to a wife. **2.** Uxorious. [< L *uxor* wife]

ux·o·ri·ous (uk·sôr′ē·əs, -sō′rē- ug·zôr′ē-, -zō′rē-) *adj.* Fatuously or foolishly devoted to one's wife. [< L *uxor* wife] — **ux·o′ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ux·o′ri·ous·ness** *n.*

Uz·bek (ōōz′bek, uz′-) *n.* **1.** A member of a Turkic people dominant in Turkestan; a native or inhabitant of the Uzbek S.S.R. **2.** The Turkic language of the Uzbeks. Also **Uz′beg.**

V

v, V (vē) *n.* *pl.* **v's** or **vs, V's** or **Vs, vees** (vēz) **1.** The twenty-second letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *v*, the voiced, labiodental fricative. **3.** Anything shaped like a V. —*symbol* **1.** *Informal* A five-dollar bill. **2.** The Roman numeral five. **3.** *Chem.* Vanadium (symbol V).

va·can·cy (vā′kən·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** **1.** The state of being vacant; vacuity; emptiness. **2.** That which is vacant or unoccupied; empty space. **3.** An unoccupied post, place, or office; a place destitute of an incumbent.

va·cant (vā′kənt) *adj.* **1.** Containing or holding nothing; esp. devoid of occupants; empty. **2.** Occupied with nothing; unemployed; unencumbered; free. **3.** Being or appearing without intelligence; inane. **4.** Having no incumbent; unfilled: a *vacant* office. **5.** *Law* Unoccupied or unused, as land; also, abandoned; having neither claimant nor heir, as an estate. **6.** Free from cares. **7.** Devoid of thought. [< F < L *vacare* to be empty] —**va′cant·ly** *adv.* —**va′cant·ness** *n.*

va·cate (vā′kāt) *v.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make vacant; surrender possession of by removal. **2.** To set aside; annul. **3.** To give up (a position or office); quit. —*v.i.* **4.** To leave an office, position, place, etc. **5.** *Informal* To go away; leave. —**Syn.** See ANNUL.

va·ca·tion (vā·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** An interlude, usu. of several days or weeks, from one's customary duties, as for recreation or rest. **2.** *Law* The period of time between stated terms of court. **3.** The intermission of the course of studies and exercises in an educational institution. **4.** The act of vacating. —*v.i.* To take a vacation. [< F < L *vacatio, -onis* freedom from duty] —**va·ca′tion·er** *n.*

va·ca·tion·ist (vā·kā′shən·ist) *n.* One who is taking a vacation or staying at a resort; a tourist.

vac·ci·nate (vak′sə·nāt) *v.* **·nat·ed, ·nat·ing** *Med.* *v.t.* **1.** To inoculate with a vaccine as a preventive measure; esp. to inoculate against smallpox. —*v.i.* **2.** To perform vaccination. —**vac′ci·na′tor** *n.*

vac·ci·na·tion (vak′sə·nā′shən) *n.* *Med.* The act or process of vaccinating, esp. against smallpox.

vac·cine (vak′sēn, -sin) *n.* **1.** The virus of cowpox, as prepared for or introduced by vaccination. **2.** Any preparation containing bacteria or viruses so treated as to give immunity from specific diseases when injected into the subject. [< L *vaccinus* pertaining to a cow] —**vac′ci·nal** (sə·nəl) *adj.*

vac·cin·i·a (vak·sin′ē·ə) *n.* *Vet.* Cowpox.

vac·il·late (vas′ə·lāt) *v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To sway one way and the other; totter; waver. **2.** To fluctuate. **3.** To waver in mind; be irresolute. [< L *vacillare* to waver] —**vac′il·lan·cy** (-lən·sē) *n.* —**vac′il·lant** (-lənt) *adj.* —**vac′il·la′tion** *n.* —**vac′il·la·to′ry** (-lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

—**Syn. 3.** To *vacillate* is to incline to one alternative and then another, without coming to a decision. To *waver* is to be undecided whether to embark on a chosen course. *Falter* suggests failure to act through weakness, timidity, or fright.

vac·u·a (vak′yōō·ə) Alternative plural of VACUUM.

va·cu·i·ty (va·kyōō′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of being a vacuum: emptiness. **2.** Vacant space; a void. **3.** Freedom from mental exertion. **4.** Lack of intelligence. **5.** An inane or idle thing or statement. [< L *vacuus* empty]

vac·u·ole (vak′yōō·ōl) *n.* *Biol.* A minute cavity containing air, a watery fluid, or a chemical secretion of the protoplasm, found in an organ, tissue, or cell. For illus. see CELL. [< F < L *vacuus* empty] —**vac′u·o·lar** *adj.*

vac·u·ous (vak′yōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Having no contents; empty. **2.** Lacking intelligence; blank. **3.** Idle; unoccupied. [< L *vacuus*] —**vac′u·ous·ly** *adv.* —**vac′u·ous·ness** *n.*

vac·u·um (vak′yōō·əm, -yōōm) *n.* *pl.* **·u·ums** or **·u·a** (-yōō·ə) **1.** A space absolutely devoid of matter. **2.** A space from which air or other gas has been exhausted to a very high degree. **3.** A void; an empty feeling. **4.** A condition of isolation from environmental influences. —*adj.* **1.** Of, or used in the production of, a vacuum. **2.** Exhausted or partly exhausted of gas, air, or vapor. **3.** Operated by suction to produce a vacuum. —*v.t.* & *v.i.* *Informal* To clean with a vacuum cleaner: to *vacuum* a rug. [< L, neut. of *vacuus* empty]

vacuum bottle A thermos bottle. Also **vacuum flask.**

vacuum cleaner A machine for cleaning carpets, furnishings, etc., by suction. —**vacuum cleaning**

vacuum pump A pulsometer.

vacuum tube *Electronics* **1.** A glass tube exhausted of air to a high degree and containing electrodes between which electric discharges may be passed. **2.** An electron tube.

vacuum valve *Brit.* A vacuum tube.

va·de me·cum (vā′dē mē′kəm) *Latin* Anything carried for constant use, as a guidebook, manual, or bag; literally, go with me. Also **va′de·me′cum, va′de-me′cum.**

vag·a·bond (vag′ə·bond) *n.* **1.** One who wanders from place to place without visible means of support; a tramp. **2.** One without a settled home; a wanderer; nomad. **3.** A worthless fellow; rascal. —*adj.* **1.** Pertaining to a vagabond; nomadic. **2.** Having no definite residence; wandering; irresponsible. **3.** Driven to and fro; aimless. [< F < L *vagus* wandering] —**vag′a·bond′age** (-ij) *n.* —**vag′a·bond′ish** *adj.* —**vag′a·bond′ism** *n.*

va·gar·y (və·gâr′ē, vā′gər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·gar·ies** A wild fancy; extravagant notion. [< L *vagari* to wander]

va·gi·na (və·jī′nə) *n.* *pl.* **·nas** or **·nae** (-nē) *Anat.* The canal leading from the external genital orifice in female mammals to the uterus. [< L, sheath] —**vag·i·nal** (vaj′ə·nəl, və·jī′-) *adj.*

vag·i·nate (vaj′ə·nit, -nāt) *adj.* **1.** Having a sheath. **2.** Formed into a sheath; tubular. Also **vag′i·nat′ed** (-nā′tid). [< NL < L *vagina* sheath]

vagino- *combining form Med.* The vagina; of or pertaining to the vagina. Also, before vowels, **vagin-.** [< L *vagina* sheath, vagina]

va·gran·cy (vā′grən·sē) *n.* *pl.* **·cies** The state of being a vagrant. Also **va′grant·ness.**

va·grant (vā′grənt) *n.* **1.** A person without a settled home; an idle wanderer; vagabond; tramp. **2.** A roving person. —*adj.* **1.** Wandering about as a vagrant. **2.** Pertaining to one who or that which wanders; nomadic. **3.** Having a wandering course; capricious; wayward. [ME, alter. of AF *wakerant* < OF *wacrer* to walk, wander < Gmc.; infl. in form by L *vagari* to wander] —**va′grant·ly** *adv.*

vague (vāg) *adj.* **vagu·er, vagu·est** **1.** Lacking definiteness or precision. **2.** Of uncertain source or authority: a *vague* rumor. **3.** Not clearly recognized, understood, stated, or felt. **4.** Shadowy; hazy. [< F < L *vagus* wandering] —**vague′ly** *adv.* —**vague′ness** *n.*

va·gus (vā′gəs) *n.* *pl.* **·gi** (-jī) *Anat.* Either of the tenth pair of cranial nerves sending branches to the lungs, heart, stomach, and most of the abdominal viscera. Also **vagus nerve.** [< L, wandering]

vain (vān) *adj.* **1.** Filled with or showing undue admiration for oneself, one's appearance, etc.; conceited. **2.** Unproductive; worthless; fruitless: a *vain* attempt. **3.** Having no real basis or worth; empty: *vain* hopes. **4.** Ostentatious; showy. —**in vain** To no purpose; without effect. [< F < L *vanus* empty] —**vain′ly** *adv.* —**vain′ness** *n.*

—**Syn. 1.** proud, vainglorious. **2.** abortive. See FUTILE.

vain·glo·ry (vān·glôr′ē, -glō′rē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** Excessive or groundless vanity; also, vain pomp; boastfulness. —**Syn.** See PRIDE. [< OF < Med.L *vana gloria* empty pomp, show] —**vain·glo′ri·ous** (-glôr′ē·əs, -glō′rē-) *adj.* —**vain·glo′ri·ous·ly** *adv.* —**vain·glo′ri·ous·ness** *n.*

val·ance (val′əns, vā′ləns) *n.* **1.** A hanging drapery, as from the framework of a bed to the floor, from a shelf, etc. **2.** A short drapery, board, or plate across the top of a window —*v.t.* **·anced, ·anc·ing** To furnish with or as with a valance [< OF *avaler* to descend, or after *Valence*, textile-manufacturing commune in France] —**val′anced** *adj.*

vale[1] (vāl) *n.* *Chiefly Poetic* A valley. [< OF < L *vallis*]

va·le[2] (vä′lē) *interj.* *Latin* Farewell.

val·e·dic·tion (val′ə·dik′shən) *n.* A bidding farewell. [< L < *valere* to be well + *dicere* to say]

val·e·dic·to·ri·an (val′ə·dik·tôr′ē·ən, -tō′rē-) *n.* A student who delivers a valedictory at graduating exercises, usu. the graduating student ranking highest in scholarship.

val·e·dic·to·ry (val′ə·dik′tər·ē) *adj.* Pertaining to a leave-taking. —*n.* *pl.* **·ries** A parting address, as by a member of a graduating class.

va·lence (vā′ləns) *n.* *Chem.* **1.** The property possessed by an element or radical of combining with or replacing other elements or radicals in definite and constant proportion. **2.**

The number of atoms of hydrogen (or its equivalent) with which an atom or radical can combine, or which it can replace. Also **va'len·cy.** [< LL < L *valere* to be strong]

val·en·tine (val'ən·tīn) *n.* **1.** A greeting card or token of affection sent on Saint Valentine's Day. **2.** A sweetheart.

va·le·ri·an (və·lir'ē·ən) *n.* Any of various perennial herbs; esp., one species with small pink or white flowers and a strong odor: also called *heliotrope.* [< OF < Med.L, appar. ult. < *Valerius*, a personal name]

val·et (val'ā, val'it; *Fr.* và·le') *n.* **1.** A gentleman's personal servant. **2.** A manservant in a hotel who performs personal services for patrons. — *v.t. & v.i.* To serve or act as a valet. [< F, a groom < OF *vaslet, varlet,* dim. of *vasal* vassal]

val·e·tu·di·nar·i·an (val'ə·tōō'də·nâr'ē·ən, -tyōō'-) *n.* A chronic invalid; one unduly solicitous about his health. — *adj.* Seeking to recover health; infirm. Also **val'e·tu'di·nar'y.** [< L *valetudo* health, ill health < *valere* to be well] — **val'e·tu'di·nar'i·an·ism** *n.*

Val·hal·la (val·hal'ə) In Norse mythology, the great hall into which the souls of heroes fallen bravely in battle were borne by the valkyries and received and feasted by Odin. [< NL < ON < *valr* the slain + *höll* hall]

val·iant (val'yənt) *adj.* **1.** Strong and intrepid; powerful and courageous. **2.** Performed with valor; bravely conducted; heroic. [< OF < L *valere* to be strong] — **val'iant·ly** *adv.* — **val'iance, val'ian·cy, val'iant·ness** *n.*

val·id (val'id) *adj.* **1.** Based on evidence that can be supported; acceptable; convincing. **2.** Legally binding; effective; warranted. **3.** Properly derived from accepted premises by the rules of logic. [< F < L *validus* powerful < *valere* to be strong] — **val'id·ly** *adv.* — **val'id·ness** *n.*

val·i·date (val'ə·dāt) *v.t.* **·dat·ed, ·dat·ing 1.** To make valid; ratify and confirm. **2.** To declare legally valid; legalize. — **Syn.** See RATIFY. — **val'i·da'tion** *n.*

va·lid·i·ty (və·lid'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties 1.** The state or quality of being valid; soundness, as in law or reasoning; efficacy.

va·lise (və·lēs') *n.* A portable case or bag for clothes, etc., used when traveling; a suitcase. [< F < Ital. *valigia*]

val·kyr·ie (val·kir'ē, val'kir·ē) *n. Often cap.* In Norse mythology, one of the maidens who ride through the air and choose heroes from among those slain in battle, and carry them to Valhalla. Also **val'kyr.** [< ON < *valr* the slain + stem of *kjōsa* to choose, select] — **val·kyr'i·an** *adj.*

val·ley (val'ē) *n. pl.* **·leys 1.** A depression of the earth's surface, as one through which a stream flows; level or low land between mountains, hills, or high lands. **2.** Any depression or hollow like a valley. [< OF < L *vallis* valley]

val·or (val'ər) *n.* Courage; personal bravery. Also *Brit.* **val'our.** [< OF < LL < L *valere* to be strong] — **val'or·ous** *adj.* — **val'or·ous·ly** *adv.* — **val'or·ous·ness** *n.*

val·or·i·za·tion (val'ər·ə·zā'shən, -i·zā'-) *n.* The maintenance by governmental action of an artificial price for any product. [< Pg. *valorização* < *valor* value < LL. See VALOR.]

val·or·ize (val'ə·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To subject to valorization. Also *Brit.* **val'or·ise.**

val·u·a·ble (val'yōō·ə·bəl, val'yə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Having relatively great financial worth, price, or value; costly. **2.** Of a nature or character capable of being valued or estimated. **3.** Having moral worth, value, or importance; worthy. — *n. Usu. pl.* An article of worth or value, as a piece of jewelry. — **val'u·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **val'u·a·bly** *adv.*

val·u·a·tion (val'yōō·ā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of valuing. **2.** Estimated worth or value. **3.** Personal estimation; judgment of merit or character. — **val'u·a'tion·al** *adj.*

val·ue (val'yōō) *n.* **1.** The desirability or worth of a thing; intrinsic worth; utility. **2.** *Often pl.* Something regarded as desirable, worthy, or right, as a belief, standard, or moral precept. **3.** The rate at which a commodity is potentially exchangeable for others; a fair return in service, goods, etc.; worth in money; market price; also, the ratio of utility to price; a bargain. **4.** Attributed or assumed valuation; esteem or regard. **5.** Exact meaning. **6.** *Music* The relative length of a tone as signified by a note. **7.** *Math.* The quantity, magnitude, or number an algebraic symbol or expression is supposed to denote. **8.** Rank in a system of classification. **9.** In the graphic arts, the relation of the elements of a picture, as light and shade, to one another. **10.** *Phonet.* The special quality of the sound represented by a written character. — *v.t.* **·ued, ·u·ing 1.** To estimate the value or worth of; appraise. **2.** To regard highly; esteem; prize. **3.** To place a relative estimate of value or desirability upon. **4.** To give a (specified) value to. [< OF *valoir* to be worth < L *valere*] — **val'ue·less** *adj.* — **val'u·er** *n.*

val·ued (val'yōōd) *adj.* **1.** Regarded or estimated; much or highly esteemed. **2.** Having a (specified) value.

val·vate (val'vāt) *adj.* **1.** Serving as or resembling a valve; having a valve; valvular. **2.** *Bot.* Meeting without overlapping, as petals. [< L *valvatus* with folding doors]

valve (valv) *n.* **1.** *Mech.* Any contrivance or arrangement that regulates the amount and direction of flow of a liquid, gas, vapor, or loose material. **2.** *Anat.* A structure formed by one or more loose folds of the lining membrane of a vessel or other organ, allowing flow of a fluid in one direction only, as blood to and from the heart. **3.** *Zool.* One of the parts of a shell, as of a mollusk. **4.** A device in certain brass instruments for lengthening the air column and lowering the pitch of the instrument's scale. — *v.t.* **valved, valv·ing** To furnish with valves; control the flow of by means of a valve. [< L *valva* leaf of a door] — **val'val** (-vəl), **val'var** (-vər) *adj.* — **valve'less** *adj.*

val·vu·lar (val'vyə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or of the nature of a valve, as of the heart. **2.** Having valves.

va·moose (va·mōōs') *v.t. & v.i.* **·moosed, ·moos·ing** *U.S. Slang* To leave hastily or hurriedly; quit. Also **va·mose'** (-mōs'). [< Sp. *vamos* let us go < L *vadere* to go]

vamp[1] (vamp) *n.* **1.** The piece of leather forming the upper front part of a boot or shoe. **2.** Something added to give an old thing a new appearance. **3.** *Music* A simple improvised accompaniment. — *v.t.* **1.** To provide with a vamp. **2.** To repair or patch. **3.** *Music* To improvise an accompaniment to. — *v.i.* **4.** *Music* To improvise accompaniments. [< OF < *avant* before + *pied* foot] — **vamp'er** *n.*

vamp[2] (vamp) *Informal v.t.* **1.** To seduce (a man) by utilizing one's feminine charms. — *v.i.* **2.** To play the vamp. — *n.* An unscrupulous flirt. [Short for VAMPIRE] — **Syn.** (noun) siren, temptress, gold-digger, femme fatale.

vam·pire (vam'pīr) *n.* **1.** In folklore, a corpse that rises from its grave at night to feed upon the living, usu. by sucking the blood. **2.** A man or woman who victimizes persons of the opposite sex; esp., a woman who brings her lover to a state of poverty or degradation. **3.** A large bat of South or Central America, that drinks the blood of horses, cattle, and, sometimes, men. **4.** An insectivorous or frugivorous bat formerly supposed to suck blood. [< F < G *vampir* < Slavic] — **vam·pir·ic** (vam·pir'ik), **vam'pir·ish** (-pīr·ish) *adj.* — **vam'pir·ism** (-pī·riz'əm, -pə-) *n.*

van[1] (van) *n.* **1.** A large covered vehicle for transporting furniture, livestock, etc. **2.** *Brit.* A closed railway car for luggage, etc. [Short for CARAVAN]

van[2] (van) *n.* **1.** The portion of an army, fleet, etc., that is nearest or in advance of the front: opposed to *rear.* **2.** The leaders of a movement; those at the front of any line or unit. [Short for VANGUARD]

va·na·di·um (və·nā'dē·əm) *n.* A rare, silver-white metallic element (symbol V), used in steel alloys to increase tensile strength. See ELEMENT. [< NL < ON *Vanadīs,* a name of the Norse goddess Freya]

Van Al·len radiation (van al'ən) A high-intensity radiation consisting of charged atomic particles believed to circle the earth in an inner and outer belt conforming to the earth's magnetic field. Also **Van Allen belts.** [after James A. *Van Allen,* born 1914, U.S. physicist]

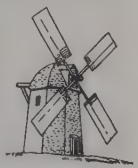
van·dal (van'dəl) *n.* One who willfully destroys or defaces property, esp. anything artistic. — *adj.* Wantonly destructive. [< VANDAL] — **van·dal·ic** (van·dal'ik) *adj.*

Van·dal (van'dəl) *n.* One of a Germanic people who ravaged Gaul and overran Spain and North Africa in the early part of the fifth century, and pillaged the city of Rome in 455. — **Van·dal·ic** (van·dal'ik) *adj.* — **Van'dal·ism** *n.*

van·dal·ism (van'dəl·iz'əm) *n.* Willful destruction or defacement of artistic works, or of property in general.

Van·dyke beard (van·dīk') A short pointed beard resembling those depicted in the paintings of Anthony Van Dyck.

vane (vān) *n.* **1.** A thin plate of metal or wood that pivots on a vertical rod to indicate the direction of the wind; weather vane. **2.** An arm or blade extending from a rotating shaft, as of a windmill, propeller, turbine, etc. **3.** *Ornithol.* The web of a feather. [OE *fana* flag] — **vaned** *adj.*


WINDMILL VANES

van·guard (van'gärd) *n.* **1.** The advance guard of an army; the van. **2.** Those in the forefront of a movement, as in art, etc. [< OF < *avant* before + *garde* guard]

va·nil·la (və·nil'ə) *n.* **1.** A flavoring extract made from the podlike seed capsules of a climbing tropical orchid. **2.** The seed capsule of this plant: also **vanilla bean.** **3.** A food, as ice cream, flavored with vanilla. [< NL < Sp. dim. of *vaina* sheath, pod < L *vagina* sheath] — **va·nil'lic** (-ik) *adj.*

va·nil·lin (və·nil'in) *n. Chem.* A colorless, fragrant, crystalline compound, $C_8H_8O_3$, contained in vanilla, and also made synthetically. Also **va·nil·line** (və·nil'in, -ēn).

van·ish (van'ish) *v.i.* **1.** To disappear from sight; fade away; depart. **2.** To pass out of existence; be annihilated. [< OF < L *evanescere* to fade away] — **van'ish·er** *n.*

van·ish·ing point (van′ish·ing) In perspective, the point at which parallel lines appear to converge.
van·i·ty (van′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** 1. The condition or character of being vain; excessive personal pride; conceit. 2. Ambitious display; ostentation; show. 3. The quality or state of being fruitless, useless, or destitute of reality, etc. 4. That which is vain or unsubstantial. 5. A bag or box containing cosmetics, comb, mirror, etc.: also **vanity case**. 6. A dressing table. [< OF < L < *vanus* empty, vain]
van·quish (vang′kwish, van′-) *v.t.* 1. To defeat in battle; overcome; conquer. 2. To suppress or overcome (a feeling). 3. To defeat, as in argument. [< OF < L *vincere* to conquer] — **van′quish·a·ble** *adj.* — **van′quish·er** *n.*
van·tage (van′tij) *n.* 1. Superiority over a competitor or opponent; advantage. 2. Advantage (def. 4). 3. An opportunity; chance. [OF < L *ab ante* from before]
vantage ground A position or condition that gives one an advantage.
vantage point A strategic position affording perspective; point of view.
van·ward (van′wərd) *adj.* Of or situated in the van or front. — *adv.* To or toward the van or front.
vap·id (vap′id) *adj.* 1. Having lost sparkling quality and flavor. 2. Flat; dull; insipid. [< L *vapidus* insipid] — **va·pid·i·ty** (və·pid′ə·tē), **vap′id·ness** *n.* — **vap′id·ly** *adv.*
va·por (vā′pər) *n.* 1. Moisture in the air; esp., visible floating moisture, as light mist. 2. Any light, cloudy substance in the air, as smoke or fumes. 3. Any substance in the gaseous state, that is usu. a liquid or solid. 4. A gas below its critical temperature. 5. That which is fleeting and unsubstantial. — *v.t.* 1. To vaporize. — *v.i.* 2. To emit vapor. 3. To evaporate. 4. To brag. Also *Brit.* **va′pour**. [< AF < OF < L *vapor* steam] — **va′por·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **va′por·a·ble** *adj.* — **va′por·er** *n.* — **va′por·ish** *adj.*
vapori- *combining form* Vapor; of or related to vapor, steam, etc. Also, before vowels, **vapor-**. [< L *vapor* steam]
va·por·ize (vā′pə·rīz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized**, **·iz·ing** To convert or be converted into vapor. — **va′por·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **va′por·i·za·tion** (-ə·zā′shən, -ī·zā′-) **va′por·iz′er** *n.*
va·por·ous (vā′pər·əs) *adj.* 1. Of or like vapor; foggy; misty. 2. Full of or producing vapors. 3. Diaphanous; ethereal. 4. Vainly imaginative; whimsical. Also **va′por·y**. — **va′por·os·i·ty** (vā′pə·ros′ə·tē) *n.* — **va′por·ous·ly** *adv.* — **va′por·ous·ness** *n.*
vapor pressure *Physics* The pressure of a confined vapor in equilibrium with its liquid at any specific temperature. Also **vapor tension**.
vapor trail *Aeron.* A contrail.
va·que·ro (vä·kā′rō) *n.* *pl.* **·ros** (-rōz, *Sp.* -rōs) A herdsman; cowboy. [< Sp. < L *vacca* cow]
vari- *combining form* Various; different: *variform, varicolored.* Also *vario-*. [< *varius* varied]
var·i·a·ble (vâr′ē·ə·bəl) *adj.* 1. Having the capacity of varying; alterable; mutable. 2. Having a tendency to change; not constant; fickle. 3. Having no definite value as regards quantity. 4. *Biol.* Prone to variation from a normal or established type. — *n.* 1. That which varies or is subject to change. 2. *Math.* A quantity susceptible of fluctuating in value or magnitude under different conditions. [< OF < L < *varius* various, diverse] — **var′i·a·bil′i·ty**, **var′i·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **var′i·a·bly** *adv.*
variable star *Astron.* Any of several groups of stars whose apparent magnitude varies at different times.
var·i·ance (vâr′ē·əns) *n.* 1. The act of varying, or the state of being variant; difference; discrepancy. 2. Dissension; discord. — **at variance** 1. Disagreeing or conflicting, as facts. 2. In a state of dissension or discord.
var·i·ant (vâr′ē·ənt) *adj.* 1. Having or showing variation; differing. 2. Tending to vary; changing. 3. Restless; fickle; inconstant. 4. Differing from a standard or type. — *n.* A thing that differs from another in form only; esp., a different spelling or pronunciation of a word. [See VARIABLE]
var·i·a·tion (vâr′ē·ā′shən) *n.* 1. The act, process, state, or result of varying; modification; diversity. 2. The extent to which a thing varies. 3. A repetition with its essential features intact and other features modified. 4. *Music* A modification of the rhythm, harmony, melodic pattern, etc., of a basic theme. 5. *Biol.* Deviation in structure or function from the type or parent form of an organism. [< F < L *variatio, -onis*] — **var′i·a′tion·al** *adj.*
varico- *combining form Med.* A varicose vein; varix. Also, before vowels, **varic-**. [< L *varix, -icis* varicose vein]
var·i·col·ored (vâr′i·kul′ərd) *adj.* Variegated in color; parti-colored; of various colors. Also *Brit.* **var′i·col′oured**.
var·i·cose (var′ə·kōs) *adj.* *Pathol.* Abnormally dilated, as veins. [< L *varix, -icis* varicose vein] — **var′i·cos′i·ty** (-kos′ə·tē) *n.*
var·ied (vâr′ēd) *adj.* 1. Consisting of differing parts; diverse. 2. Partially or repeatedly altered, modified, etc. 3. Varicolored. — **var′ied·ly** *adv.*
var·i·e·gate (vâr′ē·ə·gāt′) *v.t.* **·gat·ed**, **·gat·ing** 1. To mark with different colors or tints; dapple; spot; streak. 2. To make varied; diversify. [< LL < *varius* various + *agere* to drive, do] — **var′i·e·ga′tion** *n.*
var·i·e·gat·ed (vâr′ē·ə·gā′tid) *adj.* 1. Having diverse colors; varied in color, as with streaks or blotches. 2. Having or exhibiting different forms, styles, or varieties.
va·ri·e·tal (və·rī′ə·təl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a variety. — **va·ri′e·tal·ly** *adv.*
va·ri·e·ty (və·rī′ə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** 1. The state or character of being various or varied; diversity. 2. A collection of diverse things. 3. The possession of different characteristics by one individual. 4. A limited class of things that differ in certain common peculiarities from a larger class to which they belong. 5. *Biol.* An individual or a group that differs from the type species in certain characters; a subdivision of a species. [< MF < L < *varius* various]
variety show A theatrical show, as in vaudeville, consisting of a series of short, diversified acts or numbers.
vario- Var. of VARI-.
va·ri·o·la (və·rī′ə·lə) *n.* *Pathol.* Smallpox. [< Med.L, pustule < L *varius* speckled] — **va·ri′o·lar, va·ri′o·lous** *adj.*
var·i·om·e·ter (vâr′ē·om′ə·tər) *n.* *Electr.* A variable inductance device composed of a fixed and a movable coil connected in series, and capable of controlling the strength of a current. [< VARIO- + -METER]
var·i·o·rum (vâr′ē·ôr′əm, -ō′rəm) *adj.* Having notes or comments by different critics or editors. — *n.* An edition containing various versions of a text, usu. with notes and commentary: also **variorum edition**. [< L (*cum notis*) *variorum* (with the notes) of various persons]
var·i·ous (vâr′ē·əs) *adj.* 1. Characteristically different from one another; diverse. 2. More than one; several. 3. Many-sided; varying. 4. Having a diversity of appearance; variegated. 5. *Rare* Changeable; inconstant. [< L *varius*] — **var′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **var′i·ous·ness** *n.*
var·ix (vâr′iks) *n.* *pl.* **var·i·ces** (vâr′ə·sēz) *Pathol.* **a** Permanent dilatation of a vein or other vessel of circulation. **b** A vessel thus distorted, as a varicose vein. [< L, a varicose vein]
var·let (vär′lit) *n.* *Archaic* 1. A menial or subordinate; also, a page. 2. A knave or scoundrel. [< OF, groom]
var·mint (vär′mənt) *n.* *Dial.* Any obnoxious or pestiferous person or animal. [Alter. of VERMIN]
var·nish (vär′nish) *n.* 1. A solution of certain gums or resins in alcohol, linseed oil, etc., used to produce a shining, transparent coat on a surface. 2. Any natural or artificial product or surface resembling varnish. 3. Outward show, or any superficial polish, as of politeness. — *v.t.* 1. To cover with varnish. 2. To give a smooth or glossy appearance to. 3. To improve the appearance of; polish. 4. To hide by a deceptive covering or appearance; gloss over. [< OF < Med.L *vernicium* a resin] — **var′nish·er** *n.*
var·si·ty (vär′sə·tē) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** *Informal* The highest ranking team that represents a university, college, or school in sports, debating, etc. [< UNIVERSITY]
var·y (vâr′ē) *v.* **var·ied**, **var·y·ing** *v.t.* 1. To change the form, nature, substance, etc., of; modify. 2. To cause to be different from one another. 3. To impart variety to; diversify. 4. *Music* To modify (a melody) by changes of rhythm, harmony, etc. — *v.i.* 5. To become changed in form, nature, substance, etc. 6. To be diverse; differ. 7. To deviate: with *from*. 8. *Math.* To be subject to continual change. 9. *Biol.* To undergo variation. [< OF < L < *varius* diverse] — **var′i·er** *n.*
vas (vas) *n.* *pl.* **va·sa** (vā′sə) *Biol.* A blood vessel or duct. [< L, vessel, dish]
vas- Var. of VASO-.
vas·cu·lar (vas′kyə·lər) *adj.* *Biol.* **a** Of, or consisting of, or containing ducts for the transport of body liquids, as blood, lymph, etc. **b** Richly supplied with blood vessels. Also **vas′cu·lose** (-lōs), **vas′cu·lous** (-ləs). [< L < *vas* vessel] — **vas′cu·lar·i·ty** (-lar′ə·tē) *n.* — **vas′cu·lar·ly** *adv.*
vas def·er·ens (vas def′ər·enz) *Anat.* The duct by which semen is conveyed from the testicles to the seminal vesicles. [< NL < L *vas* vessel + *deferens* leading down]
vase (vās, vāz, väz) *n.* A decorative container, usu., rounded and of greater height than width, used as an ornament or for holding flowers. [< F < L *vas* vessel]
Vas·e·line (vas′ə·lēn, -lin) *n.* Proprietary name for a brand of petrolatum. Also **vas′e·line**.
vaso- *combining form Physiol.* 1. A vessel, esp., a blood vessel. 2. The vas deferens. Also, before vowels, *vas-*. [< L *vas* vessel]
vas·o·mo·tor (vas′ō·mō′tər) *adj.* *Physiol.* Producing contraction or dilatation in the walls of vessels.
vas·sal (vas′əl) *n.* 1. In the feudal system, one who held land of a superior lord by a feudal tenure; a liegeman or feudal tenant. 2. A dependent, retainer, or servant; a slave or bondman. — *adj.* 1. Of or like a vassal. 2. Servile. [< OF < Med.L < LL *vassus* servant < Celtic]
vas·sal·age (vas′əl·ij) *n.* 1. The state of being a vassal;

also, the duties, and obligations of a vassal. **2.** The feudal system. **3.** Servitude in general. **4.** Land held by feudal tenure; a fief. **5.** Vassals collectively.

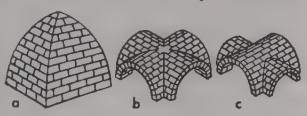
vast (vast, väst) *adj.* **1.** Of great extent or size; immense; enormous; huge. **2.** Very great in number, quantity, or amount. **3.** Very great in degree, intensity, etc. [< L *vastus* waste, empty, vast] — **vast'ly** *adv.* — **vast'ness** *n.*

vat (vat) *n.* A large vessel, tub, etc., for holding liquids, as dyeing materials. — *v.t.* **vat·ted, vat·ting** To put into a vat; treat in a vat. [OE *fæt*]

Vat·i·can (vat'ə·kən) *n.* **1.** The papal palace in Vatican City, Rome. **2.** The papal government: distinguished from the *Quirinal*. [< L *Vaticanus* (*mons*) Vatican (hill) in Rome]

vaude·ville (vôd'vil, vô'də·vil) *n.* A miscellaneous theatrical entertainment, as a variety show; also, a theater presenting such shows. [< F < *Vau de Vire* the valley of the Vire river (in Normandy)]

vault[1] (vôlt) *n.* **1.** An arched chamber; also, any subterranean compartment; cellar. **2.** An arched structure, as a ceiling or roof esp., of a cavity. **3.** Any vaultlike covering, as the sky. **4.** An underground room or compartment for storing wine, etc. **5.** A strongly protected place for keeping valuables, as in a bank. **6.** A burial chamber. — *v.t.* **1.** To form with a vaulted roof; cover with or as with a vault. **2.** To construct in the form of a vault. [< OF < L < *volvere* to roll]



VAULTS
a Cove or cloister. *b* Groin. *c* Underpitch or Welsh.

vault[2] (vôlt) *v.t.* **1.** To leap over, esp. with the aid of a pole or with the hands resting on something. **2.** To mount (a horse, etc.) with a leap. — *v.i.* **3.** To leap; spring. **4.** To do a curvet. — *n.* **1.** A leap or bound, as one made with the aid of a pole. **2.** The curvet of a horse. [< OF *volter* to leap, gambol, ? ult. < L *volutus*] — **vault'er** *n.*

vault·ing[1] (vôl'ting) *n.* **1.** Vaulted work, or vaults collectively. **2.** The work or art of building a vault.

vault·ing[2] (vôl'ting) *adj.* **1.** That overleaps. **2.** Unduly confident or presumptuous: *vaulting* ambition. **3.** That can be used in vaulting, as in gymnastics.

vaunt (vônt, vänt) *v.i.* **1.** To speak boastfully. — *v.t.* **2.** To boast of. — *n.* Boastful assertion or ostentatious display. [< OF < LL *vanitare* to brag < L *vanus* empty, vain] — **vaunt'er** *n.* — **vaunt'ing·ly** *adv.*

Ve·a·dar (vē·ä·där', vē'ä·där, vä'-) *n.* An intercalary month of the Hebrew year. See (Hebrew) CALENDAR.

veal (vēl) *n.* The flesh of a calf considered as food. — **bob veal** The flesh of a calf too young to be eaten. [< OF < L *vitellus*, dim. of *vitulus* calf]

vec·tor (vek'tər) *n.* **1.** *Math.* A physical quantity that has magnitude and direction in space, as velocity and acceleration. **2.** *Med.* A carrier of pathogenic microorganisms from one host to another. [< L, carrier < *vehere* to carry] — **vec·to·ri·al** (vek·tôr'ē·əl, -tō'rē-) *adj.*

Ve·da (vā'də, vē'-) *n.* **1.** One of the collections of Indian sacred writings, dating from the second millennium B.C., that form the Hindu scriptures. **2.** The Vedas collectively. [< Skt., knowledge] — **Ve·da·ic** (vi·dā'ik) *adj.* — **Ve·da·ism** (vā'də·iz'əm, vē'-) *n.*

Ve·dan·ta (vi·dän'tə, -dan'-) *n.* Any of several schools of Hindu religious philosophy based on the Upanishads; esp., a monistic system that teaches the worship of Brahma as the creator and soul of the universe. [< Skt. < *Veda* Veda + *anta* end] — **Ve·dan'tic** *adj.* — **Ve·dan'tism** *n.* — **Ve·dan'tist** *n.*

V-E Day (vē'ē') May 8, the date of victory of the United Nations in Europe in World War II, 1945.

ve·dette (vi·det') *n.* **1.** A mounted sentinel placed in advance of an outpost. **2.** A small vessel used to watch the movements of the enemy: also **vedette boat.** Also spelled *vidette*. [< F < Ital. *vedetta*, alter. (after *vedere* to see) of *veletta*, dim. of Sp. *vela* vigil < L *vigilare* to watch]

Ve·dic (vā'dik, vē'-) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Vedas or the language in which they were written.

veer (vir) *v.i.* **1.** *Naut.* To turn to another course. **2.** To change direction by a clockwise motion, as the wind. **3.** To shift from one position to another; be variable or fickle. — *v.t.* **4.** To change the direction of. — *n.* A change in direction; a swerve. [< F *virer* to turn]

veer·y (vir'ē) *n.* *pl.* **veer·ies** A melodious, tawny thrush of eastern North America. [Prob. imit.]

Ve·ga (vē'gə, vā'-) *n.* One of the 20 brightest stars, 0.14 magnitude; Alpha in the constellation Lyra. [< Med.L < Arabic (*al-Nasr*) *al-Waqi* the falling (vulture)]

veg·e·ta·ble (vej'ə·tə·bəl, vej'tə-) *n.* **1.** The edible part of any herbaceous plant, raw or cooked. **2.** Any member of the vegetable kingdom; a plant. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to plants, esp. garden or farm vegetables. **2.** Derived from, of the nature of, or resembling plants. **3.** Made from or consisting of vegetables. **4.** Resembling or like a vegetable in activity, etc.; dull; passive. [< OF < LL < L *vegetare* to animate < *vegere* to be lively] — **veg'e·ta·bly** *adv.*

vegetable kingdom The division of nature that includes all organisms classified as plants.

vegetable oil Any of various oils expressed from the seeds or fruits of plants and used in cooking, medicine, paints, and as lubricants, as corn oil, olive oil, linseed oil, etc.

veg·e·tal (vej'ə·təl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to plants or vegetables. **2.** Characterizing those vital processes that are common to plants and animals, esp., as distinguished from sensation and volition. [< L *vegetus* lively, vigorous]

veg·e·tant (vej'ə·tənt) *adj.* **1.** Invigorating; vivifying; stimulating growth. **2.** Of the nature of plant life.

veg·e·tar·i·an (vej'ə·târ'ē·ən) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or advocating vegetarianism. **2.** Exclusively vegetable, as a diet. — *n.* One who holds or practices vegetarianism.

veg·e·tar·i·an·ism (vej'ə·târ'ē·ən·iz'əm) *n.* The theory or practice of eating only vegetables and fruits.

veg·e·tate (vej'ə·tāt) *v.i.* **·tat·ed, ·tat·ing** **1.** To grow, as a plant. **2.** To live in a monotonous, passive way. **3.** *Pathol.* To increase abnormally in size.

veg·e·ta·tion (vej'ə·tā'shən) *n.* **1.** The process of vegetating. **2.** Plant life in the aggregate. **3.** *Pathol.* An abnormal growth on the body. — **veg'e·ta'tion·al** *adj.*

veg·e·ta·tive (vej'ə·tā'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or exhibiting the processes of plant life. **2.** Growing or capable of growing, as plants; productive. **3.** Having a mere physical or passive existence; showing little mental activity. **4.** Concerned with growth and nutrition. Also **veg·e·tive** (vej'ə·tiv). — **veg'e·ta'tive·ly** *adv.* — **veg'e·ta'tive·ness** *n.*

ve·he·ment (vē'ə·mənt) *adj.* **1.** Arising from or marked by impetuosity of feeling or passion; ardent. **2.** Acting with great force or energy; energetic; violent; furious. [< OF < L *vehemens, -entis* impetuous, rash; ult. origin uncertain] — **ve'he·mence, ve'he·men·cy** *n.* — **ve·he·ment·ly** *adv.*

ve·hi·cle (vē'ə·kəl) *n.* **1.** Any contrivance fitted with wheels or runners for carrying something; a conveyance, as a car or sled. **2.** *Med.* An innocuous medium, as a liquid, with which is mixed some therapeutic substance that may be applied or administered more easily; an excipient. **3.** A liquid, as oil, with which pigments are mixed in painting. **4.** Anything by means of which something else, as power, thought, etc., is transmitted or communicated. **5.** In the performing arts, anything, as a play, musical composition, etc., that permits the performer to display his particular powers or talents. [< F < L < *vehere* to carry, ride] — **ve·hic·u·lar** (vi·hik'yə·lər) *adj.*

veil (vāl) *n.* **1.** A piece of thin and light fabric, worn over the face or head for concealment, protection, or ornament. **2.** Any piece of fabric used to conceal an object; a screen; curtain; mask. **3.** Anything that conceals from inspection; a disguise; pretext. **4.** The life of a nun; also, vows made by a nun. — **to take the veil** To become a nun. — *v.t.* **1.** To cover with a veil. **2.** To hide; disguise. [< OF < L *velum* piece of cloth, sail] — **veil'er** *n.*

veil·ing (vā'ling) *n.* **1.** Material for veils. **2.** A veil.

vein (vān) *n.* **1.** *Anat.* One of the muscular, tubular vessels that convey blood to the heart. **2.** Loosely, any blood vessel. **3.** *Entomol.* One of the radiating supports of an insect's wing. **4.** *Bot.* One of the slender vascular bundles that form the framework of a leaf. **5.** In mining, a lode. **6.** A long, irregular, colored streak, as in wood; marble, etc. **7.** A distinctive trait, tendency, or disposition. **8.** A temporary state of mind; humor; mood. — *v.t.* **1.** To furnish or fill with veins. **2.** To streak or ornament with veins. **3.** To extend over or throughout as veins. [< OF < L *vena* blood vessel] — **vein'y** *adj.*

veined (vānd) *adj.* **1.** Having, marked with, or abounding in veins. **2.** Marked with streaks of another color.

vein·ing (vā'ning) *n.* A network of veins.

vein·let (vān'lit) *n.* A small vein.

ve·lar (vē'lər) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a velum, esp. to the soft palate. **2.** *Phonet.* Formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate, as (k) in *cool*, (g) in *go*: sometimes *guttural*. — *n.* *Phonet.* **a** A velar consonant. **b** A back vowel. [< L < *velum* a sail, custain]

ve·lar·ize (vē'lə·rīz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *Phonet.* *v.t.* To modify (a sound) by raising the back of the tongue toward the soft palate. — *v.i.* To be modified to a velar sound.

veldt (velt, felt) *n.* In South Africa, open country or grassland having few shrubs or trees. Also **veld.** [< Afrikaans *veld* < Du., field]

vel·lum (vel′əm) *n.* **1.** Fine parchment made from the skins of calves, used for expensive binding, printing, etc. **2.** A manuscript written on such parchment. **3.** Paper made to resemble parchment. [< OF < *veel, viel* calf]

ve·loc·i·pede (və·los′ə·pēd) *n.* **1.** An early form of bicycle or tricycle. **2.** A child's tricycle. **3.** A type of handcar. [< F < L *velox, velocis* swift + *pes, pedis* foot]

ve·loc·i·ty (və·los′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state of moving or developing swiftly; rapidity; celerity; speed. **2.** The distance traveled by an object in a specified time. **3.** The time rate of motion in a stated direction; a vector quantity. [< L < *velox* swift]

ve·lours (və·lo͝or′) *n. pl.* **·lours** (-lo͝orz) A soft, velvetlike, closely woven cotton or wool fabric having a short, thick pile. Also **ve·lour′.** [< F. See VELURE.]

ve·lum (vē′ləm) *n. pl.* **·la** (-lə) **1.** *Biol.* A thin membranous covering or partition. **2.** *Anat.* The soft palate: see under PALATE. [< L]

ve·lure (və·lo͝or′) *n.* **1.** Velvet, or a fabric resembling velvet. **2.** A velvet or silk pad for smoothing a silk hat. — *v.t.* **·lured, ·lur·ing** To smooth with a velure. [< F < L < *villus* shaggy hair]

vel·vet (vel′vit) *n.* **1.** A fabric of silk, rayon, cotton, etc., having on one side a thick, short, smooth pile, formed either of loops (**pile velvet**) or of single threads (**cut velvet**). **2.** Anything resembling such a fabric in softness, smoothness, etc. **3.** The furry skin covering a growing antler. — *adj.* **1.** Made of velvet. **2.** Smooth and soft to the touch; velvety. [< Med.L *velvetum*, ult. < L *villus* shaggy hair]

vel·vet·een (vel′və·tēn′) *n.* **1.** A cotton fabric with a short, close pile like velvet. **2.** *pl.* Clothes, esp. trousers, made of this material. [< VELVET]

vel·vet·y (vel′vit·ē) *adj.* **1.** Smooth and soft like velvet. **2.** Mild and smooth to the taste: *velvety* liqueur.

ve·na ca·va (vē′nə kā′və) *pl.* **ve·nae ca·vae** (vē′nē kā′vē) *Anat.* Either of the two great venous trunks emptying into the right atrium of the heart. For illus. see HEART. [< L, hollow vein]

ve·nal (vē′nəl) *adj.* **1.** Ready to sell honor or principle, or to accept a bribe; mercenary; purchasable. **2.** Subject to sordid bargaining or to corrupt influences; salable. **3.** Characterized by corruption. [< L *venum* sale] — **ve·nal′i·ty** (-nal′ə·tē) *n.* — **ve′nal·ly** *adv.*

ve·na·tion (vē·nā′shən) *n. Biol.* The arrangement of veins, as in a leaf, an insect wing, etc.

vend (vend) *v.t.* **1.** To sell. **2.** To utter (an opinion); publish. — *v.i.* **3.** To be a vender. **4.** To be sold. [< F *vendre* < L < *venum* sale + *dare* to give] — **ven·di·tion** (ven·dish′ən) *n.*

ven·dee (ven·dē′) *n. Law* The person or party to whom something is sold; a buyer.

vend·er (ven′dər) *n.* One who sells, as a hawker or peddler. Also **ven′dor** (-dər).

ven·det·ta (ven·det′ə) *n.* A blood feud in which the relatives of the killed or injured person take vengeance on the offender or his relatives. [< Ital. < L *vindicta* vengeance]

vend·i·ble (ven′də·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being vended or sold; marketable. — *n.* A vendible thing. — **vend′i·bil′i·ty, vend′i·ble·ness** *n.* — **vend′i·bly** *adv.*

vend·ing machine (ven′ding) A coin-operated device that dispenses some product or packaged article.

ve·neer (və·nir′) *n.* **1.** A thin layer, as of choice wood, upon a commoner surface. **2.** Any of the thin layers glued together to strengthen plywood. **3.** Mere outside show or elegance. — *v.t.* **1.** To cover (a surface) with veneer; overlay for decoration or finer finish. **2.** To glue together to form plywood. **3.** To conceal, as something disagreeable or coarse, with an attractive or deceptive surface. [Earlier *fineer* < G < F *fournir* to furnish] — **ve·neer′er** *n.*

ve·neer·ing (və·nir′ing) *n.* **1.** The art of applying veneer. **2.** Material used for veneer. **3.** A surface of veneer.

ven·er·a·ble (ven′ər·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Meriting or commanding veneration; worthy of reverence: now usu. implying age. **2.** Exciting reverential feelings because of sacred or historic associations. **3.** Revered: used as a title for an archdeacon in Anglican churches, and in the Roman Catholic Church, for one past the first stage of canonization, prior to beatification. [< OF < L *venerari* to revere] — **ven′er·a·ble·ness, ven′er·a·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **ven′er·a·bly** *adv.*

ven·er·ate (ven′ə·rāt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To look upon or regard with respect and deference; revere. [< L *veneratus*, pp. of *venerari* to revere]

— **Syn.** We *venerate* that which we judge objectively to be of great worth, as a great man, our ancestors, a holy person, or a sacred object. *Revere* and *reverence* imply respect, to which have been added personal affection and awe; *revere* is chiefly applied to persons or to a deity, and *reverence*, to places or objects: to *revere* God and the saints, to *reverence* a holy shrine. In strict usage, we *worship* or *adore* only that which we consider divine; *worship* refers to participation in religious ceremonies, and *adore*, to the sense of personal gratitude for divine favor which the worshiper feels.

ven·er·a·tion (ven′ə·rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of venerating, or the state of being venerated. **2.** A feeling of profound respect and awe: reverence.

ve·ne·re·al (və·nir′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or proceeding from sexual intercourse. **2.** Communicated by sexual relations with an infected person: a *venereal* disease. **3.** Pertaining to or curative of diseases so communicated. **4.** Infected with venereal disease. [< L < *Venus*]

venereal disease *Pathol.* One of several diseases communicated by sexual intercourse, as syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid.

ven·er·y[1] (ven′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** *Archaic* Sexual indulgence, esp. when excessive. [< L *Venus*]

ven·er·y[2] (ven′ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** *Archaic* The hunting of game. [< F < L *venari* to hunt]

Ven·e·ti (ven′ə·tī) *n.pl.* **1.** An ancient Celtic people of NW Gaul, conquered by Caesar in 56 B.C. **2.** An ancient people of NE Italy, friendly to Rome.

Ve·ne·tian (və·nē′shən) *adj.* Pertaining to Venice, its inhabitants, art etc. — *n.* A native of Venice.

Venetian blind A flexible window screen that may be raised or lowered, having overlapping horizontal slats so connected with a cord as to permit opening and closing.

Venetian carpet A worsted carpet for stairs and hallways, commonly of a simple striped pattern.

Venetian glass A delicate and fine glassware made at or near Venice.

ven·geance (ven′jəns) *n.* The act of revenging; retribution for a wrong or injury. — **Syn.** See REVENGE. — **with a vengeance** With great force or violence; to an unusual extent. [< AF < OF < L *vindicare* to defend, avenge]

venge·ful (venj′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Seeking to inflict vengeance; vindictive. **2.** Serving to inflict vengeance. — **venge′ful·ly** *adv.* — **venge′ful·ness** *n.*

veni- *combining form* Vein; also, vein in the earth. [< L *vena* vein]

ve·ni·al (vē′nē·əl, vēn′yəl) *adj.* **1.** *Theol.* That may be easily pardoned or forgiven: distinguished from *mortal*: *venial* sin. **2.** Excusable; pardonable. [< OF < L *venia* forgiveness, mercy] — **ve′ni·al′i·ty** (-al′ə·tē), **ve′ni·al·ness** *n.* — **ve′ni·al·ly** *adv.*

ve·ni·re (vi·nī′rē) *n. Law* A writ issued to the sheriff for summoning persons to serve as a jury. Also **ve·ni′re fa·ci·as** (fā′shi·as′) [< L *venire facias*, that you cause to come]

ve·ni·re·man (vi·nī′rē·mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One summoned to serve on a jury under a venire.

ven·i·son (ven′ə·zən, -sən; *Brit.* ven′zən) *n.* Deer flesh used for food. [< F < L < *venatus*, pp. of *venari* to hunt]

ve·ni, vi·di, vi·ci (vē′nī, vī′dī, vī′sī; wā′nē, wē′dē, wē′kē) *Latin* I came, I saw, I conquered: words used by Julius Caesar to report a victory in Asia Minor.

ven·om (ven′əm) *n.* **1.** The poisonous liquid secreted by certain animals, as serpents and scorpions, and introduced into the victim by a bite or sting. **2.** Malice; malignity; spite. [< OF < L *venenum* poison]

ven·om·ous (ven′əm·əs) *adj.* **1.** Having glands secreting venom. **2.** Able to give a poisonous sting. **3.** Malignant; spiteful. — **ven′om·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ven′om·ous·ness** *n.*

ve·nous (vē′nəs) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or marked with veins. **2.** *Physiol.* Designating the blood carried by the veins, distinguished from arterial blood by its darker color and presence of carbon dioxide. [< L *venosus* < *vena* vein] — **ve′nous·ly** *adv.* — **ve′nous·ness** *n*

vent (vent) *n.* **1.** An opening, commonly small, for the passage of liquids, gases, etc. **2.** Utterance; expression: chiefly in the phrase **to give vent to.** **3.** *Zool.* The external opening of the alimentary canal, esp. of animals below mammals; the anus. — *v.t.* **1.** To give expression to: often with *on*: to *vent* one's rage on the cat. **2.** To relieve, as by giving vent to emotion. **3.** To permit to escape from an opening. [ME < OF *fente* cleft < L *findere* to split] — **ven′ter** *n.*

vent·age (ven′tij) *n.* **1.** A small opening. **2.** A finger hole in a musical instrument. [< VENT]

ven·tail (ven′tāl) *n.* The lower adjustable front of a medieval helmet. [< OF < *vent* wind]

ven·ti·late (ven′tə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To produce a free circulation of air in; admit fresh air into. **2.** To provide with a vent. **3.** To make widely known; expose to examination and discussion. **4.** To oxygenate, as blood. [< L *ventilatus*, pp. of *ventilare* to fan < *ventus* wind] — **ven′ti·la′tion** *n.* — **ven′ti·la·tive** *adj.*

ven·ti·la·tor (ven′tə·lā′tər) *n.* A device or arrangement for supplying fresh air. — **ven′ti·la·to′ry** (-lə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.*

ven·tral (ven′trəl) *adj. Anat.* **a** Of, pertaining to, or situated on or near the abdomen. **b** On or toward the lower or anterior part of the body. [< L < *venter, ventris* belly] — **ven′tral·ly** *adv.*

ven·tri·cle (ven′trə·kəl) *n. Anat.* **1.** One of the two lower chambers of the heart, from which blood received from the atria is forced into the arteries. **2.** Any of various cavities in

the body, as of the brain, the spinal cord, etc. For illus. see HEART. [< L *ventriculus*, dim. of *venter, ventris* belly]

ven·tric·u·lar (ven·trik′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a ventricle. **2.** Swollen and distended.

ven·tril·o·quism (ven·tril′ə·kwiz′əm) *n.* The art of speaking in such a manner that the sounds seem to come from some source other than the person speaking. Also **ven·tril′o·quy** (-kwē). [< L < *venter* belly + *loqui* to speak] — **ven·tril′o·quist** *n.* — **ven·tril′o·quis′tic** *adj.*

ven·tril·o·quize (ven·tril′ə·kwīz) *v.t. & v.i.* **·quized, ·quiz·ing** To speak as a ventriloquist. Also *Brit.* **ven·tril′o·quise.**

ventro- *combining form Anat.* The abdomen; related to or near the abdomen; ventral. [< L *venter, ventris* belly]

ven·ture (ven′chər) *v.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To expose to chance or risk; hazard; stake. **2.** To run the risk of; brave. **3.** To express at the risk of denial or refutation: to *venture* a suggestion. — *v.i.* **4.** To take a risk; dare. — *n.* **1.** An undertaking attended with risk or danger; a risk; hazard; esp., a business investment. **2.** That which is ventured; esp., property risk. — **at a venture** At hazard; offhand. [Aphetic form of ADVENTURE] — **ven′tur·er** *n.*

ven·ture·some (ven′chər·səm) *adj.* **1.** Bold; daring. **2.** Involving hazard; risky. — **ven′ture·some·ly** *adv.* — **ven′ture·some·ness** *n.*

ven·tur·ous (ven′chər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Adventurous; willing to take risks and brave dangers; bold. **2.** Hazardous; risky; dangerous. — **ven′tur·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ven′tur·ous·ness** *n.*

ven·ue (ven′yōō) *n. Law* The place where a crime is committed or a cause of action arises; also, the county or political division from which the jury must be summoned and in which the trial must be held. — **change of venue** The change of the place of trial. [< OF, orig. fem. pp. of *venir* to come < L *venire*]

Ve·nus (vē′nəs) In Roman mythology, the goddess of love, spring, bloom, and beauty: identified with the Greek *Aphrodite.* — *n.* **1.** The sixth largest planet of the solar system and second in order from the sun. See PLANET. **2.** A statue or painting of Venus. **3.** A lovely woman. [< L]

Venus of Mi·lo (mē′lō) A marble statue of Venus, with the arms missing, discovered in 1820 on the island of Milo and later placed in the Louvre. Also **Venus de Milo.**

Ve·nus's flytrap (vē′nəs·iz flī′trap′) *n.* A plant with clustered leaves whose spiked blades instantly close upon insects lighting upon them, found native chiefly in the sandy bogs of eastern North and South Carolina.

ve·ra·cious (və·rā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Habitually disposed to speak the truth; truthful. **2.** Conforming to or expressing truth; true; accurate. [< L *verax, veracis* < *versus* true] — **ve·ra′cious·ly** *adv.* — **ve·ra′cious·ness** *n.*

ve·rac·i·ty (və·ras′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The habitual regard for truth; truthfulness; honesty. **2.** Agreement with truth; accuracy. **3.** That which is true; truth.

ve·ran·da (və·ran′də) *n.* An open portico or balcony, usu. roofed, along the outside of a building; a porch or stoop. Also **ve·ran′dah.** [< Hind. < Pg. *varanda* railing, balustrade]

verb (vûrb) *n. Gram.* **1.** The part of speech that expresses existence, action, or occurrence, as the English words *be, collide, think.* **2.** Any word or construction functioning similarly. [< F < L *verbum* word]

ver·bal (vûr′bəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or connected with words. **2.** Concerned with words rather than the ideas they convey: *verbal* distinctions. **3.** Expressed orally; not written: a *verbal* contract. **4.** Having word corresponding with word; literal: a *verbal* translation. **5.** *Gram.* **a** Partaking of the nature of or derived from a verb: a *verbal* noun. **b** Used to form verbs: a *verbal* prefix. — *n. Gram.* A verb form that functions as a substantive (gerund and infinitive) or as a modifier (present and past participles and infinitive), but retains some of the characteristics of a verb. [< F < LL < L *verbum* word] — **ver′bal·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** (adj.) **2.** In strict usage, *verbal* refers to spoken or written words, and *oral,* to spoken words only: a *verbal* dispute, an *oral* examination. However, the distinction is often blurred, so that we speak of a *verbal* agreement, rather than of an *oral* agreement. *Oral* and *verbal* always imply communication: *vocal* refers to the use of the voice, whether for communicating thought or not: a *vocal* exercise, a *vocal* defect.

ver·bal·ism (vûr′bəl·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** A verbal expression. **2.** A meaningless form of words. **3.** Wordiness; verbiage.

ver·bal·ist (vûr′bəl·ist) *n.* **1.** One who deals with words rather than facts or ideas. **2.** One who is skilled in the use and meaning of words.

ver·bal·ize (vûr′bəl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To express in words. **2.** *Gram.* To make a verb of; change into a verb. — *v.i.* **3.** To speak or write verbosely. **4.** To express oneself in words. — **ver′bal·i·za′tion** *n.* — **ver′bal·iz′er** *n.*

ver·ba·tim (vər·bā′tim, -təm) *adj. & adv.* In the exact words; word for word. [< LL < L *verbum* word]

ver·be·na (vər·bē′nə) *n.* Any of various American garden plants having dense terminal spikes of showy flowers. [< L, foliage, vervain]

ver·bi·age (vûr′bē·ij) *n.* **1.** Excess of words. **2.** Wordiness; verbosity. [< F *verbier* to gabble < L *verbum* word]

ver·bose (vər·bōs′) *adj.* Using or containing a wearisome and unnecessary number of words; wordy. [< L *verbosus* < *verbum* word] — **ver·bose′ly** *adv.* — **ver·bose′ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** Diffuse, prolix. Compare CIRCUMLOCUTION.

ver·bos·i·ty (vər·bos′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state or quality of being verbose; wordiness.

ver·bo·ten (fer·bōt′n) *adj. German* Forbidden.

verb phrase *Gram.* A finite verb form, consisting of a principle verb and an auxiliary or auxiliaries.

ver·dant (vûr′dənt) *adj.* **1.** Green with vegetation; covered with grass or green leaves; fresh. **2.** Unsophisticated. [< F < L *viridis* green] — **ver′dan·cy** *n.* — **ver′dant·ly** *adv.*

ver·dict (vûr′dikt) *n.* **1.** The decision of a jury in an action. **2.** A conclusion expressed; judgment. [< AF *verdit,* OF *voirdit* < L < *verus* true + *dictum,* pp. of *dicere* to say]

ver·di·gris (vûr′də·grēs, -gris) *n.* The green or bluish patina formed on copper, bronze, or brass surfaces after long exposure to the air. [< OF *verd de Grice, vert de Grece,* lit., green of Greece]

ver·dure (vûr′jər) *n.* The fresh greenness of growing vegetation; also, such vegetation itself. [< F < L *viridis* green]

ver·dur·ous (vûr′jər·əs) *adj.* Covered with verdure; verdant. — **ver′dur·ous·ness** *n.*

Ver·ein (fer·īn′) *n. German* A society; association.

verge[1] (vûrj) *n.* **1.** The extreme edge of something having defined limits; brink; margin. **2.** The point at which some action, condition, or state is likely to occur: on the *verge* of bankruptcy. **3.** A bounding or enclosing line; a boundary; also, the space enclosed. **4.** A rod, wand, or staff as a symbol of authority or emblem of office. — *v.i.* **verged, verg·ing** **1.** To come near; approach; border; usu. with *on*: His speech *verges* on the chaotic. **2.** To form the limit or verge. [< F, rod, stick < L *virga* twig]

verge[2] (vûrj) *v.i.* **verged, verg·ing** To slope; tend; incline. [< L *vergere* to bend, turn]

Ver·gil·i·an (vər·jil′ē·ən) *adj.* Pertaining to or in the style of Vergil: also spelled *Virgilian.*

ver·i·fi·a·ble (ver′ə·fī′ə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being verified. — **ver′i·fi′a·ble·ness** *n.* — **ver′i·fi′a·bly** *adv.*

ver·i·fi·ca·tion (ver′ə·fə·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of verifying, or the state of being verified. **2.** *Law* An oath appended to an account, petition, or plea, as to the truth of the facts stated in it.

ver·i·fy (ver′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To prove to be true or accurate; substantiate; confirm. **2.** To test or ascertain the accuracy or truth of. **3.** *Law* **a** To affirm under oath. **b** To add a confirmation to. [< OF < Med.L < *verus* true + *facere* to make] — **ver′i·fi′er** *n.*

ver·i·ly (ver′ə·lē) *adv. Archaic* In truth; really. [< VERY]

ver·i·sim·i·lar (ver′ə·sim′ə·lər) *adj.* Appearing or seeming to be true; likely; probable. [< L < *verus* true + *similis* like] — **ver′i·sim′i·lar·ly** *adv.*

ver·i·si·mil·i·tude (ver′ə·si·mil′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* **1.** Appearance of truth. **2.** That which resembles truth.

ver·i·ta·ble (ver′ə·tə·bəl) *adj.* Properly so called; unquestionable: a *veritable* villain. [< F *vérité* verity] — **ver′i·ta·ble·ness** *n.* — **ver′i·ta·bly** *adv.*

ver·i·ty (ver′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The quality of being correct or true. **2.** A true or established statement, principle, etc.; a fact; truth. [< F < L *veritas* truth]

ver·juice (vûr′jōōs) *n.* **1.** The sour juice of green fruit, as unripe grapes. **2.** Sharpness or sourness of disposition or manner; acidity. [< OF < *vert* green + *jus* juice]

ver·meil (vûr′mil) *n.* **1.** Silver or bronze gilt. **2.** *Poetic* Vermilion, or the color of vermilion. — *adj.* Of a bright-red color. [< OF < L *vermiculus,* dim. of *vermis* worm, the cochineal insect]

vermi- *combining form* A worm; of or related to a worm. [< L *vermis* worm]

ver·mi·cel·li (vûr′mə·sel′ē, *Ital.* ver′mē·chel′lē) *n.* A food paste made into slender cords thinner than spaghetti or macaroni. [< Ital., lit., little worms, pl. of *vermicello*]

ver·mi·cide (vûr′mə·sīd) *n.* Any substance that kills worms; esp., any drug destructive of intestinal worms. — **ver·mi·ci·dal** (vûr′mə·sīd′əl) *adj.*

ver·mic·u·lar (vər·mik′yə·lər) *adj.* **1.** Having the form or motion of a worm. **2.** Like the wavy tracks of a worm [< L < *vermis* worm] — **ver·mic′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

ver·mic·u·late (vər·mik′yə·lāt) *adj.* **1.** Covered with wormlike markings. **2.** Having the motions of a worm. **3.** Insinuating; tortuous. **4.** Worm-eaten.

ver·mi·form (vûr′mə·fôrm) *adj.* Like a worm in shape. [< Med.L < L *vermis* worm + *forma* form]

vermiform appendix *Anat.* A slender, wormlike vestigial structure, protruding from the end of the cecum in man and certain other mammals. For illus. see INTESTINE.

ver·mi·fuge (vûr′mə·fyōōj) *n.* Any remedy that destroys intestinal worms. — *adj.* Acting as a vermifuge. [< F < L *vermis* worm + *fugare* to expel]

ver·mil·ion (vər·mil′yən) *n.* **1.** A brilliant, durable red pigment, obtained naturally by grinding cinnabar to a fine powder, or made synthetically. **2.** The color of the pigment, an intense orange red. — *adj.* Of a bright-red color. — *v.t.* To color with vermilion; dye bright red. [See VERMEIL.]

ver·min (vûr′min) *n. pl.* **·min** **1.** Noxious small animals or parasitic insects, as lice, fleas, worms, rats, mice, etc. **2.** *Brit.* Certain animals injurious to game, as weasels, owls, etc. **3.** A repulsive or obnoxious human being; also, such persons collectively. [< OF < L *vermis* worm]

ver·min·ous (vûr′mən·əs) *adj.* **1.** Infested with vermin, esp. parasites. **2.** Relating to or caused by vermin. **3.** Of the nature of or resembling vermin. — **ver′min·ous·ly** *adv.* — **ver′min·ous·ness** *n.*

ver·mouth (vûr′mōōth, vər·mōōth′) *n.* A liqueur made from white wine flavored with aromatic herbs. Also **ver′·muth.** [< F < G *wermuth* wormwood]

ver·nac·u·lar (vər·nak′yə·lər) *n.* **1.** The native language of a locality. **2.** The common everyday speech of the people, as opposed to the literary language. **3.** The vocabulary or jargon of a particular profession or trade. **4.** An idiomatic word or phrase. **5.** The common name of a plant or animal as distinguished from its scientific designation. — *adj.* **1.** Originating in or belonging to one's native land; indigenous: said of a language, idiom, etc. **2.** Using everyday speech rather than the literary language. **3.** Written in the native language. **4.** Characteristic of a specific locality or country: *vernacular* arts. **5.** Designating the common name of a plant or animal. [< L *vernaculus* native < *verna* homeborn slave, native] — **ver·nac′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

ver·nal (vûr′nəl) *adj.* **1.** Belonging to, appearing in, or appropriate to spring. **2.** Youthful; fresh. [< L *vernus* belonging to spring < *ver* spring] — **ver′nal·ly** *adv.*

ver·nal·ize (vûr′nəl·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To accelerate the growth of (a plant) by subjecting the seeds to low temperatures. — **ver′nal·i·za′tion** *n.*

ver·na·tion (vər·nā′shən) *n. Bot.* The disposition of leaves within the leaf bud. [< NL < *vernare* to flourish]

ver·ni·er (vûr′nē·ər) *n.* **1.** The small, movable, auxiliary scale for obtaining fractional parts of the subdivisions of a fixed scale on a barometer, sextant, gauge, or other measure. Also **vernier scale.** **2.** *Mech.* An auxiliary device to insure fine adjustments in precision instruments. [after Pierre *Vernier*, 1580?–1637, French mathematician]

Ve·ro·nal (ver′ə·nəl) *n.* Proprietary name for a brand of barbital.

ver·sa·tile (vûr′sə·til) *adj.* **1.** Having an aptitude for various occupations; many-sided. **2.** Subject to change; variable. **3.** *Bot.* Attached so as to be freely swinging or turning. **4.** *Zool.* Capable of being turned forward or backward, as the toe of a bird. [< F < L < *vertere* to turn] — **ver′sa·tile·ly** *adv.* — **ver′sa·til′i·ty, ver′sa·tile·ness** *n.*

verse (vûrs) *n.* **1.** A single metrical or rhythmical line. **2.** Metrical composition; poetry: distinguished from *prose.* **3.** A poem. **4.** A specified type of meter or metrical structure: iambic *verse.* **5.** One of the short divisions of a chapter of the Bible. **6.** A short division of any metrical composition, song, etc., esp., a stanza. — *v.t. & v.i.* **versed, vers·ing** *Rare* To versify. [OE and OF < L < *vertere* to turn]

versed (vûrst) *adj.* Thoroughly acquainted; adept; proficient: with *in.* [< L < *versari* to occupy oneself]

versed sine *Trig.* A function of an angle, equal to one minus the cosine. Also **ver·sine** (vûr′sīn).

ver·si·cle (vûr′si·kəl) *n.* One of a series of lines said or sung alternately by minister and congregation. [< L. See VERSE.]

ver·si·fy (vûr′sə·fī) *v.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To change from prose into verse. **2.** To narrate or treat in verse. — *v.i.* **3.** To write poetry. [< OF < L < *versus* verse + *facere* to make] — **ver′si·fi·ca′tion** (-fə·kā′shən) *n.* — **ver′si·fi′er** *n.*

ver·sion (vûr′zhən, -shən) *n.* **1.** A description or account as modified by a particular point of view. **2.** A translation. **3.** *Usu. cap.* A translation of the whole or part of the Bible: the Douai *version.* [< MF < Med.L < L *vertere* to turn] — **ver′sion·al** *adj.*

vers li·bre (ver lē′brˈ) *French* Free verse.

ver·so (vûr′sō) *n. pl.* **·sos** **1.** A left-hand page of a book, or sheet of folded paper: opposed to *recto.* **2.** The reverse of a coin or medal. [< L *verso* (*folio*) a turned (leaf)]

verst (vûrst) *n.* A Russian measure of distance, about two thirds of a mile, or 1.067 kilometers. [< F and G < Russian *versta,* orig. a line]

ver·sus (vûr′səs) *prep.* **1.** In law and sports, against: Dempsey *versus* Tunney. **2.** Considered as the alternative of: free trade *versus* tariffs. [< L, toward, *vertere* to turn]

ver·te·bra (vûr′tə·brə) *n. pl.* **·brae** (-brē) or **·bras** *Anat.* Any of the segmented bones of the spinal column in man and the higher vertebrates. [< L, joint < *vertere* to turn] — **ver′te·bral** *adj.*

ver·te·brate (vûr′tə·brāt, -brit) *adj.* **1.** Having a backbone or spinal column. **2.** Pertaining to or characteristic of vertebrates. — *n.* Any of a primary division of animals, characterized by a segmented spinal column, as fishes, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

ver·tex (vûr′teks) *n. pl.* **·tex·es** or **·ti·ces** (-tə·sēz) **1.** The highest point of anything; apex; top. **2.** *Astron.* The point in the sky toward or from which a group of stars appears to be moving. **3.** *Geom.* **a** The point of intersection of the sides of an angle. **b** The point of a triangle opposite to, and farthest from, the base. [< L, the top < *vertere* to turn]

ver·ti·cal (vûr′ti·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, extending up and down; upright. **2.** Directly above or overhead. **3.** Of or at the vertex or highest point. **4.** *Econ.* Of or pertaining to a group of business concerns that handle all the stages of the manufacture and distribution of a product. — *n.* **1.** A vertical line, plane, or circle. **2.** An upright beam or rod in a truss. [< MF < L. See VERTEX.] — **ver′ti·cal′i·ty** (-kal′ə·tē), **ver′ti·cal·ness** *n.* — **ver′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

vertical union An industrial union.

ver·ti·ces (vûr′tə·sēz) Plural of VERTEX.

ver·ti·cil (vûr′tə·sil) *n. Biol.* **1.** A set of organs, as leaves or tentacles, disposed in a circle around an axis; whorl. **2.** A volution of a spiral shell. [< L *verticillus* whorl]

ver·tic·il·late (vər·tis′ə·lit, -lāt, vûr′tə·sil′it, -āt) *adj.* **1.** Arranged in a verticil. **2.** Having parts so arranged. Also **ver·tic′il·lat·ed.** — **ver·tic′il·late·ly** *adv.* — **ver·tic′il·la′tion** *n.*

ver·tig·i·nous (vər·tij′ə·nəs) *adj.* **1.** Affected by vertigo; dizzy. **2.** Turning round; whirling; revolving. **3.** Liable to cause dizziness. [See VERTIGO.] — **ver·tig′i·nous·ly** *adv.* — **ver·tig′i·nous·ness** *n.*

ver·ti·go (vûr′tə·gō) *n. pl.* **·goes** or **ver·tig·i·nes** (vər·tij′ə·nēz) *Pathol.* Any of a group of disorders in which a person feels as if he or his surroundings are whirling around; dizziness. [< L < *vertere* to turn]

ver·tu (vər·tōō′, vûr′tōō) See VIRTU.

ver·vain (vûr′vān) *n.* Any of a family of herbs, shrubs, and trees, including many cultivated ornamental verbenas. [< OF < L *verbena*]

verve (vûrv) *n.* **1.** Enthusiasm or energy, esp., as manifested in artistic production. **2.** Spirit; vigor. [< F]

ver·y (ver′ē) *adv.* In a high degree; extremely: *very* generous. — *adj.* **ver·i·er, ver·i·est** **1.** Absolute; actual; simple: the *very* truth. **2.** Identical: my *very* words. **3.** The (thing) itself: used as an intensive equivalent to *even*: The *very* stones cry out. **4.** Unqualified; utter; complete: a *very* rogue. [< AF or OF < L *verus* true]

very high frequency *Telecom.* A band of radio wave frequencies ranging from 30 to 300 megacycles.

very low frequency *Telecom.* A band of radio wave frequencies ranging from 10 to 30 kilocycles.

ves·i·cant (ves′i·kənt) *adj.* Producing blisters. — *n.* That which produces blisters. [< NL < L *vesica* blister, bladder]

ves·i·cate (ves′i·kāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** To blister. — **ves′i·ca′tion** *n.*

ves·i·ca·to·ry (ves′i·kə·tôr′ē, və·sik′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Capable of producing blisters; vesicant. — *n. pl.* **·ries** Any substance, as an ointment or plaster, that causes a blister.

ves·i·cle (ves′i·kəl) *n.* **1.** Any small bladderlike cavity, cell, or cyst. **2.** *Anat.* A small sac, containing gas or fluid. **3.** *Pathol.* A blister. [< L < *vesica* bladder] — **ve·sic·u·lar** (və·sik′yə·lər) *adj.*

vesico- *combining form Med.* The urinary bladder; of or pertaining to the urinary bladder. Also, before vowels, **vesic-.** [< L *vesica* bladder]

ve·sic·u·late (*v.* və·sik′yə·lāt; *adj.* və·sik′yə·lit, -lāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** To make or become vesicular. — *adj.* Having vesicles; vesicular. — **ve·sic′u·la′tion** *n.*

ves·per (ves′pər) *n.* **1.** A bell that calls to vespers. **2.** An evening service, prayer, or song. **3.** *Obs.* Evening. — *adj.* Of evening or vespers. [< L, the evening star]

Ves·per (ves′pər) *n.* The evening star; Hesperus; the planet Venus when an evening star. [< OF < L]

ves·pers (ves′pərz) *n.pl. Often cap. Eccl.* **1.** The sixth of the seven canonical hours. **2.** A service of worship in the evening. [< OF < Med.L < L *vespera* evening]

ves·sel (ves′əl) *n.* **1.** A hollow receptacle, esp. one capable of holding a liquid, as a bowl, pitcher, etc. **2.** A craft designed to float on the water, usu. one larger than a rowboat; a ship or boat. **3.** *Anat.* A duct or canal for transporting a body fluid, as a vein. [< OF < L < *vas* vessel]

vest (vest) *n. Chiefly U.S.* A man's short, sleeveless garment, buttoning in front, commonly worn underneath a suit coat: also, *esp. Brit., waistcoat.* — *v.t.* **1.** To confer (ownership, authority, etc.) upon some person or persons: usu.,

with *in*. **2.** To place ownership, or authority with (a person or persons). **3.** To clothe, as with vestments. — *v.i.* **4.** To clothe oneself, as in vestments. **5.** To become vested; devolve. [< F < Ital. < L *vestis* garment]

Ves·ta (ves′tə) *n.* In Roman mythology, the goddess of the hearth and the hearth fire.

ves·tal (ves′təl) *n.* **1.** One of the virgin priestesses of Vesta. Also **vestal virgin. 2.** A woman of pure character; a virgin. **3.** A nun. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to Vesta. **2.** Chaste; pure.

vest·ed (ves′tid) *adj.* **1.** *Law* Held by fixed tenure. Established by law as a permanent right. **2.** Dressed; robed, esp. in church vestments.

vested interest **1.** A strong commitment to a system or institution whose existence serves one's self-interest. **2.** *Usu. pl.* A financially powerful or influential group.

vest·ee (ves·tē′) *n.* An imitation blouse-front worn in the front of a suit or dress. [Dim. of VEST]

ves·ti·bule (ves′tə·byōōl) *n.* **1.** A small antechamber behind the outer door of a building; an entrance hall; lobby. **2.** The enclosed passage between railway passenger cars. **3.** *Anat.* Any of several chambers or channels adjoining or communicating with others: the *vestibule* of the ear. — *v.t.* **·buled, ·bul·ing** To provide with a vestibule. [< L *vestibulum* entrance hall] — **ves·tib′u·lar** (-tib′yə·lər) *adj.*

ves·tige (ves′tij) *n.* **1.** A visible trace, impression, or sign, of something absent or lost; trace. **2.** *Biol.* A part or organ, small or degenerate, but well developed and functional in ancestral forms of organisms. [< F < L *vestigium* footprint] — **ves·tig′i·al** *adj.* — **ves·tig′i·al·ly** *adv.*

ves·tig·i·um (ves·tij′ē·əm) *n. pl.* **·tig·i·a** (-tij′ē·ə) *Biol.* A vestigial part; vestige. [< L, footprint]

vest·ment (vest′mənt) *n.* **1.** An article of dress; esp., a robe of office. **2.** *Eccl.* One of the ritual garments of the clergy. [< OF < L < *vestire* to clothe] — **vest′ment·al** *adj.*

vest-pock·et (vest′pok′it) *adj.* Small enough to fit in a vest pocket; very small; diminutive: a *vest-pocket* edition.

ves·try (ves′trē) *n. pl.* **·tries** **1.** A room, as in a church, where vestments and sacred vessels are kept: often called *sacristy*. **2.** A room in a church used for Sunday School, meetings, as a chapel, etc. **3.** In the Anglican Church, a body administering the affairs of a parish or congregation; also, a meeting of such a body. [< OF *vestiarie* < Med.L *vestiarium* wardrobe]

ves·try·man (ves′trē·mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A member of a vestry.

ves·ture (ves′chər) *n.* **1.** *Archaic* Garments; clothing; a robe. **2.** *Archaic* A covering or envelope. — *v.t.* **·tured, ·tur·ing** *Archaic* To cover or clothe with vesture. [< OF < *vestir* cloth < L *vestire* to clothe]

vet[1] (vet) *Informal n.* A veterinarian. — *v.* **vet·ted, vet·ting** *v.t.* **1.** To treat as a veterinarian does. — *v.i.* **2.** To treat animals medically. [Short for VETERINARIAN]

vet[2] (vet) *n. Informal* A veteran. [Short for VETERAN]

vetch (vech) *n.* **1.** Any of various climbing herbaceous vines of the bean family; esp., the common broad bean, grown for fodder. **2.** A leguminous European plant yielding edible seeds. [< AF *veche, vecce* < L *vicia*]

vet·er·an (vet′ər·ən, vet′rən) *n.* **1.** One who is much experienced in any service. **2.** A former member of the armed forces. — *adj.* **1.** Having had long experience or practice; old in service. **2.** Of or pertaining to veterans. [< MF < L *veteranus* < *vetus, veteris* old]

Veterans Administration An agency of the U.S. government that administers all federal laws relating to the relief of former members of the military and naval services.

Veterans Day A U.S. national holiday honoring veterans of the armed forces, November 11, the anniversary of the armistice in World War I: formerly called *Armistice Day*.

Veterans of Foreign Wars A society of ex-servicemen who have served in the U.S. armed forces in a war with and in a foreign country; founded 1899.

vet·er·i·nar·i·an (vet′ər·ə·nâr′ē·ən, vet′rə-) *n. Chiefly U.S.* A practitioner of veterinary medicine or surgery.

vet·er·i·nar·y (vet′ər·ə·ner′ē, vet′rə-) *adj.* Pertaining to the diseases or injuries of animals, and to their treatment by medical or surgical means. — *n. pl.* **·nar·ies** A veterinarian. [< L *veterinarius* pertaining to beasts of burden]

veterinary medicine The branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, treatment, and cure of animal diseases.

ve·to (vē′tō) *v.t.* **·toed, ·to·ing** **1.** To refuse executive approval of (a bill passed by a legislative body). **2.** To forbid or prohibit authoritatively. — *n. pl.* **·toes** **1.** The prerogative of a chief executive to refuse to approve a legislative enactment by withholding his signature; also, the exercise of such a prerogative: also *veto power*. **2.** The official communication containing a refusal to approve a bill and the reasons for refusing: also **veto message. 3.** Any authoritative prohibition. [< L, I forbid] — **ve′to·er** *n.*

vex (veks) *v.t.* **1.** To provoke to anger or displeasure by small irritations; annoy. **2.** To trouble or afflict. **3.** To make a subject of dispute. [< OF < L *vexare* to shake] — **vexed** *adj.* — **vex′er** *n.*

vex·a·tion (vek·sā′shən) *n.* **1.** A vexing or being vexed. **2.** That which vexes.

vex·a·tious (vek·sā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Causing vexation. **2.** Harassing; annoying. — **vex·a′tious·ly** *adv.* — **vex·a′tious·ness** *n.*

vi·a (vī′ə, vē′ə) *prep.* By way of; by a route passing through: He went to Boston *via* New Haven. ◆ In informal usage, *via* can refer to the means of travel as well as the route: We went *via* train. [< L, ablative sing. of *via* way]

vi·a·ble (vī′ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of developing normally, as a newborn infant, a seed, etc. **2.** Workable; practicable. [< F < *vie* life < L *vita*] — **vī′a·bil′i·ty** *n.*

vi·a·duct (vī′ə·dukt) *n.* A bridgelike structure, esp. a large one of arched masonry, to carry a roadway or the like over a valley or ravine. [< L *via* way + (AQUE)DUCT]

VIADUCT
(Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct at Nîmes, France)

vi·al (vī′əl) *n.* A small bottle for liquids: also *phial*. — **to pour out the vials of wrath upon** To inflict retribution or vengeance on. See *Rev.* xvi. — *v.t.* **vi·aled** or **·alled, ·vi·al·ing** or **·al·ling** To put or keep in or as in a vial. [< OF < L < Gk. *phialē* shallow cup]

vi·and (vī′ənd) *n.* **1.** An article of food, esp. meat. **2.** *pl.* Victuals; provisions; food. [< OF *viande*, ult. < L *vivenda*, neut. pl. gerundive of *vivere* to live]

vi·at·i·cum (vī·at′ə·kəm) *n. pl.* **·ca** (-kə) or **·cums** **1.** *Eccl.* The Eucharist, as given on the verge of death. **2.** Provisions for a journey. [< L, traveling money, neut. sing. of *viaticus* < *via* way]

vibes[1] (vibz) *n.pl. Informal* A vibraphone.

vibes[2] (vibz) *n.pl. Slang* Vibration (def. 3).

vi·bran·cy (vī′brən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** The state or character of being vibrant; resonance.

vi·brant (vī′brənt) *adj.* **1.** Vibrating. **2.** Throbbing; pulsing: *vibrant* with enthusiasm. **3.** Rich and resonant, as a sound: *vibrant* tones. **4.** Energetic; vigorous. **5.** *Phonet.* Voiced. — *n. Phonet.* A voiced sound. [< L ppr. of *vibrare* to shake] — **vi′brant·ly** *adv.*

vi·bra·phone (vī′brə·fōn) *n.* A type of marimba in which a pulsating sound is produced by valves in the resonators. Also **vi′bra-harp′** (-härp′). [< VIBRA(TO) + -PHONE]

vi·brate (vī′brāt) *v.* **·brat·ed, ·brat·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move back and forth rapidly; quiver. **2.** To move or swing back and forth, as a pendulum. **3.** To sound: The note *vibrates* on the ear. **4.** To be emotionally moved; thrill. **5.** To vacillate; waver, as between choices. — *v.t.* **6.** To cause to quiver or tremble. **7.** To cause to move back and forth. **8.** To send forth (sound, etc.) by vibration. [< L *vibratus*, pp. of *vibrare* to shake]

vi·bra·tile (vī′brə·til, -tīl) *adj.* **1.** Adapted to, having, or used in vibratory motion. **2.** Pertaining to or resembling vibration. — **vi·bra·til·i·ty** (vī′brə·til′ə·tē) *n.*

vi·bra·tion (vī·brā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of vibrating or the state of being vibrated. **2.** *Physics* **a** Any physical process characterized by cyclic variations in amplitude, intensity, or the like, as wave motion or an electric field. **b** A single complete oscillation. **3.** *pl.* The atmosphere of a place or the mood of a person as perceived by another person. — **vi·bra′tion·al** *adj.* — **vi′bra·to·ry** *adj.*

vi·bra·to (vē·brä′tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** *Music* A trembling or pulsating effect caused by rapid but minute variations in pitch during the production of a tone. [< Ital. < L, pp. of *vibrare* to shake]

vi·bra·tor (vī′brā·tər) *n.* **1.** That which vibrates. **2.** An electrically operated massaging apparatus.

vib·ri·o (vib′rē·ō) *n. pl.* **·ri·os** Any of various comma-shaped bacteria. [< L *vibrare* to shake] — **vib·ri·on′ic** *adj.*

vi·bur·num (vī·bûr′nəm) *n.* Any of a genus of shrubs or small trees related to the honeysuckle, bearing small flowers and berrylike fruit. [< L, the wayfaring tree]

vic·ar (vik′ər) *n.* **1.** In the Anglican Church, the priest of a parish of which the main revenues are appropriated or impropriated by a layman, the priest himself receiving but a stipend. **2.** In the Roman Catholic Church, a substitute or representative of an ecclesiastical person. **3.** In some par-

ishes of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the clergyman who is the head of a chapel. **4.** One authorized to perform functions in the stead of another; deputy. [< AF, OF < L *vicarius* substitute < *vicis* change]

vic·ar·age (vik′ər·ij) *n.* **1.** The benefice, office, or duties of a vicar. **2.** A vicar's residence or household.

vicar general *pl.* **vicars general** **1.** In the Roman Catholic Church, a functionary appointed by the bishop as assistant or representative in certain matters of jurisdiction. **2.** In the Church of England, an official assisting the bishop or archbishop in ecclesiastical causes.

vi·car·i·al (vī·kâr′ē·əl, vi-) *adj.* **1.** Vicarious; delegated. **2.** Of, relating to, or acting as a vicar.

vi·car·i·ate (vī·kâr′ē·it, -āt, vi-) *n.* A delegated office or power; esp., the office or authority of a vicar. Also **vic·ar·ate** (vik′ər·it).

vi·car·i·ous (vī·kâr′ē·əs, vi-) *adj.* **1.** Made or performed by substitution; suffered or done in place of another: a *vicarious* sacrifice. **2.** Enjoyed, felt, etc., by a person as a result of his imagined participation in an experience not his own: *vicarious* gratification. **3.** Filling the office of or acting for another. [< L *vicarius* substitute] — **vi·car′i·ous·ly** *adv.* — **vi·car′i·ous·ness** *n.*

Vicar of Christ The Pope.

vic·ar·ship (vik′ər·ship) *n.* The office or position of a vicar.

vice[1] (vīs) *n.* **1.** An immoral habit or trait. **2.** A slight personal fault; foible. **3.** Habitual indulgence in degrading or harmful practices. **4.** Something that mars; a blemish or imperfection. [< OF < L *vitium* fault]

vice[2] (vīs) See VISE.

vice[3] (*adj. & n.* vīs; *prep.* vī′sē) *adj.* Acting in the place of; substitute; deputy: *vice* president. — *n.* One who acts in the place of another; a substitute; deputy. — *prep.* Instead of; in the place of. [< L, ablative of *vicis* change]

vice admiral *Naval* A commissioned officer ranking next below an admiral. Also *Brit. & Canadian* **vice-ad·mi·ral** (vīs′ad′mər·əl). See tables at GRADE.

vice-ad·mir·al·ty (vīs′ad′mər·əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The office of a vice admiral.

vice consul One who exercises consular authority, either as the substitute or as the subordinate of a consul. — **vice-con·su·lar** (vīs′kon′sə·lər) *adj.* — **vice-con·su·late** (vīs′·kon′sə·lit) *n.* — **vice′-con′sul·ship** *n.*

vice·ge·ren·cy (vīs·jir′ən·sē) *n. pl.* **·cies** **1.** The office or authority of a vicegerent. **2.** A district ruled by a vicegerent.

vice·ger·ent (vīs·jir′ənt) *n.* One duly authorized to exercise the powers of another; a deputy; vicar. — *adj.* Acting in the place of another, usu. in the place of a superior. [< Med.L < L *vice* in place + *gerens, -entis*, ppr. of *gerere* to carry, manage] — **vice·ge′ral** *adj.*

vic·e·nar·y (vis′ə·ner′ē) *adj.* **1.** Consisting of or pertaining to twenty. **2.** Relating to a system of notation based upon twenty. [< L < *viceni* twenty each < *viginti* twenty]

vi·cen·ni·al (vī·sen′ē·əl) *adj.* **1.** Occurring once in twenty years. **2.** Lasting or existing twenty years.

vice president An officer ranking next below a president, and acting, on occasion, in his place. — **vice-pres·i·den·cy** (vīs′prez′ə·dən·sē) *n.* — **vice′-pres′i·den′tial** (-prez′ə·den′·shəl) *adj.*

vice·re·gal (vīs·rē′gəl) *adj.* Of or relating to a viceroy, his office, or his jurisdiction. Also **vice·roy′al** (-roi′əl). — **vice·re′gal·ly** *adv.*

vice regent A deputy regent. — **vice-re·gen·cy** (vis′rē′·jən·sē) *n.* — **vice′-re′gent** *adj.*

vice·roy (vīs′roi) *n.* **1.** One who rules a country, colony, or province by the authority of his sovereign or king. **2.** A North American nymphalid butterfly, orange red with black markings and a row of white marginal spots. [< MF < *vice-, vis-* in place + *roy* king, ult. < L *rex, regis*]

vice·roy·al·ty (vīs·roi′əl·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The office or authority of a viceroy. **2.** The term of office of a viceroy. **3.** A district governed by a viceroy. Also **vice′roy·ship.**

vice squad A police division charged with combating prostitution, gambling, etc.

vi·ce ver·sa (vī′sē vûr′sə, vīs′) The order being changed; conversely. [< L]

vi·chy·ssoise (vē′shē·swäz′) *n.* A potato cream soup, usu. served cold. [< F, of Vichy]

Vi·chy water (vish′ē, vē·shē′) The effervescent mineral water from the springs at Vichy, France; also, any mineral water resembling it. Also **Vi′chy, vi′chy.**

vic·i·nage (vis′ə·nij) *n.* **1.** Neighboring places collectively; vicinity. **2.** The state of being a neighbor or neighbors. [< OF < L *vicinus* nearby]

vic·i·nal (vis′ə·nəl) *adj.* Neighboring; adjoining; near.

vi·cin·i·ty (vi·sin′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** A region adjacent or near; neighborhood. **2.** Nearness in space or relationship; proximity. [< L < *vicinus* nearby]

vi·cious (vish′əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by malice or spite; malicious. **2.** Characterized by violence and fierceness: a *vicious* blow. **3.** Addicted to vice; corrupt in conduct or habits. **4.** Morally injurious, vile. **5.** Unruly or dangerous; refractory, as an animal. **6.** Defective or faulty: *vicious* arguments. **7.** *Informal* Intense; severe; extreme: a *vicious* storm. [< OF < L *vitium* fault] — **vi′cious·ly** *adv.* — **vi′·cious·ness** *n.*

vicious circle **1.** The process or predicament that arises when the solution of a problem creates a new problem and each successive solution adds another problem. **2.** *Med.* The accelerating effect of one disease upon another when the two are coexistent.

vi·cis·si·tude (vi·sis′ə·tōōd, -tyōōd) *n.* **1.** *pl.* Irregular changes or variations, as of fortune: the *vicissitudes* of life. **2.** A change; esp., a complete change; mutation or mutability. **3.** Alternating change or succession, as of the seasons. [< MF < L < *vicis* turn, change]

vi·cis·si·tu·di·nar·y (vi·sis′ə·tōō′də·ner′ē, -tyōō′-) *adj.* Marked by or subject to change. Also **vi·cis′si·tu′di·nous.**

vic·tim (vik′tim) *n.* **1.** One who is killed, injured, or subjected to suffering. **2.** One who is swindled or tricked; a dupe. **3.** A living creature sacrificed to some deity or as a religious rite. [< L *victima* beast for sacrifice]

vic·tim·ize (vik′tim·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make a victim of, esp. by defrauding or swindling; dupe; cheat. — **vic′tim·i·za′tion** *n.* — **vic′tim·iz′er** *n.*

vic·tor (vik′tər) *n.* **1.** One who vanquishes an enemy. **2.** One who wins any struggle or contest. — *adj.* Pertaining to a victor; victorious: the *victor* nation. [< AF *victor, victour*, OF *victeur* < L *victus*, pp. of *vincere* to conquer]

vic·to·ri·a (vik·tôr′ē·ə, -tō′rē·ə) *n.* A low, light, four-wheeled carriage, with a calash top, a seat for two persons, and a raised driver's seat. [after Queen *Victoria*]

Vic·to·ri·a (vik·tôr′ē·ə, -tō′rē·ə) *n.* In Roman mythology, the winged goddess of victory: identified with the Greek *Nike*.

Victoria Cross A British military and naval decoration in the form of a bronze Maltese cross, awarded for conspicuous bravery. Abbr. *V.C.*

Victoria Day In Canada, the Monday next before May 24, commemorating the birthday of Queen Victoria.

Vic·to·ri·an (vik·tôr′ē·ən, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to Queen Victoria, or to her reign. **2.** Pertaining to or characteristic of the ideals and standards of morality and taste prevalent during the reign of Queen Victoria; prudish; conventional; narrow. — *n.* Anyone, esp. an author, contemporary with Queen Victoria. — **Vic·to′ri·an·ism** *n.*

vic·to·ri·ous (vik·tôr′ē·əs, -tō′rē-) *adj.* **1.** Having won victory; triumphant. **2.** Relating to or characterized by victory. — **vic·to′ri·ous·ly** *adv.* — **vic·to′ri·ous·ness** *n.*

vic·to·ry (vik′tər·ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** The overcoming of an enemy, opponent, or any difficulty; triumph. [See VICTOR.]

Victory Medal Either of two bronze medals awarded to all who served in the U.S. armed forces in World War I or World War II, worn with the **Victory Ribbon.**

vict·ual (vit′l) *n.* Food for human beings, as prepared for eating: used in the plural. — *v.* **vict·ualed** or **·ualled, vict·ual·ing** or **·ual·ling** *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with victuals. — *v.i.* **2.** To lay in supplies of food. [< OF < LL *victualia* provisions < L < *victus* food]

vi·cu·ña (vi·kōōn′yə, -kyōō′nə) *n.* **1.** A small ruminant of the high Andes related to the llama and alpaca, having fine and valuable wool. **2.** A textile made from this wool, or some substitute. Also **vi·cu′gna.** [< Sp. < Quechua]

vi·de (vī′dē) See: used to make a reference or direct attention to: *vide* p. 36. [< L, imperative sing. of *videre* to see]

vi·de an·te (vī′dē an′tē) *Latin* See before.

vi·de in·fra (vī′dē in′frə) *Latin* See below.

vi·de·li·cet (vi·del′ə·sit) *adv.* To wit; that is to say; namely. Abbr. *viz.* [< L < *videre licet* it is permitted to see]

vid·e·o (vid′ē·ō) *adj.* Of or pertaining to television, esp. to the picture portion of a program. — *n.* Television. [< L, I see]

vi·de post (vī′dē pōst′) *Latin* See after; see what follows.

vi·de su·pra (vī′dē sōō′prə) *Latin* See above.

vi·dette (vi·det′) See VEDETTE.

vi·de ut su·pra (vī′dē ut sōō′prə) *Latin* See what is written above.

vie (vī) *v.* **vied, vy·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To strive for superiority; compete, as in a race: with *with* or *for*. — *v.t.* **2.** *Rare* To put forth in competition. [< MF < L *invitare* to invite]

Vi·en·nese (vē′ə·nēz′, -nēs′) *adj.* Of or relating to Vienna, or its inhabitants. — *n. pl.* **·nese** A native or citizen of Vienna.

Vi·et·nam·ese (vē·et′näm·ēz′, -ēs′) *n. pl.* **Vi·et·nam·ese** **1.** A native or inhabitant of Vietnam. **2.** The language of Vietnam: formerly called *Annamese*. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Vietnam, its inhabitants, or their language.

view (vyōō) *n.* **1.** The act of seeing; survey; inspection. **2.** Mental examination or inspection. **3.** Power or range of vision. **4.** That which is seen; outlook; prospect. **5.** A representation of a scene; esp., a landscape. **6.** The object of action; aim; intention; purpose. **7.** Manner of looking at

things; opinion; judgment. **8.** A general summary or account. **— in view** **1.** In range of vision. **2.** Under consideration. **3.** As a goal or end. **— in view of** In consideration of. **— on view** Open to the public; set up for public inspection. **— with a view to** **1.** With the aim or purpose of. **2.** With a hope of. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To look at; see; behold. **2.** To look at carefully; examine. **3.** To survey mentally; consider. [< OF *veoir* to see < L *videre*] **— view'er** *n.*

view finder *Photog.* A finder (def. 3).

view·less (vyōō'lis) *adj.* **1.** Devoid of a view; that cannot be viewed. **2.** Having no views or opinions. **3.** Invisible; unseen. **— view'less·ly** *adv.* **— view'less·ness** *n.*

view·point (vyōō'point') *n.* Point of view.

vi·ges·i·mal (vī·jes'ə·məl) *adj.* **1.** Twentieth. **2.** Of or pertaining to twenty; proceeding by twenties. [< L *viginti* twenty]

vig·il (vij'əl) *n.* **1.** The act of staying awake in order to observe, protect, etc.; watch. **2.** *Eccl.* **a** The eve of a holy day. **b** *pl.* Religious devotions on such an eve. [< OF < Med.L < L *vigil* wide-awake]

vig·i·lance (vij'ə·ləns) *n.* The quality of being vigilant; alertness; watchfulness in guarding against danger.

vigilance committee *U.S.* Formerly, a body of men self-organized for the maintenance of order and the administration of summary justice.

vig·i·lant (vij'ə·lənt) *adj.* Characterized by vigilance; being on the alert; watchful; heedful; wary. [< MF < L < *vigil* awake] **— vig'i·lant·ly** *adv.* **— vig'i·lant·ness** *n.*

— Syn. *Vigilant* suggests action as well as attention: a riot was averted by the *vigilant* police. *Watchful* suggests unremitting attention: his *watchful* eye caught the covert signal. *Alert* stresses the speed of a response to necessity or opportunity: *alert* traders made a killing on the stock market. **— Ant.** inattentive, heedless.

vig·i·lan·te (vij'ə·lan'tē) *n. U.S.* **1.** One of a group who take upon themselves the unauthorized responsibility of interpreting and acting upon matters of law, public morality, etc. **2.** A member of a vigilance committee: also **vigilance man.** [< Sp., vigilant < L. See VIGILANT.]

vi·gnette (vin·yet') *n.* **1.** A description, short literary work, etc., that depicts something subtly and delicately. **2.** Any charming, intimate scene, etc. **3.** A decorative design placed on or before the title page of a book, at the end or beginning of a chapter, etc. **4.** An engraving, photograph, or the like, having a background that shades off gradually. **—** *v.t.* **·gnet·ted, ·gnet·ting** **1.** To make with a gradually shaded background, as a photograph. **2.** To ornament with vignettes. **3.** To depict in a vignette. [< F, dim. of *vigne* vine] **— vi·gnet'tist** *n.*

vig·or (vig'ər) *n.* **1.** Active strength or force, physical or mental. **2.** Vital or natural power, as in a healthy animal or plant. **3.** Forcible exertion of strength; energy; intensity. **4.** Effective force; validity. Also *Brit.* **vig'our.** [< AF, OF < L *vigere* to be lively, thrive]

vig·or·ous (vig'ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Full of physical or mental vigor; robust. **2.** Performed or done with vigor. **3.** Showing or exemplifying vigor. **4.** Forceful and effective: a *vigorous* style. **— vig'or·ous·ly** *adv.* **— vig'or·ous·ness** *n.*

vi·king (vī'king) *n.* One of the Scandinavian warriors who harried the coasts of Europe from the eighth to the tenth centuries. Also **Vi'king.** [< ON *vikingr* pirate]

vile (vil) *adj.* **vil·er, vil·est** **1.** Morally base; shamefully wicked. **2.** Despicable; vicious. **3.** Loathsome; disgusting. **4.** Degrading; ignominious: *vile* treatment. **5.** Flagrantly bad or inferior. **6.** Unpleasant; disagreeable. [< AF, OF < L *vilis* cheap] **— vile'ly** *adv.* **— vile'ness** *n.*

vil·i·fy (vil'ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To abuse or characterize with defamatory language; malign; slander. **2.** To make base; degrade. [< LL < L *vilis* cheap + *facere* to make] **— vil'i·fi·ca'tion** (-fə·kā'shən) *n.* **— vil'i·fi'er** *n.*

vil·la (vil'ə) *n.* **1.** A comfortable or luxurious house in the country, at a resort, etc. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* A modest suburban residence. [< Ital. < L, a country house, farm]

vil·lage (vil'ij) *n.* **1.** A collection of houses in a rural district, usu. smaller than a town but larger than a hamlet. **2.** *U.S.* In some States, a municipality smaller than a city, sometimes incorporated. **3.** Any comparatively small community. **4.** The inhabitants of a village, collectively. [< OF < L < *villa* a country house]

vil·lag·er (vil'ij·ər) *n.* One who lives in a village.

vil·lain (vil'ən) *n.* **1.** An egregiously wicked, evil, or malevolent man. **2.** Such a man represented as a leading character in a novel, play, etc., often in opposition to the hero. **3.** A rogue; scoundrel: often used humorously. **4.** A villein. [< AF, OF *vilein, vilain* farm servant < LL < L *villa* farm] **— vil'lain·ess** *n.fem.*

vil·lain·ous (vil'ən·əs) *adj.* **1.** Having the nature of a villain. **2.** Characteristic of a villain; evil. **3.** Very bad or unpleasant. **— vil'lain·ous·ly** *adv.* **— vil'lain·ous·ness** *n.*

vil·lain·y (vil'ən·ē) *n. pl.* **·lain·ies** **1.** The quality of being villainous. **2.** Conduct characteristic of a villain.

vil·lein (vil'ən) *n.* In the feudal system, a member of a class of serfs who were regarded as freemen in respect to their legal relations with all persons except their lord: also *villain.* [See VILLAIN.] **— vil'lain·age, vil'lein·age, vil'len·age** *n.*

vil·lus (vil'əs) *n. pl.* **vil·li** (vil'ī) **1.** *Anat.* One of the short, hairlike processes found on certain membranes, as of the small intestine, where they aid in the digestive process. **2.** *Bot.* One of the long, close, rather soft hairs on the surface of certain plants. [< L, tuft of hair, shaggy hair, var. of *vellus* fleece, wool] **— vil'lous** *adj.* **— vil'lous·ly** *adv.*

vim (vim) *n.* Force or vigor; energy; spirit. [< L, accusative of *vis* power]

vin (vañ) *n. French* Wine.

vin- Var. of VINI-.

vi·na (vē'nä) *n.* An East Indian musical instrument with seven steel strings stretched on a long, fretted fingerboard over two gourds. [< Hind. *vīnā* < Skt.]

vi·na·ceous (vī·nā'shəs) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to wine or grapes. **2.** Having the characteristic color of red wine. [< L *vinaceous* < *vinum* wine]

vin·ai·grette (vin'ə·gret') *n.* **1.** A small ornamental box or bottle, used for holding smelling salts, or a similar pungent restorative. **2.** Vinaigrette sauce. [< F, dim. of *vinaigre* vinegar]

vinaigrette sauce A sauce made from vinegar, savory herbs, etc., served with fish and cold meats.

vin·ci·ble (vin'sə·bəl) *adj. Rare* Capable of being conquered or overcome; conquerable. [< L *vincibilis* < *vincere* to conquer] **— vin'ci·bil'i·ty, vin'ci·ble·ness** *n.*

vin·cu·lum (vingk'yə·ləm) *n. pl.* **·la** (-lə) *Math.* A straight line drawn over several algebraic terms to show that all are to be operated on together. [< L < *vincire* to bind]

vin·di·ca·ble (vin'də·kə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being vindicated; justifiable.

vin·di·cate (vin'də·kāt) *v.t.* **·cat·ed, ·cat·ing** **1.** To clear of accusation, censure, suspicion, etc. **2.** To support or maintain, as a right or claim. **3.** To serve to justify. [< L *vindicatus*, pp. of *vindicare* to avenge, claim] **— vin'di·ca'tor** *n.*

vin·di·ca·tion (vin'də·kā'shən) *n.* **1.** A vindicating or being vindicated. **2.** Justification; defense.

vin·di·ca·to·ry (vin'də·kə·tôr'ē, -tō'rē) *adj.* **1.** Serving to vindicate; justificatory. **2.** Punitive; avenging.

vin·dic·tive (vin·dik'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Having a revengeful spirit. **2.** Revengeful or spiteful in quality, character, etc. [< L *vindicta* revenge] **— vin·dic'tive·ly** *adv.* **— vin·dic'tive·ness** *n.*

vine (vīn) *n.* **1.** Any of a large and widely distributed group of plants having a slender flexible stem that may twine about a support or clasp it by means of tendrils, petioles, etc.; also, the slender flexible stem itself. **2.** A grapevine. [< OF *vigne, vine* < L *vinea* vineyard < *vinum* wine]

vin·e·gar (vin'ə·gər) *n.* **1.** An acid liquid consisting chiefly of dilute acetic acid, obtained by the fermentation of cider, wine, etc., and used as a condiment and preservative. **2.** Sourness of manner, speech, etc. [< OF < *vin* wine + *aigre,egre* sour] **— vin'e·gar·y, vin'e·gar·ish** *adj.*

vin·er·y (vī'nər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** A greenhouse for grapes; grapery. **2.** Vines collectively.

vine·yard (vin'yərd) *n.* An area planted with grapevines. [Earlier *wineyard*, OE *wingeard*]

vingt-et-un (vañ·tā·œñ') *n.* Twenty-one, a card game. [< F, twenty-one]

vini- *combining form.* **1.** Wine. **2.** Of or pertaining to wine grapes. Also *vin-* (before vowels): also **vino-.** [< L *vinum* wine]

vin·i·cul·ture (vin'ə·kul'chər) *n.* The cultivation of grapes for wine. **— vin'i·cul'tur·al** *adj.* **— vin'i·cul'tur·ist** *n.*

vin ordinaire (vañ ôr·dē·nâr') *French* Cheap red wine; literally, ordinary wine.

vi·nous (vī'nəs) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, characteristic of, or having the qualities of wine. **2.** Caused by, affected by, or addicted to wine. **3.** Tinged with dark red. [< L < *vinum* wine] **— vi·nos·i·ty** (-nos'ə·tē) *n.*

vin·tage (vin'tij) *n.* **1.** The yield of a vineyard or wine-growing district for one season; also, the wine produced from this yield. **2.** The harvesting of a vineyard and the making of wine. **3.** Wine of high quality or of an exceptionally good year: also **vintage wine.** **4.** *Informal* The type popular at a particular time of the past: a joke of ancient *vintage.* **—** *adj.* Of exceptional quality or excellence; choice: a *vintage* wine. [< AF, alter. of *vindage, vendage,* OF *vendage* < L < *vinum* wine + *demere* to remove]

vint·ner (vint'nər) *n.* A wine merchant. [< OF *vinetier, vinotier* < *vinot,* dim. of *vin* wine < L *vinum*]

vin·y (vī'nē) *adj.* **vin·i·er, vin·i·est** **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resembling a vine. **2.** Full of vines.

vi·nyl (vī′nəl, vin′əl) *n. Chem.* The univalent radical, CH_2:CH, derived from ethylene, and extensively used in organic synthesis. [< L *vinum* wine + -YL]

vi·ol (vī′əl) *n.* Any of a family of stringed musical instruments, predecessors of the violin family; also, any member of the violin family. [Earlier *vielle* < AF, OF < Med.L *vidula, vitula* < Gmc.]

vi·o·la (vē·ō′lə, vī-; *Ital.* vyō′lä) *n.* A musical instrument of the violin family, somewhat larger than the violin, and tuned a fifth lower, with a graver and less brilliant tone. [< Ital., orig., a viol < Med.L *vidula* < Gmc.]

vi·o·la·ble (vī′ə·lə·bəl) *adj.* Capable of being violated. [< L *violabilis* < *violare*. See VIOLATE.] — **vi′o·la·ble·ness, vi′o·la·bil′i·ty** *n.* — **vi′o·la·bly** *adv.* [< L *violaceus* < *viola* violet]

viola da gam·ba (dä gäm′bä) The bass of the viol family, held between the legs, and having a range similar to that of the cello, but with a thinner tone: also called *bass viol.* [< Ital., viol of the leg]

vi·o·late (vī′ə·lāt) *v.t.* **·lat·ed, ·lat·ing** **1.** To break or infringe, as a law, oath, agreement, etc. **2.** To profane, as a holy place. **3.** To break in upon; disturb. **4.** To ravish; rape. **5.** To do violence to; offend grossly; outrage. [< L *violatus*, pp. of *violare* to use violence < *vis* force] — **vi′o·la′tive** *adj.* — **vi′o·la′tor** *n.*

vi·o·la·tion (vī′ə·lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of violating, or the state of being violated. **2.** Infringement or infraction, as of a law, regulation, etc. **3.** Profanation; desecration. **4.** Rape.

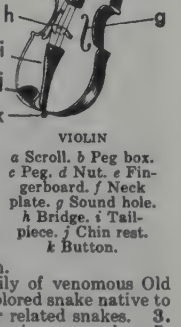
vi·o·lence (vī′ə·ləns) *n.* **1.** The quality or state of being violent; intensity; fury. **2.** An instance of violent action, treatment, etc. **3.** Violent or abusive exercise of power; injury; outrage. **4.** *Law* Physical force unlawfully exercised. **5.** Perversion or distortion of meaning, intent, etc. — **to do violence to** **1.** To injure or damage by rough or abusive treatment. **2.** To distort the meaning of.

vi·o·lent (vī′ə·lənt) *adj.* **1.** Proceeding from or marked by great physical force or roughness; overwhelmingly forcible. **2.** Caused by or exhibiting intense emotional or mental excitement; passionate; impetuous; fierce. **3.** Characterized by intensity of any kind; extreme: *violent* heat. **4.** Marked by undue exercise of force; harsh; severe: to take *violent* measures. **5.** Resulting from unusual force or injury: a *violent* death. **6.** Tending to pervert the meaning or sense: a *violent* construction. [< OF < L *violentus* < *vis* force] — **vi′o·lent·ly** *adv.*

vi·o·let (vī′ə·lit) *n.* **1.** One of a widely distributed genus of herbaceous perennial herbs, bearing spurred flowers typically having a purplish blue color but sometimes yellow or white. The violet is the State flower of Illinois, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. **2.** Any of several similar plants. **3.** A deep bluish purple color. — *adj.* Having a bluish purple color. [< OF < L *viola* violet]

violet rays **1.** High-frequency radiation from the violet end of the visible spectrum. **2.** Loosely, ultraviolet rays.

vi·o·lin (vī′ə·lin′) *n.* A musical instrument having four strings and a sounding box of seasoned wood, held against the shoulder and played by means of a bow. It is the treble member of the **violin family**, which includes also the viola and cello: also called *fiddle.* [< Ital. *violino*, dim. of *viola*]



VIOLIN
a Scroll. *b* Peg box. *c* Peg. *d* Nut. *e* Fingerboard. *f* Neck plate. *g* Sound hole. *h* Bridge. *i* Tailpiece. *j* Chin rest. *k* Button.

vi·o·lin·ist (vī′ə·lin′ist) *n.* One who plays the violin.

vi·o·list (vē·ō′list *for def. 1*, vī′ə·list *for def. 2*) *n.* **1.** One who plays the viola. **2.** One who plays a viol.

vi·o·lon·cel·list (vē′ə·lən·chel′ist) *n.* A cellist.

vi·o·lon·cel·lo (vē′ə·lən·chel′ō) *n. pl.* **·los** A cello. [< Ital., dim. of *violone* double bass]

VIP or **V.I.P.** Very important person.

vi·per (vī′pər) *n.* **1.** Any of a family of venomous Old World snakes, esp. a small, variously colored snake native to Europe. **2.** Any of various similar or related snakes. **3.** Loosely, a pit viper. **4.** Any allegedly poisonous snake. **5.** A treacherous or spiteful person. [< OF < L < *vivus* living + *parere* to bring forth] — **vi′per·ine** *adj.* — **vi′per·ish** *adj.*

vi·per·ous (vī′pər·əs) *adj.* **1.** Snakelike; viperine. **2.** Venomous; malicious. — **vi′per·ous·ly** *adj.*

vi·ra·go (vi·rā′gō, -rä′-, vī-) *n. pl.* **·goes** or **·gos** A noisy, sharp-tongued woman; a scold. [< L, mannish woman < *vir* man]

vi·ral (vī′rəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, caused by, or of the nature of a virus.

vir·e·o (vir′ē·ō) *n. pl.* **·os** Any of various small, insectivorous birds having predominantly dull green and grayish plumage. [< L, a small bird, ? the greenfinch]

vi·res·cence (vī·res′əns) *n.* The state or condition of becoming green.

vi·res·cent (vī·res′ənt) *adj.* Greenish or becoming green. [< L *virescens, -entis*, ppr. of *virescere* to grow green]

vir·gin (vûr′jin) *n.* **1.** A person, esp. a young woman, who has never had sexual intercourse. **2.** A chaste young girl or unmarried woman. — *adj.* **1.** Being a virgin. **2.** Pertaining or suited to a virgin; chaste; maidenly. **3.** Uncorrupted; pure; undefiled: *virgin* whiteness. **4.** Not hitherto used, touched, tilled, or worked upon by man: *virgin* soil. **5.** Not previously processed: *virgin* rubber; *virgin* wool. [< OF < L *virgo, -inis* maiden]

Vir·gin (vûr′jin) *n.* **1.** Mary, the mother of Jesus: usu. preceded by *the*: also *Virgin Mary.* **2.** The constellation and sign of the zodiac Virgo.

vir·gin·al[1] (vûr′jin·əl) *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of a virgin; chaste. [< OF < L *virginalis* < *virgo, -inis* virgin]

vir·gin·al[2] (vûr′jin·əl) *n. Often pl.* A small, legless harpsichord of the 16th and 17th centuries: sometimes called a **pair of virginals.** [< OF < VIRGINAL[1]; ? so called from its use by young men and girls]

virgin birth *Theol.* The doctrine that Jesus Christ was divinely conceived without impairment of the virginity of his mother Mary. Also **Virgin Birth.**

Virginia cowslip A smooth perennial herb having clusters of tubular blue flowers. Also **Virginia bluebell.**

Virginia creeper A common American climbing vine of the grape family, with compound toothed leaves and dark blue berries: also called *five-fingers, woodbine.*

Vir·gin·ian (vər·jin′yən) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or from Virginia. — *n.* A native or inhabitant of Virginia.

Virginia reel A country-dance in which the performers stand in two parallel lines and perform various figures.

vir·gin·i·ty (vər·jin′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or condition of being a virgin; maidenhood; virginal chastity. **2.** The state of being unsullied, unused, untouched, etc.

vir·gin·i·um (vər·jin′ē·əm) *n.* The former name of an element now identified as francium. [after the State of *Virginia*]

Virgin Mary Mary, the mother of Jesus: usu. with *the.*

vir·gin's-bow·er (vûr′jinz·bou′ər) *n.* A species of clematis bearing white flowers in leafy panicles.

Vir·go (vûr′gō) *n.* A constellation, the Virgin, containing the bright star Spica; also, the sixth sign of the zodiac. [< L, a virgin]

vir·gule (vûr′gyōōl) *n.* A slanting line (/) used to indicate two alternatives, as in *and/or*, to set off phoneme symbols, etc.: also called *slash.* [< L *virgula*, dim. of *virga* rod]

vir·i·des·cent (vir′ə·des′ənt) *adj.* Greenish, or becoming slightly green. [< LL < *viridescere* to become green] — **vir′i·des′cence** *n.*

vir·ile (vir′əl) *adj.* **1.** Having the characteristics of adult manhood; masculine. **2.** Having qualities considered typically masculine; vigorous; forceful. **3.** Capable of procreation. [< OF < L *virilis* < *vir* man]

vi·ril·i·ty (və·ril′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The state, character, or quality of being virile.

vi·rol·o·gy (və·rol′ə·jē, vī-) *n.* The study of viruses, esp. in their relation to disease. [< *viro-* (< VIRUS) + -LOGY] — **vi·rol′o·gist** *n.*

vir·tu (vər·tōō′, vûr′tōō) *n.* **1.** Rare, curious, or beautiful quality: usu. in the phrase **objects** or **articles of virtu.** **2.** A taste for such objects. **3.** Such objects collectively. Also spelled *vertu.* [< Ital. *virtù* merit < L *virtus* strength]

vir·tu·al (vur′chōō·əl) *adj.* Having the effect but not the actual form of what is specified: a *virtual* usurpation. [See VIRTUE.] — **vir′tu·al′i·ty** (-al′ə·tē) *n.*

vir·tu·al·ly (vûr′chōō·ə·lē) *adv.* In effect; for all practical purposes.

vir·tue (vûr′chōō) *n.* **1.** The quality of moral righteousness or excellence; rectitude. **2.** The practice of moral duties and the abstinence from immorality and vice. **3.** Chastity, esp. in women. **4.** A particular type of moral excellence, esp. one of those considered to be of special importance in philosophical or religious doctrine. Compare CARDINAL VIRTUES. **5.** Any admirable quality or trait. **6.** Inherent or essential quality, power, etc. **7.** Efficacy; potency. — **by** (or **in**) **virtue of** By or through the fact, quality, force, or authority of. — **to make a virtue of necessity** To seem to do freely or from principle what is or must be done necessarily. [< OF < L *virtus* strength, bravery < *vir* man]

— **Syn.** We regard *virtue* as acquired through self-discipline, and predicate it of human beings only. *Goodness* is an innate quality, and so may be ascribed to God as well as to man. *Morality* involves conformity to an accepted code of right conduct; it is less elevated but more concrete than *virtue. Rectitude* also implies conformity to a moral code, but stresses intention or disposition; hence, a man's *morality* may arise from fear of punishment or of

censure, but his *rectitude* can come only from a love of the right and a conscious desire to follow it. —**Ant.** vice, sin, evil.

vir·tu·os·i·ty (vûr′chōō-os′ə-tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** The skill, etc., of a virtuoso; technical mastery of an art, as music.

vir·tu·o·so (vûr′chōō-ō′sō) *n. pl.* **·si** (-sē) or **·sos** **1.** A master of technique, as a skilled musician. **2.** One who displays impressive or dazzling skill in any area of accomplishment. **3.** A connoisseur; a collector or lover of curios or works of art. [< Ital., skilled, learned]

vir·tu·ous (vûr′chōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by, exhibiting, or having the nature of virtue. **2.** Chaste: now said esp. of women. —**vir′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* —**vir′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

vir·u·lent (vir′yə-lənt, vir′ə-) *adj.* **1.** Manifesting or characterized by malignity; exceedingly noxious, harmful, etc. **2.** Bitterly rancorous; acrimonious. **3.** *Med.* Actively poisonous or infective; malignant. **4.** *Bacteriol.* Having the power to injure an organism by invasion of tissue and generation of internal toxins, as certain microorganisms. [< L *virus* poison] —**vir′u·lence** *n.* —**vir′u·lent·ly** *adv.*

vi·rus (vī′rəs) *n.* **1.** Any of a class of filterable, submicroscopic pathogenic agents, chiefly protein in composition but often reducible to crystalline form, and typically inert except when in contact with certain living cells: also called *filterable virus.* **2.** An illness caused by such an agent. **3.** Any virulent substance developed within an animal body, and capable of transmitting a specific disease. **4.** Venom, as of a snake. —**Syn.** See MICROBE. [< L, poison, slime]

vis (vis) *n. pl.* **vi·res** (vī′rēz) *Latin* Force; potency.

vi·sa (vē′zə) *n.* An official endorsement, as on a passport, certifying that it has been found correct and that the bearer may proceed. —*v.t.* **·saed, ·sa·ing** **1.** To put a visa on. **2.** To give a visa to. Also *visé.* [< F < L < *videre* to see]

vis·age (viz′ij) *n.* The face or facial expression of a person; countenance; distinctive aspect. [< OF < L *visus* look, appearance < *videre* to see] —**vis′aged** *adj.*

vis·ard (viz′ərd) See VIZARD.

vis-à-vis (vē′zə-vē′, *Fr.* vē-zä-vē′) *n. pl.* **vis-à-vis** **1.** One of two persons or things that face each other from opposite sides. **2.** One in a corresponding capacity, etc. —*adv.* Face to face. —*prep.* Regarding. [< F, face to face]

vis·cer·a (vis′ər-ə) *n. pl. of* **vis·cus** (vis′kəs) *Anat.* The internal organs, esp. those of the great cavities of the body, as the stomach, lungs, heart, intestines, etc. [< L, pl. of *viscus* internal organ] —**vis′cer·al** *adj.*

vis·cid (vis′id) *adj.* Sticky or adhesive; mucilaginous; viscous. [< LL < L *viscum* birdlime] —**vis·cid·i·ty** (vi·sid′ə-tē), **vis′cid·ness** *n.* —**vis′cid·ly** *adv.*

vis·cose (vis′kōs) *n. Chem.* A thick, honeylike substance produced by the action of caustic soda and carbon disulfide upon cellulose, and constituting an important source of rayon. —*adj.* **1.** Viscous. **2.** Of, pertaining to, containing, or made from viscose. [See VISCOUS.]

vis·cos·i·ty (vis·kos′ə-tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state, quality, property, or degree of being viscous. **2.** *Physics* That property of fluids by virtue of which they offer resistance to flow or to any change in the arrangement of their molecules.

vis·count (vī′kount) *n.* In England, a title of nobility ranking between those of earl and baron. [< AF, OF < *vis-* in place (< L *vice*) + *comte.* See COUNT².] —**vis′count·cy, vis′count·ship, vis′count·y** *n.*

vis·count·ess (vī′koun·tis) *n.* **1.** The wife of a viscount. **2.** A peeress holding a corresponding title in her own right.

vis·cous [vis′kəs) *adj.* **1.** Glutinous; semifluid; sticky. **2.** *Physics* Characterized by or having viscosity. [< LL < L *viscum* birdlime] —**vis′cous·ly** *adv.* —**vis′cous·ness** *n.*

vis·cus (vis′kəs) Singular of VISCERA.

vise (vīs) *n.* A clamping device, usu. of two jaws made to be closed together with a screw, lever, etc., used for grasping and holding objects being worked on, glued, etc. —*v.t.* **vised, vis·ing** To hold, force, or squeeze in or as in a vise. Also, *Brit., vice.* [< OF < L *vitis* vine; with ref. to the spiral growth of vine tendrils]

vi·sé (vē′zā, vē-zā′) *v.t.* **·séed, ·sé·ing** To visa. —*n.* A visa.

Vish·nu (vish′nōō) In Hindu theology, a major deity, a member of the trinity also including Brahma and Siva, and having many incarnations, of which the most famous is as Krishna. —**Vish′nu·ism** *n.*

vis·i·bil·i·ty (viz′ə-bil′ə-tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** Condition, capability, or degree of being visible. **2.** The clarity of unaided vision as affected by distance, atmospheric conditions, etc.

vis·i·ble (viz′ə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Perceivable by the eye; capable of being seen. **2.** Apparent; observable; evident. **3.** At hand; available; manifest. [< OF < L *visibilis* < *videre* to see] —**vis′i·ble·ness** *n.* —**vis′i·bly** *adv.*

Vis·i·goth (viz′ə-goth) *n.* One of the western Goths, a Teutonic people that invaded the Roman Empire in the third and fourth centuries and settled in France and Spain. [< LL *Visigothus*] —**Vis′i·goth′ic** *adj.*

vi·sion (vizh′ən) *n.* **1.** The faculty or sense of sight. **2.** The ability to anticipate and make provision for future events; foresight. **3.** Insight; imagination: a man of great *vision.* **4.** A mental representation of or as of external objects, scenes, etc., as in a religious revelation, dream, etc. **5.** A vividly imagined thing, state, occurrence, etc. **6.** Something or someone very beautiful or pleasing. —*v.t. Rare* To see in or as in a vision. [< OF < L *visio* < *videre* to see] —**vi′sion·al** *adj.* —**vi′sion·al·ly** *adv.*

vi·sion·ar·y (vizh′ən-er′ē) *adj.* **1.** Not founded on fact; imaginary; impracticable. **2.** Affected by or tending toward fantasies; dreamy; impractical. **3.** Having idealistic goals or aims incapable of realization. **4.** Having or of the nature of apparitions, dreams, etc. —*n. pl.* **·ar·ies** **1.** One who has visions. **2.** A dreamer; an impractical schemer. **3.** One who is impracticably idealistic. —**vi′sion·ar′i·ness** *n.*

vis·it (viz′it) *v.t.* **1.** To go or come to see (a person) from friendship, on business, etc. **2.** To go or come to (a place, etc.), as for touring, etc. **3.** To be a guest of; stay with temporarily. **4.** To go or come to so as to make official inspection or inquiry. **5.** To come upon or afflict. **6.** To inflict punishment upon or for. **7.** To inflict (punishment, wrath, etc.). —*v.i.* **8.** To make a visit; pay a call or calls. **9.** *Informal* To chat or converse sociably. —*n.* **1.** The act of visiting a person or thing. **2.** A sojourn in a place or with a person. **3.** *Informal* A talk or friendly chat. **4.** An authoritative personal call for inspection and examination, or discharge of an official or professional duty. [< OF < L *visitare* to go to see < *videre* to see] —**vis′it·a·ble** *adj.*

vis·i·tant (viz′ə-tənt) *n.* **1.** A visitor. **2.** A migratory animal or bird stopping at a particular region.

vis·i·ta·tion (viz′ə-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or fact of visiting; a visit; also, the state or circumstance of being visited. **2.** An official or authoritative inspection and examination. **3.** In Biblical and religious use, a visiting of blessing or affliction. —**vis′i·ta′tion·al** *adj.* —**vis′i·ta·to′ri·al** (-tə·tôr′ē·əl, -tō′rē-) *adj.*

Vis·i·ta·tion (viz′ə cā′shən) *n. Eccl.* **1.** The visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. *Luke* i 39–42. **2.** July 2, the church festival commemorating this visit.

vis·i·ting card (viz′i·ting) A calling card.

vis·i·tor (viz′ə·tər) *n.* One who visits.

vi·sor (vī′zər, viz′ər) *n.* **1.** A projecting piece at the front of a cap, etc., serving as a shade for the eyes. **2.** In armor, the movable front piece of a helmet, serving to protect the upper part of the face. **3.** A movable piece or part serving as a shield against glare, etc., as on the windshield of an automobile. —*v.t.* To mask or cover with a visor. Also spelled *vizor.* [< AF & OF *vis* face]

vis·ta (vis′tə) *n.* **1.** A view or prospect, as along an avenue; an outlook. **2.** A mental view embracing a series of events. [< Ital. < L *videre* to see]

vis·u·al (vizh′ōō-əl) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, resulting from, or serving the sense of sight. **2.** Perceptible by sight; visible. **3.** Optical: the *visual* focus of a lens. **4.** Produced or induced by mental images: a *visual* conception. [< MF < LL < L *visus* sight < *videre* to see] —**vis′u·al·ly** *adv.*

visual aid *Often pl.* In education, a device or method designed to convey information by visible representation, as motion pictures, charts, etc.

vis·u·al·ize (vizh′ōō-əl·īz′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To form a mental image (of). —**vis′u·al·ist** (-ist) *n.* —**vis′u·al·i·za′tion** *n.* —**vis′u·al·iz′er** *n.*

vi·ta·ceous (vī·tā′shəs) *adj. Bot.* Of or belonging to the grape family of mostly woody and climbing vines. [< NL, family name < L *vitis* vine]

vi·tal (vīt′l) *adj.* **1.** Necessary to existence or continuance; essential. **2.** Of or pertaining to life: *vital* statistics. **3.** Essential to or supporting life. **4.** Affecting the course of life or existence, esp. so as to be dangerous or fatal: a *vital* error. **5.** Energetic; forceful; dynamic. **6.** Having immediate interest or importance: a *vital* question. [< OF < L *vita* life] —**vi′tal·ly** *adv.* —**vi′tal·ness** *n.*

vi·tal·ism (vīt′l·iz′əm) *n. Biol.* The doctrine that life and its phenomena arose from and are the product of a hypothetical **vital force** (or **vital principle**) regarded as acting independently of all physical and chemical forces. —**vi′tal·ist** *n.* —**vi′tal·is′tic** *adj.*

vi·tal·i·ty (vī·tal′ə-tē) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being vital. **2.** Vital or life-giving force, principle, etc. **3.** Vigor; energy; animation. **4.** Power of continuing in force or effect.

vi·tal·ize (vīt′l·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make vital; endow with life or energy. —**vi′tal·i·za′tion** *n.* —**vi′tal·iz′er** *n.*

vi·tals (vīt′lz) *n.pl.* **1.** The parts or organs necessary to life. **2.** The parts or qualities essential to the continued existence or well-being of anything.

vital statistics Quantitative data relating to certain aspects and conditions of human life.

vi·ta·min (vī′tə·min) *n. Biochem.* Any of a group of complex organic substances found in minute quantities in most natural foodstuffs, and closely associated with the maintenance of normal physiological functions in man and animals. Also **vi′ta·mine** (-mēn, -min). [< NL *vit-* (< L *vita* life) + AMINE] — **vi′ta·min′ic** *adj.*

vitamin A A fat-soluble vitamin derived from carotene and occurring naturally in animal tissues, esp. egg yolk and fish-liver oils, essential to the prevention of atrophy of epithelial tissue and night blindness.

vitamin B complex A group of water-soluble vitamins widely distributed in plants and animals, most members of which have special names.

vitamin B_1 Thiamine.

vitamin B_2 Riboflavin.

vitamin B_3 Pantothenic acid.

vitamin B_6 Pyridoxine.

vitamin B_{12} A dark red, crystalline vitamin, $C_{63}H_{90}N_{14}O_{14}PCo$, extracted from liver and certain mold fungi, and active against pernicious anemia.

vitamin B_c Folic acid.

vitamin C Ascorbic acid.

vitamin D The antirachitic vitamin occurring chiefly in fish-liver oils.

vitamin D_1 An impure mixture of calciferol and irradiated ergosterol.

vitamin D_2 Calciferol.

vitamin D_3 A form of vitamin D_2 found principally in fish-liver oils.

vitamin E The antisterility vitamin, composed of three forms of tocopherol and found in whole grain cereals.

vitamin G Riboflavin.

vitamin H Biotin.

vitamin K_1 A vitamin, found in green leafy vegetables, that promotes the clotting of blood.

vitamin K_2 A form of vitamin K_1 prepared from fishmeal.

vitamin P complex A group of substances obtained from citrus fruits and promoting the normal permeability of capillary walls.

vi·ti·ate (vish′ē·āt) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** **1.** To impair the use or value of; spoil. **2.** To debase or corrupt. **3.** To render legally ineffective. [< L < *vitium* fault] — **vi·ti·a·ble** (vish′ē·ə·bəl) *adj.* — **vi′ti·a′tion** *n.* — **vi′ti·a′tor** *n.*

vit·i·cul·ture (vit′ə·kul′chər, vī′tə-) *n.* The science and art of grape growing. [< L *vitis* vine + CULTURE] — **vit′i·cul′tur·al** *adj.* — **vit′i·cul′tur·er, vit′i·cul′tur·ist** *n.*

vit·re·ous (vit′rē·əs) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to glass; glassy. **2.** Obtained from glass. **3.** Resembling glass. **4.** Pertaining to the vitreous humor. [< L < *vitrum* glass] — **vit′re·os′i·ty** (-os′ə·tē), **vit′re·ous·ness** *n.*

vitreous humor *Anat.* The transparent, jellylike tissue that fills the ball of the eye. Also **vitreous body.**

vitri- *combining form* Glass; of or pertaining to glass. Also, before vowels, **vitr-**. [< L *vitrum* glass]

vit·ri·fy (vit′rə·fī) *v.t. & v.i.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** To change into glass or a vitreous substance; make or become vitreous. [< MF < L *vitrum* glass + *facere* to make] — **vit′ri·fac′tion** (-fak′shən) *n.* — **vit′ri·fi′a·ble** *adj.* — **vit′ri·fi·ca′tion** (-fə·kā′shən) *n.*

vit·ri·ol (vit′rē·ōl, -əl) *n.* **1.** *Chem.* **a** Sulfuric acid. **b** Any sulfate of a heavy metal, as *green vitriol* from iron, *blue vitriol* from copper, or *white vitriol* from zinc. **2.** Anything sharp or caustic, esp. speech or writing. — *v.t.* **·oled** or **·olled, ·ol·ing** or **·ol·ling** **1.** To injure (a person) with vitriol. **2.** To subject (anything) to the agency of vitriol. [< OF < Med.L < L *vitrum* glass]

vit·ri·ol·ic (vit′rē·ol′ik) *adj.* **1.** Derived from a vitriol. **2.** Corrosive, burning, or caustic.

vit·ri·ol·ize (vit′rē·əl·īz′) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To corrode, injure, or burn with sulfuric acid. **2.** To convert into or impregnate with vitriol. — **vit′ri·ol·i·za′tion** *n.*

vit·tles (vit′əls) *n.pl. Informal* or *Dial.* Victuals.

vi·tu·per·ate (vī·tōō′pə·rāt, -tyōō′-, vi-) *v.t.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To find fault with abusively; rail at; berate; scold. [< L < *vitium* fault + *parare* to prepare, make] — **vi·tu′per·a′tion** *n.* — **vi·tu′per·a·tive** (-pər·ə·tiv) *adj.* — **vi·tu′per·a′tive·ly** *adv.* — **vi·tu′per·a′tor** *n.*

vi·va (vē′vä) *interj.* Live! Long live!: a shout of applause; an acclamation or salute. [< Ital. *vivere* to live < L]

vi·va·ce (vē·vä′chä) *adv. Music* Lively; quickly; briskly. Also **vi·va′ce·men′te** (-mān′tā). [< Ital.]

vi·va·cious (vi·vā′shəs, vī-) *adj.* Lively; active. [< L < *vivere* to live] — **vi·va′cious·ly** *adv.* — **vi·va′cious·ness** *n.*

vi·vac·i·ty (vi·vas′ə·tē, vī-) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The state or quality of being vivacious. **2.** Sprightliness, as of temper or behavior; liveliness. **3.** A vivacious act, expression, etc.

vi·var·i·um (vī·vâr′ē·əm) *n. pl.* **·var·i·a** (-vâr′ē·ə) or **·var·i·ums** A place for keeping or raising live animals, fish, or plants, as a park, pond, aquarium, cage, etc. Also **viv·a·ry** (viv′ər·ē). [< L *vivere* to live]

vi·va vo·ce (vī′və vō′sē) *Latin* By spoken word; orally.

vive (vēv) *interj. French* Long live!: used in acclamation.

viv·id (viv′id) *adj.* **1.** Very bright; intense: said of colors. **2.** Producing or evoking lifelike imagery, freshness, etc.: *vivid* prose. **3.** Clearly felt or strongly expressed, as emotions. **4.** Full of life and vigor. **5.** Clearly seen in the mind, as a memory. **6.** Clearly perceived by the eye. [< L *vivere* to live] — **viv′id·ly** *adv.* — **viv′id·ness** *n.*

— **Syn.** **1.** brilliant, clear. **2.** lifelike. **4.** animated, lively.

viv·i·fy (viv′ə·fī) *v.t.* **·fied, ·fy·ing** **1.** To give life to; animate; vitalize. **2.** To make more vivid or striking. [< OF < LL < L *vivus* alive + *facere* to make] — **viv′i·fi·ca′tion** (-fə·kā′shən) *n.* — **viv′i·fi′er** *n.*

vi·vip·a·rous (vī·vip′ər·əs) *adj.* **1.** *Zool.* Bringing forth living young, as most mammals: distinguished from *oviparous*. **2.** *Bot.* Producing bulbs or seeds that germinate while attached to the parent plant. [< L < *vivus* alive + *parere* to bring forth] — **vi·vip′a·rous·ly** *adv.* — **vi·vip′a·rism** (-riz′əm), **viv·i·par·i·ty** (viv′ə·par′ə·tē), **vi·vip′a·rous·ness** *n.*

viv·i·sect (viv′ə·sekt) *v.t.* **1.** To dissect or operate upon (a living animal), with a view to exposing its physiological processes. — *v.i.* **2.** To practice vivisection. — **viv′i·sec′tor** *n.*

viv·i·sec·tion (viv′ə·sek′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of cutting into or dissecting a living animal body. **2.** Experimentation on living animals by means of operations designed to promote knowledge of physiological and pathological processes. [< L *vivus* living, alive + SECTION.] — **viv′i·sec′tion·al** *adj.* — **viv′i·sec′tion·ist** *n.*

vix·en (vik′sən) *n.* **1.** A female fox. **2.** A turbulent, quarrelsome woman; shrew. [Alter. of ME *fixen* she-fox < OE fem. of *fox*] — **vix′en·ish** *adj.* — **vix′en·ly** *adj. & adv.*

viz·ard (viz′ərd) *n.* A mask; visor: also spelled *visard*. [Alter. of VISOR] — **viz′ard·ed** *adj.*

vi·zier (vi·zir′, viz′yər) *n.* A high official of a Moslem country; esp., a minister of state. Also **vi·zir′**. [< Turkish < Arabic *wazīr* counselor, orig., porter < *wazara* to carry]

vi·zier·ate (vi·zir′it, -āt, viz′yər·it, -yə·rāt) *n.* The office of a vizier. Also **vi·zier′al·ty, vi·zier′ship, vi·zir′ate, vi·zir′ship.**

vi·zor (vī′zər, viz′ər) See VISOR.

V-J Day (vē′jā′) September 2, the official date of the victory over Japan in World War II, 1945.

V-mail (vē′māl′) *n.* Mail written on special forms, transmitted overseas in World War II on microfilm, and enlarged for final delivery. [< V(ICTORY) + MAIL[1]]

vo·ca·ble (vō′kə·bəl) *n.* **1.** A spoken or written word considered only as a sequence of sounds or letters, without regard to its meaning. **2.** A vocal sound. — *adj.* Capable of being spoken. [< F < L *vocabulum* name < *vocare* to call]

vo·cab·u·lar·y (vō·kab′yə·ler′ē) *n. pl.* **·lar·ies** **1.** A list of words, esp. one arranged in alphabetical order and defined or translated; a glossary. **2.** All the words of a language. **3.** A sum or aggregate of the words used by a particular person, class, etc., or employed in some specialized field of knowledge. [< LL < L *vocabulum*. See VOCABLE.]

vocabulary entry **1.** A word or term given in a vocabulary. **2.** A word, term, or phrase entered in a dictionary.

vo·cal (vō′kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the voice. **2.** Having voice; endowed with the power of utterance. **3.** Uttered or performed by the voice: *vocal* music. **4.** Concerned in the production of voice: the *vocal* organs. **5.** Full of voices or sounds. **6.** Freely expressing oneself in speech: the *vocal* segment. [< L *vocalis* speaking, sounding < *vox* voice] — **vo′cal·ly** *adv.* — **vo′cal·ness** *n.*

vocal cords Two membranous bands extending from the thyroid cartilage of the larynx and having edges that, when drawn tense, are caused to vibrate by the passage of air from the lungs, thereby producing voice. For illus. see THROAT.

vo·cal·ic (vō·kal′ik) *adj.* Consisting of, like, or relating to vowel sounds.

vo·cal·ist (vō′kəl·ist) *n.* A singer.

vo·cal·ize (vō′kəl·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To make vocal; utter, say, or sing. **2.** To provide a voice for; render articulate. **3.** *Phonet.* **a** To change (a consonant) to a vowel by some shift in the articulatory process. **b** To voice. — *v.i.* **4.** To produce sounds with the voice, as in speaking or singing. — **vo′cal·i·za′tion** *n.* — **vo′cal·iz′er** *n.*

vo·ca·tion (vō·kā′shən) *n.* **1.** A stated or regular occupation; a calling. **2.** A call to or fitness for a certain career. **3.** The work or profession for which one has a sense of special fitness. — **Syn.** See OCCUPATION. [< L < *vocare* to call] — **vo·ca′tion·al** *adj.* — **vo·ca′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

vocational guidance A systematic program of tests and interviews to help a person find the occupation for which he is best suited.

vocational school A school, usu. on the secondary level that trains students for special trades.

voc·a·tive (vok′ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or used in the act of calling. **2.** *Gram.* In some inflected languages, denoting the case of a noun, pronoun, or adjective used in direct address. — *n. Gram.* **1.** The vocative case. **2.** A word in this case. [< F, fem. of *vocatif* < L *vocare* to call]

vo·ces (vō′sēz) Plural of VOX.

vo·cif·er·ant (vō·sif′ər·ənt) *adj.* Viciferous; clamorous. — *n.* A vociferous person. — **vo·cif′er·ance** *n.*
vo·ci·fer·ate (vō·sif′ə·rāt) *v.t. & v.i.* **·at·ed, ·at·ing** To cry out with a loud voice; shout. [< L < *vox, vocis* voice + *ferre* to carry] — **vo·cif′er·a′tion** *n.* — **vo·cif′er·a′tor** *n.*
vo·cif·er·ous (vō·sif′ər·əs) *adj.* Making or characterized by a loud outcry; clamorous; noisy. — **vo·cif′er·ous·ly** *adv.* — **vo·cif′er·ous·ness** *n.*
vod·ka (vod′kə, *Russ.* vôd′kə) *n.* An alcoholic liquor, originally made in Russia from a fermented mash of wheat but now also from other cereals and potatoes. [< Russian, dim. of *voda* water]
vogue (vōg) *n.* **1.** The prevalent way or fashion; mode: often preceded by *in*. **2.** Popular favor; general acceptance. [< F, fashion, orig., rowing < Ital. *vogare* to row]
Vo·gul (vō′gōōl) *n.* **1.** One of a Finno-Ugric people of the Ural Mountains. **2.** The Ugric language of these people.
voice (vois) *n.* **1.** The sound produced by the vocal organs of a person or animal. **2.** The quality or character of such sound: a melodious *voice*. **3.** The power or faculty of vocal utterance; speech. **4.** A sound suggesting vocal utterance or speech: the *voice* of the wind. **5.** Opinion or choice expressed; also, the right of expressing a preference or judgment: to have a *voice* in the affair. **6.** Instruction; admonition: the *voice* of nature. **7.** A person or agency by which the thought, wish, or purpose of another is expressed. **8.** Expression of thought, opinion, feeling, etc.: to give *voice* to one's ideals. **9.** *Phonet.* The sound produced by vibration of the vocal cords in the production of most vowels and certain consonants. **10.** Musical tone produced by vibration of the vocal cords and resonating in the cavities of the throat and head; also, the ability to sing, or the state of the vocal organs with regard to this ability: to be in poor *voice*. **11.** *Music* A part (def. 11a), esp. as considered without regard to the particular instrument or human voice rendering it: also **voice part.** **12.** *Gram.* The relation of the action expressed by the verb to the subject, or the form of the verb indicating this relationship. In most Indo-European languages, a distinction between an *active* and a *passive* voice is made, indicating, respectively, that the subject of the sentence is either performing the action or is being acted upon. (Active: *He wrote the letter.* Passive: *The letter was written by him.*) — **in voice** In proper condition for singing. — **with one voice** With one accord; unitedly; unanimously. — *v.t.* **voiced, voic·ing 1.** To put into speech; utter. **2.** *Music* To regulate the tones of; tune, as the pipes of an organ. **3.** *Phonet.* To utter with voice or sonance. [< OF < L *vox, vocis*]
voice box The larynx.
voiced (voist) *adj.* **1.** Having a voice; expressed by voice. **2.** *Phonet.* Uttered with vibration of the vocal cords, as (b), (d), (z); sonant: also *vocal*.
voice·less (vois′lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no voice, speech, or vote. **2.** *Phonet.* Produced without voice, as (p), (t), (s); surd. — **voice′less·ly** *adv.* — **voice′less·ness** *n.*
void (void) *adj.* **1.** No longer having force or validity, as a contract, license, etc., that has lapsed; invalid; null. **2.** Destitute; clear or free: with *of*: *void* of reason. **3.** Not occupied by matter; empty. **4.** Unoccupied, as a house or room. **5.** Producing no effect; useless. — *n.* **1.** An empty space; a vacuum. **2.** A breach of surface or matter; a disconnecting space. **3.** Empty condition or feeling; a blank. — *v.t.* **1.** To make void or of no effect; invalidate. **2.** To empty or remove (contents); evacuate, as urine. — **Syn.** See ANNUL. [< OF, ult. < LL *vocuus* empty < L *vacuus*] — **void′er** *n.*
void·a·ble (voi′də·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being made void. **2.** That may be evacuated. — **void′a·ble·ness** *n.*
void·ance (void′ns) *n.* **1.** The act of voiding, evacuating, ejecting, or emptying. **2.** The state or condition of being void; vacancy. [< AF < OF < *voider* to empty]
voi·là (vwȧ·lȧ′) *interj. French* There! behold!
voile (voil, *Fr.* vwȧl) *n.* A fine, sheer fabric like heavy veiling, used for summer dresses and curtains. [< F, veil]
vo·lant (vō′lənt) *adj.* **1.** Flying, or able to fly. **2.** Nimble. [< OF, ppr. of *voler* to fly < L *volare*]
vo·lan·te (vō·län′tā) *adj. Music* Swift and light. [< Ital.]
vo·lar (vō′lər) *adj.* Pertaining to flight. [< L *volare* to fly]
vol·a·tile (vol′ə·til) *adj.* **1.** Evaporating rapidly at ordinary temperatures on exposure to the air. **2.** Capable of being vaporized. **3.** Easily influenced; changeable. **4.** Transient; ephemeral. [< OF < L *volare* to fly]
vol·a·til·i·ty (vol′ə·til′ə·tē) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being volatile. **2.** The property of being freely or rapidly diffused in the atmosphere. Also **vol′a·tile·ness.**
vol·a·til·ize (vol′ə·til·īz′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·ized, ·iz·ing 1.** To make or become volatile. **2.** To pass off or cause to pass off in vapor; evaporate. — **vol′a·til·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **vol′a·til·i·za′tion** *n.* — **vol′a·til·iz′er** *n.*
vol·can·ic (vol·kan′ik) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a volcano or volcanoes. **2.** Produced by or emitted from a volcano. **3.** Eruptive. — **vol·can·ic·i·ty** (vol′kə·nis′ə·tē) *n.* — **vol·can′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
vol·can·ism (vol′kən·iz′əm) *n.* The conditions and phenomena associated with volcanoes or volcanic action.
vol·can·ize (vol′kən·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To subject to the action and effects of volcanic heat. — **vol′can·i·za′tion** *n.*
vol·ca·no (vol·kā′nō) *n. pl.* **·noes** or **·nos** *Geol.* **1.** An opening in the crust of the earth from which steam, hot gases, ashes, etc., are expelled, forming a conical hill or mountain with a central crater. **2.** The formation itself. [< Ital. < L *Volcanus, Vulcanus* Vulcan]
vol·can·ol·o·gy (vol′kən·ol′ə·jē) *n.* The scientific study of volcanoes. — **vol′can·o·log′i·cal** (-ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **vol′·can·ol′o·gist** *n.*
vole (vōl) *n.* Any of various short-tailed, mouselike or ratlike rodents; esp., the **European vole** or the **North American vole**: also called *field mouse, meadow mouse*. [Short for earlier *vole mouse* < *vole* field < Norw. *voll*]
vo·li·tion (və·lish′ən) *n.* **1.** The act or faculty of willing; exercise of the will; esp., the termination of reasoning or uncertainty by a decision. **2.** Strength of will. **2.** That which is willed or determined upon. [< F < Med.L < L *vol-*, stem of *velle* will] — **vo·li′tion·al** *adj.* — **vo·li′tion·al·ly** *adv.*
vol·i·tive (vol′ə·tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or originating in the will. **2.** Expressing a wish or permission.
vol·ley (vol′ē) *n. pl.* **·leys 1.** A simultaneous discharge of many missiles; also, the missiles so discharged. **2.** Any discharge of many things at once: a *volley* of oaths. **3.** In tennis, a return of the ball before it touches the ground. **4.** In soccer, a kick given the ball before its rebound. **5.** In cricket, a ball bowled so that it strikes the wicket before it touches the ground. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·leyed, ·ley·ing 1.** To discharge or be discharged in a volley. **2.** In tennis, to return (the ball) without allowing it to touch the ground. **3.** In soccer, to kick (the ball) before its rebound; in cricket, to bowl (a ball) full pitch. [< MF < L *volare* to fly]
vol·ley·ball (vol′ē·bôl′) *n.* A game in which two teams on either side of a high net strike a large ball with the hands in an attempt to send the ball over the net without letting it touch the ground; also, the ball used. Also **volley ball.**
vo·lost (vō′lost) *n.* In Russia, a district having one joint administrative assembly; a rural soviet. [< Russian *volost′*]
vol·plane (vol′plān) *Archaic v.i.* **·planed, ·plan·ing** To glide in an airplane. — *n.* An airplane glide. [< F *vol plané* gliding flight < *vol* flight + *plané*, pp. of *planer* to glide]
Vol·sci (vol′sī) *n.pl.* A warlike people of ancient Italy, subdued by the Romans about 350 B.C. — **Vol·scian** (vol′shən) *adj. & n.*
Vol·sun·ga Sa·ga (vol′sōōng·gə sä′gə) A prose version of the Icelandic legends of the dwarf race, the Nibelungs, and Sigurd, the grandson of Volsung. [< ON *Völsunga saga*, lit., saga of the Volsungs]
Vol·sungs (vol′sōōngz) *n.pl.* In Icelandic mythology, a race of warriors descended from the hero **Vol′sung.**
volt[1] (vōlt) *n.* The unit of electromotive force, or that difference of potential that, when steadily applied against a resistance of one ohm, will produce a current of one ampere. [after Alessandro *Volta*, 1745–1827, Italian physicist]
volt[2] (vōlt) *n.* **1.** In horse-training, a gait in which the horse moves partially sidewise round a center. **2.** In fencing, a sudden leap to avoid a thrust. [< F < Ital. *volta*, orig. pp. fem. of *volvere* to turn < L]
volt·age (vōl′tij) *n.* Electromotive force expressed in volts.
vol·ta·ic (vol·tā′ik) *adj.* Pertaining to electricity developed through chemical action or contact; galvanic.
voltaic battery *Electr.* A battery or primary cells.
voltaic cell *Electr.* A primary cell.
vol·ta·ism (vol′tə·iz′əm) *n.* Galvanism (def. 1).
volt·am·me·ter (vōlt′am′mē′tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring either volts or amperes.
volt·am·pere (vōlt′am′pir) *n.* The rate of work in an electric circuit when the current is one ampere and the potential one volt, equivalent to one watt.
volt·me·ter (vōlt′mē′tər) *n.* An instrument for determining the voltage between any two points, generally consisting of a calibrated galvanometer wound with a coil of high resistance.
vol·u·ble (vol′yə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Having a flow of words or fluency in speaking; garrulous. **2.** Turning readily or easily; apt or formed to roll. **3.** Twining, as a plant. [< MF < L < *volutus*, pp. of *volvere* to turn] — **vol′u·bil′i·ty, vol′u·ble·ness** *n.* — **vol′u·bly** *adv.*
vol·ume (vol′yōōm, -yəm) *n.* **1.** A collection of sheets of paper bound together; book. **2.** A separately bound part of a work. **3.** Sufficient matter to fill a volume. **4.** Quantity of sound or tone; loudness. **5.** A large quantity; a considerable amount. **6.** Space occupied in three dimensions, as measured by cubic units. — **to speak volumes** To be full of

meaning; express a great deal. [< OF < L *volumen* roll, scroll < *volvere* to turn]

vo·lu·me·ter (və·lōō′mə·tər) *n.* Any of several instruments for measuring the volume of gases, liquids, or solids under specified conditions. [< VOLU(ME) + -METER]

vol·u·met·ric (vol′yə·met′rik) *adj. Chem.* Of or pertaining to measurement of substances by comparison of volumes. Also **vol′u·met′ri·cal.** — **vol′u·met′ri·cal·ly** *adv.* — **vo·lu·me·try** (və·lōō′mə·trē) *n.*

vo·lu·mi·nous (və·lōō′mə·nəs) *adj.* **1.** Having great quantity or volume. **2.** Consisting of or capable of filling several volumes. **3.** Writing or having written much; productive. **4.** Having coils, folds, windings, etc. — **vo·lu′mi·nous·ly** *adv.* — **vo·lu′mi·nos′i·ty, vo·lu′mi·nous·ness** *n.*

vol·un·tar·y (vol′ən·ter′ē) *adj.* **1.** Proceeding from the will or from one's own free choice; intentional; volitional. **2.** Endowed with, possessing, or exercising will or free choice. **3.** Effected by choice or volition. **4.** *Law* **a** Unconstrained of will; done without compulsion. **b** Performed without legal obligation. — *n.* *pl.* **·tar·ies** **1.** Any work or performance not compelled or imposed by another. **2.** *Music* An organ solo, often improvised, played before, during, or after a service. [< OF < L *voluntas* will] — **vol′un·tar′i·ly** *adv.* — **vol′un·tar′i·ness** *n.*

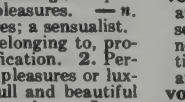
vol·un·teer (vol′ən·tir′) *n.* One who enters into any service, esp. military service or a hazardous undertaking, of his own free will. — *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or composed of volunteers. **2.** Springing up naturally or spontaneously, as from fallen or self-sown seed. — *v.t.* **1.** To offer to give or do. — *v.i.* **2.** To enter or offer to enter into some service or undertaking of one's free will; enlist. [< obs. F *voluntaire* < OF *voluntas* will]

Volunteer State Nickname of Tennessee.

vo·lup·tu·ar·y (və·lup′chōō·er′ē) *adj.* Pertaining to or promoting sensual indulgence and luxurious pleasures. — *n.* *pl.* **·ar·ies** One addicted to sensual pleasures; a sensualist.

vo·lup·tu·ous (və·lup′chōō·əs) *adj.* **1.** Belonging to, producing, exciting, or yielding sensuous gratification. **2.** Pertaining to or devoted to the enjoyment of pleasures or luxuries; luxurious; sensual. **3.** Having a full and beautiful form, as a woman. [< OF < L < *voluptas* pleasure] — **vo·lup′tu·ous·ly** *adv.* — **vo·lup′tu·ous·ness** *n.*

vo·lute (və·lōōt′) *n.* **1.** *Archit.* A spiral, scroll-like ornament, esp. one characteristic of the Ionic capital. **2.** *Zool.* One of the whorls or turns of a spiral shell. — *adj.* **1.** Rolled up; forming spiral curves. **2.** Having a spiral form, as a machine part. [< F < L *voluta* scroll, orig. fem. pp. of *volvere* to turn] — **vo·lut′ed** *adv.* — **vo·lu′tion** *n.*



VOLUTE

vom·it (vom′it) *v.t.* **1.** To throw up or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth. **2.** To issue with violence from any hollow place; be ejected. — *v.t.* **3.** To throw up or eject from the stomach, as food. **4.** To discharge or send forth copiously or forcibly: The volcano *vomited* smoke. — *n.* Matter that is ejected, as from the stomach in vomiting. [< L *vomitare*, freq. of *vomere* to vomit] — **vom′it·er** *n.*

vom·i·tive (vom′ə·tiv) *adj.* Causing vomiting. — *n.* An emetic.

vom·i·to·ry (vom′ə·tôr′ē, -tō′rē) *adj.* Efficacious in producing vomiting. — *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** An emetic. **2.** An opening through which matter is discharged. **3.** In a Roman amphitheater, one of the entrances from the encircling arcades to the passages leading to the seats: so called because of the numbers of people who flowed forth from it: also **vom·i·to·ri·um** (vom′ə·tôr′ē·əm, -tō′rē-).

von (von, *Ger.* fôn, *unstressed* fən) *prep. German* Of; from: used in German and Austrian family names as an attribute of nobility, corresponding to the French *de*.

voo·doo (vōō′dōō) *n.* *pl.* **·doos** **1.** A primitive religion of West African origin characterized by belief in sorcery and the use of charms, fetishes, witchcraft, etc. **2.** One who practices voodoo. **3.** A voodoo charm or fetish. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the beliefs, ceremonies, or practices of voodoo. — *v.t.* **·dooed, ·doo·ing** To put a spell upon after the manner of a voodoo. [< Creole < Ewe (a W. African language) *vodu*]

voo·doo·ism (vōō′dōō·iz′əm) *n.* **1.** The religion of voodoo. **2.** Belief in or practice of this religion. — **voo′doo·ist** *n.* — **voo′doo·is′tic** *adj.*

-vora *combining form Zool.* Used to denote orders or genera when classified according to their food: *Carnivora*. An individual member of such an order or genus is denoted by **-vore**: *carnivore*. [< NL < L *-vorus*. See -VOROUS.]

vo·ra·cious (vō·rā′shəs, vō-, və-) *adj.* **1.** Eating with greediness; ravenous. **2.** Greedy; rapacious. **3.** Ready to swallow up or engulf. **4.** Insatiable; immoderate. [< L < *vorare* to devour] — **vo·ra′cious·ly** *adv.* — **vo·rac·i·ty** (vô·ras′ə·tē, vō-, və-), **vo·ra′cious·ness** *n.*

-vorous *combining form* Consuming; eating or feeding upon: *omnivorous, carnivorous*. [< L *-vorus* < *vorare* to devour]

vor·tex (vôr′teks) *n.* *pl.* **·tex·es** or **·ti·ces** (-tə·sēz) **1.** A mass of whirling gas or liquid, esp. when sucked spirally toward a central axis; a whirlwind or whirlpool. **2.** Any action or state of affairs that is similar to a vortex in violence, force, etc. [< L, var. of *vertex* top, point] — **vor′ti·cal** (-ti·kəl) *adj.* — **vor′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

vo·ta·ry (vō′tər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** One bound by a vow or promise, as a nun. **2.** One devoted to some particular worship, pursuit, study, etc. Also **vo′ta·rist.** — **Syn.** See ENTHUSIAST. — *adj.* Consecrated by a vow or promise; votive. [< L *votus*, pp. of *vovere* to vow] — **vo·ta·ress** (vō′tə·ris) or **vo′tress** (vō′tris) *n.fem.*

vote (vōt) *n.* **1.** A formal expression of will or opinion in regard to some question submitted for decision, as in electing officers, passing resolutions, etc. **2.** That by which such choice is expressed, as a show of hands, or ballot. **3.** The result of an election. **4.** The number of votes cast; also, votes collectively: a light *vote*; the farm *vote*. **5.** The right to vote. **6.** A voter. — *v.* **vot·ed, vot·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To enact or determine by vote. **2.** To cast one's vote for: to *vote* a straight ticket. **3.** *Informal* To declare by general agreement: to *vote* a concert a success. — *v.i.* **4.** To cast one's vote; express opinion or preference by or as by a vote. — **to vote down** To defeat or suppress by voting against. — **to vote in** To elect. [< L *votum* vow, wish, orig. pp. neut. of *vovere* to vow] — **vot′a·ble** or **vote′a·ble** *adj.* — **vot′er** *n.*

vote getter **1.** A person who can win votes. **2.** A campaign slogan, etc., that draws votes. — **vote getting**

voting machine A device which enables the voter to indicate his choices by operating small levers and which registers and counts all votes.

vo·tive (vō′tiv) *adj.* Dedicated by a vow; performed in fulfillment of a vow. — **vo′tive·ly** *adv.* — **vo′tive·ness** *n.*

vouch (vouch) *v.i.* **1.** To give one's own assurance or guarantee; bear witness: with *for*: I will *vouch* for them. **2.** To serve as assurance or proof: with *for*. — *v.t.* **3.** To bear witness to; attest or affirm. **4.** To cite as support or justification. **5.** To substantiate. — *n.* A declaration that attests; an assertion. [< OF < L *vocare* to call < *vox, vocis* voice]

vouch·er (vou′chər) *n.* **1.** Any material thing, usu. a writing, that serves to vouch for the truth of something, or attest an alleged act, esp. the payment or receipt of money. **2.** One who vouches for another; a witness.

vouch·safe (vouch′sāf′) *v.* **·safed, ·saf·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To grant, as with condescension; permit; deign. — *v.i.* **2.** To condescend; deign. — **vouch′safe′ment** *n.*

vous·soir (vōō·swär′) *n.* *Archit.* A stone in an arch shaped to fit its curve. [< OF *vausoir* < L *volvere* to turn]

vow (vou) *n.* **1.** A solemn promise to God or to a deity or saint to perform some act or make some gift or sacrifice. **2.** A solemn engagement to adopt a certain course of life, pursue some end, etc.; also, a pledge of faithfulness. **3.** A solemn and emphatic affirmation. — **to take vows** To enter a religious order. — *v.t.* **1.** To promise solemnly, esp. to God or to some deity. **2.** To declare with assurance or solemnity. **3.** To make a solemn promise or threat to do, inflict, etc. — *v.i.* **4.** To make a vow. [< AF *vu*, OF *vo*, *vou* < L *votum*] — **vow′er** *n.*

vow·el (vou′əl) *n.* **1.** *Phonet.* A speech sound produced by the relatively unimpeded passage of breath through the mouth, varying in quality according to the size, shape, and condition of the resonance cavities. Vowels may be characterized by length (long or short), the height of the tongue (high, mid, low), the place of articulation (front, central, back), the tension of the tongue muscles (tense, lax), and the presence of lip rounding. Thus (ōō) is a long, high, back, tense, rounded vowel. **2.** A letter representing such a sound, as *a, e, i, o, u*, and sometimes *y*. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to a vowel; vocal. [< OF < L *vox, vocis* voice, sound]

vox (voks) *n.* *pl.* **vo·ces** (vō′sēz) Voice; esp., in music, a voice; part. [< L]

vox po·pu·li (voks pop′yə·lī) *Latin* The voice of the people.

voy·age (voi′ij) *n.* **1.** A journey by water, esp. by sea: commonly used of a somewhat extended journey by water. **2.** Any journey. **3.** A book describing a voyage or voyaging. **4.** Any enterprise or project; also, course. — *v.* **·aged, ·ag·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To make a voyage; journey by water. — *v.t.* **2.** To travel over. [< OF < L *viaticum*] — **voy′ag·er** *n.*

voy·age·a·ble (voi′ij·ə·bəl) *adj.* Navigable.

vo·ya·geur (vwä·yä·zhœr′) *n.* *pl.* **·geurs** (-zhœr′) *Canadian* A boatman of Hudson's Bay Company or another fur company, engaged in carrying men, supplies, etc., between remote trading posts; also, a Canadian boatman or fur trader. [< dial. F (Canadian)]

vo·yeur (vwä·yûr′) *n.* One who is sexually gratified by looking at sexual objects or acts. [< F < L *videre* to see] — **vo·yeur′ism** *n.*

VTOL (vē′tôl) *n.* *Aeron.* An aircraft that takes off and lands vertically.

Vul·can (vul′kən) In Roman mythology, the god of fire and of metallurgy. — **Vul·ca′ni·an** (-kā′nē·ən) *adj.*

vul·ca·ni·an (vul·kā′nē·ən) *adj.* Volcanic: also **vul·can·ic** (vul·kan′ik). [< L < *Vulcanus* Vulcan]
vul·can·ite (vul′kən·īt) *n.* A dark, hard variety of rubber that has been vulcanized: also called *ebonite, hard rubber.* — *adj.* Made of vulcanite. [after *Vulcan*]
vul·can·ize (vul′kən·īz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To treat (crude rubber) with sulfur or sulfur compounds in varying proportions and at different temperatures, thereby increasing its strength and elasticity. — **vul′can·iz′a·ble** *adj.* — **vul′can·i·za′tion** *n.* — **vul′can·iz′er** *n.*
vul·can·ol·o·gy (vul′kən·ol′ə·jē) *n.* Volcanology. — **vul′can·o·log′i·cal** (-ə·loj′i·kəl) *adj.* — **vul′can·ol′o·gist** *n.*
vul·gar (vul′gər) *adj.* **1.** Lacking in refinement, good taste, sensitivity, etc.; coarse; crude; boorish; also, obscene; indecent. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the people at large, as distinguished from the privileged or educated classes; popular; common. **3.** Written in or translated into the common language or vulgate; vernacular. [< L < *vulgus* the common people] — **vul′gar·ly** *adv.*
vul·gar·i·an (vul·gâr′ē·ən) *n.* A person of vulgar tastes or manners.
vul·gar·ism (vul′gə·riz′əm) *n.* **1.** Vulgarity. **2.** A word, phrase, or expression that is in nonstandard or unrefined usage, though not necessarily coarse or gross.
vul·gar·i·ty (vul·gar′ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·ties** **1.** The quality or character of being vulgar. **2.** Something vulgar, as an action, word, etc. Also **vul·gar·ness** (vul′gər·nis).
vul·gar·ize (vul′gə·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** **1.** To make vulgar. **2.** To express and diffuse (something abstruse or complex) in a more widely comprehensible form; popularize. Also *Brit.* **vul′gar·ise.** — **vul′gar·i·za′tion** *n.* — **vul′gar·iz′er** *n.*
Vulgar Latin See under LATIN.
vul·gate (vul′gāt) *adj.* Common; popular; generally accepted. — *n.* **1.** Everyday speech. **2.** Any commonly accepted text. [< L < *vulgus* the common people]
Vul·gate (vul′gāt) *n.* A Latin version of the Bible, translated between A.D. 383 and 405, now revised and used as the authorized version by the Roman Catholics. — *adj.* Belonging or relating to the Vulgate. [< Med.L *vulgata (editio)* the popular (edition), fem. of L *vulgatus* common]
vul·ner·a·ble (vul′nər·ə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being hurt or damaged. **2.** Liable to attack; assailable. **3.** In contract bridge, having won one game of a rubber, and thus receiving increased penalties and increased bonuses. [< LL < L *vulnerare* to wound] — **vul′ner·a·bil′i·ty, vul′ner·a·ble·ness** *n.* — **vul′ner·a·bly** *adv.*
vul·pine (vul′pin, -pīn) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a fox. **2.** Like a fox; sly; crafty. [< L < *vulpes* fox]
vul·ture (vul′chər) *n.* **1.** Any of various large birds related to the eagles, hawks, and falcons, having the head and neck naked or partly naked, and feeding mostly on carrion. **2.** Someone or something disgustingly predatory. [< AF, OF < L *vultur, vulturius*] — **vul·tur·ine** (vul′chə·rīn, -chər·in), **vul′tur·ous** *adj.*

VULTURE (To 55 inches long; wingspread to 11 feet)

vul·va (vul′və) *n. pl.* **·vae** (-vē) *Anat.* The external genital parts of the female. [< L, a covering, womb] — **vul′val, vul′var** *adj.* — **vul′vi·form** (-və·fôrm) *adj.*
vy·ing (vī′ing) *adj.* Contending. — **vy′ing·ly** *adv.*

W

W, w (dub′əl·yōō, -yŏŏ) *n. pl.* **w's** or **ws, W's** or **Ws, double·u·you** **1.** The twenty-third letter of the English alphabet; double u: a ligature of vv or uu. **2.** The sound represented by the letter *w*, a voiced bilabial velar semivowel before vowels (*we, wage, worry*), and a *u*-glide in diphthongs (*how, allow, dew, review*). It often has no phonetic value before *r* (*wrist, write, wrong*), and internally (*two, sword, answer*). ◆ The combination *wh-* (in Old English spelled *hw-*) is represented in this dictionary as (hw) because most Americans and probably most Canadians use that pronunciation. In some regions, however, *wh-* is consistently pronounced (w), and the use cannot be considered nonstandard. — *symbol Chem.* Tungsten (symbol W, for *wolfram*).
wab·ble (wob′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·bled, ·bling** To wobble. — *n.* A wobble. — **wab′bler** *n.* — **wab′bly** *adj.*
WAC or **W.A.C.** (wak) *n.* A member of the Women's Army Corps. [< W(OMEN'S) A(RMY) C(ORPS)]
wack·y (wak′ē) *adj.* **wack·i·er, wack·i·est** *Slang* Extremely irrational or impractical; erratic; screwy. [Prob. < WHACK; with ref. to damaging blows on the head]
wad (wod) *n.* **1.** A small compact mass of any soft or flexible substance, esp. as used for stuffing, packing, or lining; also, a lump; mass. **2.** A piece of paper, cloth, or leather used to hold in a charge of powder in a muzzleloading gun; also, a pasteboard or paper disk to hold powder and shot in place in a shotgun shell. **3.** Fibrous material for stopping up breaks, leakages, etc.; wadding. **4.** *Informal* A large amount: **5.** *Informal* A roll of banknotes; also, money or wealth. **6.** A chew of tobacco. — *v.* **wad·ded, wad·ding** *v.t.* **1.** To press (fibrous substances, as cotton) into a mass or wad. **2.** To roll or fold into a tight wad, as paper. **3.** To pack with wadding for protection, as valuables, or to stuff or line with wadding. **4.** To place a wad in, as a gun; hold in place with a wad. — *v.i.* **5.** To form into a wad. [Origin uncertain] — **wad′dy** *adj.*
wad·ding (wod′ing) *n.* **1.** Wads collectively. **2.** Any substance, as carded cotton, used as material for wads. **3.** The act of applying a wad or wads.
wad·dle (wod′l) *v.i.* **·dled, ·dling** **1.** To walk with short steps, swaying from side to side. **2.** To move clumsily; totter. — *n.* A clumsy rocking walk, like that of a duck. [Freq. of WADE] — **wad′dler** *n.* — **wad′dly** *adj.*
wad·dy (wod′ē) *n. pl.* **·dies** *Austral.* **1.** A thick war club used by the aborigines. **2.** A walking stick; piece of wood. — *v.t.* **·died, ·dy·ing** To strike with a waddy. [< native Australian pronun. of *wood*]
wade (wād) *v.* **wad·ed, wad·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To walk through water or any substance more resistant than air, as mud, sand, etc. **2.** To proceed slowly or laboriously: to *wade* through a book. — *v.t.* **3.** To pass or cross, as a river, by walking on the bottom; ford. — **to wade in** (or **into**) *Informal* To attack or begin energetically or vigorously. — *n.* **1.** The act of wading. **2.** A ford. [OE *wadan* to go]
wad·er (wā′dər) *n.* **1.** One who wades. **2.** A long-legged wading bird, as a snipe, plover, or stork. **3.** *pl.* High waterproof boots, worn esp. by anglers.
wa·di (wä′dē) *n. pl.* **·dies** **1.** In Arabia and northern Africa, a ravine containing the bed of a watercourse, usu. dry except in the rainy season; also, the watercourse. **2.** An oasis. Also **wa′dy.** [< Arabic *wādī*]
WAF or **W.A.F.** (waf, wäf) *n.* A member of the Women in the Air Force. [< W(OMEN IN THE) A(IR) F(ORCE)]
wa·fer (wā′fər) *n.* **1.** A very thin crisp biscuit, cooky, or cracker; also, a small disk of candy. **2.** *Eccl.* A small flat disk of unleavened bread stamped with a cross or the letters IHS, and used in the Eucharist in some churches. **3.** A thin disk of gelatin or other substance used for sealing letters, attaching papers, or receiving a seal. — *v.t.* To attach, seal, or fasten with a wafer. [< AF < MLG *wafel*]
waf·fle (wof′əl, wô′fəl) *n.* A batter cake, crisper than a pancake, baked between two hinged metal griddles marked with regular indentations (**waffle iron**). [< Du. *wafel* wafer]
waft[1] (waft, wäft) *v.t.* **1.** To carry or bear gently or lightly over air or water; float. **2.** To convey as if on air or water. — *v.i.* **3.** To float, as on the wind. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which wafts. **2.** A current of air; also, something, as an odor, carried on a current of air. **3.** A wafting or waving motion or movement. [Back formation < *wafter*, in obs. sense, "an escort ship" < Du. *wachten* to guard]
waft[2] (waft, wäft) *n. Naut.* **1.** A signal flag or pennant, sometimes used to indicate wind direction. **2.** A signal made with a flag or pennant. Also called *weft.* [Alter. of dial. E *waff*, var. of WAVE]
waft·er (waf′tər, wäf′-) *n.* **1.** One who or that which wafts. **2.** A form of fan or revolving disk used in a blower.
wag[1] (wag) *v.* **wagged, wag·ging** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move

lightly and quickly from side to side or up and down; swing: The dog *wags* its tail. **2.** To move (the tongue) in talking. — *v.i.* **3.** To move lightly and quickly from side to side or up and down. **4.** To move busily in animated talk: said of the tongue. — *n.* The act or motion of wagging. [ME *waggen*, prob. < Scand.]

wag[2] (wag) *n.* A humorous fellow; wit; joker. [? Short for obs. *waghalter* gallows bird < WAG[1] + HALTER[1]]

wage (wāj) *v.t.* **waged, wag·ing** To engage in and maintain vigorously; carry on: to *wage* war. — *n.* **1.** Payment for service rendered; esp., the pay of artisans or laborers receiving a fixed sum by the hour, day, week, or month, or for a certain amount of work; hire. **2.** *pl. Econ.* The remuneration received by labor as distinguished from that received by capital. **3.** *pl.* Recompense or yield: formerly, often construed as sing.: The *wages* of sin is death. [< AF *wagier*, OF *guagier* to pledge]

wage earner One who works for wages.

wa·ger (wā′jər) *v.t. & v.i.* To bet. — *n.* **1.** A bet (defs. 1, 2, & 3). **2.** The act of giving a pledge. [< AF *wagier* to pledge] — **wa′ger·er** *n.*

wage scale A scale or series of amounts of wages paid.

wage·work·er (wāj′wûr′kər) *n.* An employee receiving wages.

wag·ger·y (wag′ər·ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ger·ies** **1.** Mischievous jocularity; drollery. **2.** A jest; joke.

wag·gish (wag′ish) *adj.* **1.** Being or acting like a wag. **2.** Said or done in waggery. — **wag′gish·ly** *adv.* — **wag′gish·ness** *n.*

wag·gle (wag′əl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to move with rapid to-and-fro motions; wag: The duck *waggles* its tail. — *v.i.* **2.** To totter; wobble. — *n.* The act of waggling. [Freq. of WAG[1]] — **wag′gling·ly** *adv.* — **wag′gly** *adj.*

Wag·ne·ri·an (vägˌnirˈē·ən) *adj.* Relating to Richard Wagner or to his style, theory, or works. — *n.* An admirer, performer, or advocate of Wagnerian works.

wag·on (wag′ən) *n.* **1.** Any of various four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicles used for carrying crops, goods, freight, etc. **2.** A child's four-wheeled toy cart. **3.** A stand on wheels or casters for serving food or drink. **4.** *Brit.* A railway freight car. **5.** *Informal* A patrol wagon. **6.** A station wagon. — **on the (water) wagon** *Informal* Abstaining from alcoholic beverages. — **to fix (someone's) wagon** *U.S. Slang* To ruin or punish. — *v.t.* To carry or transport in a wagon. Also *Brit.* **wag′gon.** [< Du. *wagen*]

wag·on·er (wag′ən·ər) *n.* One whose business is driving wagons. Also *Brit.* **wag′gon·er.**

wag·on-head·ed (wag′ənˈhedˈid) *adj.* *Archit.* Having a round-arched roof.

wa·gon-lit (vä·gôn·lēˈ) *n.* *pl.* **-lits** (-lēˈ) *French* A railway sleeping car.

wag·on·load (wag′ən·lōdˈ) *n.* The amount that a wagon can carry.

wagon train A train or line of wagons.

wag·tail (wag′tālˈ) *n.* Any of several small singing birds having a long tail that is habitually wagged up and down.

Wa·ha·bi (wä·häˈbē) *n.* A member of an orthodox Moslem sect of Arabia. Also **Wa·ha′bee, Wah·ha′bi.**

wa·hoo (wä·hōōˈ, wäˈhōō) *n.* A deciduous North American shrub or small tree with purple flowers and scarlet fruit. [< Siouan (Dakota) *wánhu*, lit., arrowwood]

waif (wāf) *n.* **1.** A homeless, neglected wanderer; a stray. **2.** Anything found and unclaimed, the owner being unknown. — *v.t.* To throw away; cast off, as a waif. — *adj.* Stray; wandering; homeless. [< AF *waif*, OF *gaif*]

wail (wāl) *v.i.* **1.** To grieve with mournful cries; lament. **2.** To make a sad, melancholy sound, as if in grief. — *v.t.* **3.** To grieve on account of. **4.** To cry out in sorrow. — *n.* **1.** A prolonged, high-pitched sound of lamentation or grief. **2.** Any mournful sound, as of the wind. [< ON < *vā*, *vei* woe] — **wail′er** *n.* — **wail′ful** *adj.*

wain (wān) *n.* An open, four-wheeled wagon for hauling heavy loads. [OE *wægn*, *wæn*]

wain·scot (wānˈskət, -skōt, -skŏt) *n.* **1.** A facing for inner walls, usu. of paneled wood. **2.** The lower part of an inner wall, when finished with material different from the rest of the wall. — *v.t.* **wain·scot·ed** or **·scot·ted, wain·scot·ing** or **·scot·ting** To face or panel with wainscot. [< MLG < *wagen* wagon + *schot* wooden partition]

wain·scot·ing (wānˈskətˈing, -skōt-, -skŏt-) *n.* Material for a wainscot; a wainscot. Also **wain′scot·ting.**

wain·wright (wānˈrītˈ) *n.* A maker of wagons.

waist (wāst) *n.* **1.** The part of the body between the chest and the hips. **2.** The middle part of any object, esp. if narrower than the ends. **3.** That part of a woman's dress covering the body from the waistline to the shoulders; a bodice. **4.** A waistband. [ME *wast*]

waist·band (wāstˈbandˈ, -bənd) *n.* A band encircling the waist, esp., as part of a skirt or trousers.

waist·coat (wāstˈkōtˈ, wesˈkit) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* A vest (def. 1).

waist·line (wāstˈlīnˈ) *n.* The line of the waist, between the ribs and the hips; in dressmaking, the line at which the skirt of a dress meets the waist.

wait (wāt) *v.i.* **1.** To stay or remain in expectation, as of an anticipated action or event: with *for*, *until*, etc. **2.** To be or remain in readiness. **3.** To remain temporarily neglected or undone. **4.** To perform duties of personal service or attendance; esp., to act as a waiter or waitress. — *v.t.* **5.** To stay or remain in expectation of; await. **6.** *Informal* To postpone; delay: Don't *wait* breakfast for me. — **to wait on (or upon)** **1.** To act as a servant or attendant to. **2.** To go to see; call upon; visit. **3.** To attend as a consequence. — **to wait up** To delay going to bed in anticipation of someone or something. — *n.* **1.** The act of waiting, or the time spent in waiting; delay. **2.** An ambush or trap: to lie in *wait* for a victim. [< AF and OF < OHG < *wahta* guard]

wait·er (wāˈtər) *n.* **1.** One who serves food and drink, as in a restaurant. **2.** One who awaits something. **3.** A tray for dishes, etc.

wait·ing (wāˈting) *n.* The act of one who waits. — **in waiting** In attendance, esp. at court. — *adj.* That waits; expecting.

waiting room A room for the use of persons waiting, as for a railroad train, a doctor, dentist, or the like.

wait·ress (wāˈtris) *n.* A woman or girl employed to wait on guests at table, as in a restaurant.

waive (wāv) *v.t.* **waived, waiv·ing** **1.** To give up or relinquish a claim to. **2.** To refrain from insisting upon or taking advantage of; forego. **3.** To put off; postpone; delay. [< AF *weyver*, OF *gaiver* to abandon]

waiv·er (wāˈvər) *n.* *Law* The voluntary relinquishment of a right or privilege; also, the instrument that evidences such relinquishment. [< AF < *weyver* to abandon]

wake[1] (wāk) *v.* **woke** (*Rare* **waked**), **waked** (*Dial.* and alternative *Brit.* **woke, wok·en**), **wak·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To emerge from sleep. **2.** To be or remain awake. **3.** To become active or alert after being inactive or dormant. **4.** *Dial.* To keep watch at night; esp., to hold a wake (def. 1). — *v.t.* **5.** To rouse from sleep; awake. **6.** To stir up; excite: to *wake* evil passions. **7.** *Dial.* To keep a vigil over; esp., to hold a wake over. — *n.* **1.** A watch over the body of a dead person through the night, before burial. **2.** The act of refraining from sleep, as on a solemn occasion. [Fusion of OE *wacan* to awake and *wacian* to be awake]

wake[2] (wāk) *n.* **1.** The track left by a vessel passing through the water. **2.** The area behind any moving thing. — **in the wake of** **1.** Following close behind. **2.** In the aftermath of; as a result of. [< ON *vök* an opening in ice]

wake·ful (wākˈfəl) *adj.* **1.** Remaining awake, esp. at the ordinary time of sleep; not sleeping or sleepy. **2.** Watchful; alert. **3.** Arousing from or as from sleep. — **wake′ful·ly** *adv.* — **wake′ful·ness** *n.*

wak·en (wāˈkən) *v.t.* **1.** To rouse from sleep; awake. **2.** To rouse to alertness or activity. — *v.i.* **3.** To cease sleeping; wake up. [OE *wæcnan*, *wæcnian*]

wake-rob·in (wākˈrobˈin) *n.* Any species of trillium.

Wal·dorf salad (wôlˈdôrf) A salad of chopped celery, apples, and walnuts, garnished with lettuce and mayonnaise [after the first *Waldorf*-Astoria Hotel, New York City]

wale (wāl) *n.* **1.** A welt (def. 3). **2.** *Naut.* One of certain strakes of outer planking running fore and aft on a vessel. **3.** A ridge on the surface of cloth. — *v.t.* **waled, wal·ing** To raise wales on by striking, as with a lash; beat. **2.** To manufacture, as cloth, with a ridge or rib. **3.** To weave a wickerwork with several rods together. [OE *walu*]

walk (wôk) *v.i.* **1.** To advance on foot in such a manner that one part of a foot is always on the ground; of quadrupeds, to advance in such a manner that two or more feet are always on the ground. **2.** To move or go on foot for exercise or amusement. **3.** To proceed slowly. **4.** To act or live in some manner: to *walk* in peace. **5.** To return to earth and appear, as a ghost. **6.** In baseball, to achieve first base as a result of having been pitched four balls. — *v.t.* **7.** To pass through, over, or across at a walk: to *walk* the floor. **8.** To cause to go at a walk; lead, ride, or drive at a walk. **9.** To accompany on a walk. **10.** To bring to a specified condition by walking: She *walked* me to death. **11.** In baseball, to allow to advance to first base by pitching four balls. — **to walk off** **1.** To depart, esp. abruptly or without warning. **2.** To get rid of (fat, etc.) by walking. — **to walk off with** **1.** To win. **2.** To steal. — **to walk out** *Informal* **1.** To go out on strike. **2.** To keep company: with *with* or *together*. — **to walk out on** *Informal* To forsake; desert. — **to walk over** To defeat easily; overwhelm. — *n.* **1.** The act of walking, as for enjoyment; a stroll. **2.** Manner of walking; gait. **3.** Chosen profession or habitual sphere of action: the different *walks* of life. **4.** Distance as measured by the time taken by one who walks: an hour's *walk*. **5.** A place set apart for walking; a path or sidewalk. **6.** A piece of ground set apart for domestic animals; range; pasture. **7.** In baseball, an advancing to first base as a result of having

ing been pitched four balls. [OE *wealcan* to roll, toss] — **walk'er** *n.*

walk-a-way (wôk'ə·wā') *n.* A contest won without serious opposition: also called *walkover.*

walk-ie-talk-ie (wô'kē·tô'kē) *n. Telecom.* A portable sending and receiving radio set light enough to be carried by one man: also spelled *walky-talky.*

walking papers *Informal* Notice of dismissal from employment, etc.

walking stick **1.** A staff or cane. **2.** Any of various insects having legs, body, and wings resembling a twig.

walk-on (wôk'on', -ôn') *n.* A performer having a very small part; also, the part.

walk-out (wôk'out') *n. Informal* A workmen's strike.

walk-o-ver (wôk'ō'vər) *n.* A walkaway.

walk-up (wôk'up') *Informal n.* An apartment house having no elevator. — *adj.* Having no elevator.

walk-y-talk-y (wô'kē·tô'kē) See WALKIE-TALKIE.

wall (wôl) *n.* **1.** A continuous structure designed to enclose an area, to be the surrounding exterior of a building, to be a partition between rooms, etc.; also, a fence separating fields, etc. ◆ Collateral adjective: *mural.* **2.** Something suggestive of a wall: a *wall* of bayonets. **3.** A rampart for defense; in the plural, fortifications. **4.** A sea wall; levee. — **to drive, push, or thrust to the wall** To force (one) to an extremity; crush. — **to go to the wall** To be driven to an extremity; be forced to yield. — *v.t.* **1.** To provide, surround, etc., with or as with a wall. **2.** To fill or block with a wall: often with *up.* — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or on, a wall. [OE < L < *vallus* stake, palisade]

wal-la-by (wol'ə·bē) *n. pl.* **·bies** One of the smaller kangaroos. [< Australian *wolabā*]

wall-board (wôl'bôrd', -bōrd') *n.* A material composed of several layers of compressed wood chips and pulp, used as a substitute for wooden boards and plaster.

wal-let (wol'it) *n.* **1.** A pocketbook, usu. of leather, for holding unfolded paper money, personal papers, etc.: also called *billfold.* **2.** A leather or canvas bag for tools, etc. **3.** A knapsack. [ME *walet*; ult. origin uncertain]

wall-eye (wôl'ī') *n.* **1.** An eye in which the iris is light-colored or white. **2.** Any of several walleyed fishes. [Back formation < WALLEYED]

wall-eyed (wôl'īd') *adj.* **1.** Having a whitish or grayish eye. **2.** Having large, staring eyes, as a fish. **3.** *Slang* Drunk. [< ON < *vagl* film on the eye + *eygr* < *auga* eye]

walleyed pike A fresh-water game fish of the Great Lakes, having large eyes. Also **walleyed perch.**

wall-flow-er (wôl'flou'ər) *n.* **1.** Any of various European herbs of the mustard family, having fragrant yellow, orange, or red flowers. **2.** *Informal* A person, esp. a woman, at a party who stays by the wall for want of a dancing partner.

wal-loon (wo·lōōn') *n.* **1.** One of a people inhabiting southern and southeastern Belgium and the adjoining regions of France. **2.** Their language, a dialect of French. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Walloons or their dialect.

wal-lop (wol'əp) *v.t. Informal* **1.** To beat soundly; thrash. **2.** To hit with a hard blow. **3.** To defeat soundly. — *v.i. Dial.* or *Informal* **4.** To gallop. — *n. Informal* A severe blow. [< AF *waloper*, OF *galoper*]

wal-lop-er (wol'əp·ər) *n. Informal* **1.** One who or that which wallops. **2.** A whopper.

wal-lop-ing (wol'əp·ing) *Informal adj.* Very large; whopping. — *n.* A beating; whipping.

wal-low (wol'ō) *v.i.* **1.** To roll about; be pleasurably and actively immersed. **2.** To thrash about; flounder. **3.** To move with a heavy, rolling motion, as a ship in a storm. **4.** To live self-indulgently: to *wallow* in sensuality. — *n.* **1.** The act of wallowing. **2.** A pool or hole in which animals wallow; also, any depression or hollow made by or suggesting such use. [OE *wealwian*] — **wal'low·er** *n.*

wall-pa-per (wôl'pā'pər) *n.* Paper specially prepared and printed in colors and designs, for covering walls and ceilings of rooms. — *v.t.* To cover or provide with wallpaper.

Wall Street **1.** A street in the financial district of New York City. **2.** The world of U.S. finance.

wal-nut (wôl'nut', -nət) *n.* **1.** Any of various trees of the north temperate zone cultivated as ornamental shade trees and valued for their and their edible nuts. **2.** The wood or nut of any of these trees, esp. the edible seed or kernel. **3.** The shagbark hickory, or its nut. **4.** The color of the wood of any of these trees, esp. of the black walnut, a very dark brown. [OE < *wealh* foreign + *hnutu* nut]

wal-pur-gis Night (väl·pōōr'gis) The night before May 1, associated with a witches' Sabbath. [after St. *Walpurga* (or *Walburga*), whose feast day falls on this date]

wal-rus (wôl'rəs, wol'-) *n. pl.* **·rus·es** or **·rus** A large marine mammal of arctic seas, having flippers, tusks in the upper jaw, and a thick neck. [< Du. *walrus* < Scand.]

waltz (wôlts) *n.* **1.** A dance for couples to music in triple time. **2.** The music for such a dance, or any similar music in triple time. — *v.i.* **1.** To dance a waltz. **2.** To move quickly and boldly; flounce. **3.** To move freely. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to waltz. — *adj.* Of, or typical of, the waltz: *waltz* time. [< G < *walzen* to waltz] — **waltz'er** *n.*

wam-pum (wom'pəm, wôm'-) *n.* **1.** Beads made from shells, often worked into ornaments, formerly used as currency by North American Indians. **2.** *Informal* Money. [< Algonquian *wampum*(*peage*), lit., a white string (of beads)]

wan (won) *adj.* **wan·ner, wan·nest** **1.** Pale, as from sickness or anxiety; pallid. **2.** Indicating illness, unhappiness, etc.: a *wan* smile. — *v.t. & v.i.* **wanned, wan·ning** *Poetic* To make or become wan. [OE *wann* dark, gloomy] — **wan'ly** *adv.* — **wan'ness** *n.*

wand (wond) *n.* **1.** A slender rod waved by a magician; also, any rod indicating an office or function of the bearer, as a scepter. **2.** A musician's baton. **3.** A thin, flexible stick or twig; also, a willow shoot; osier. [< ON *vöndr*]

wan-der (won'dər) *v.i.* **1.** To move or travel about without destination or purpose; roam; rove. **2.** To go casually or indirectly; idle; stroll. **3.** To twist or meander. **4.** To stray. **5.** To deviate in conduct or opinion; go astray. **6.** To think or speak deliriously or irrationally. — *v.t.* **7.** To wander through or across. — *n.* A ramble. [OE *wandrian*] — **wan'der·er** *n.* — **wan'der·ing·ly** *adv.*

— **Syn.** (verb) **1.** *Wander* implies no more than the absence of purpose: to *wander* through the shops. *Ramble* tends to be deprecatory: the speaker *rambled* on for an hour. *Roam* and *rove* imply travel through a large area, and suggest an irregular rather than a purposeless course: the explorers *roamed* through the jungle, pirates *roved* the sea.

wan-der-ing albatross (won'dər·ing) A large, whitish, black-winged, web-footed sea bird.

wan-der-lust (won'dər·lust', *Ger.* vän'dər·lōōst) *n.* An impulse to travel; restlessness combined with a sense of adventure. [< G < *wandern* to travel + *lust* joy]

wane (wān) *v.i.* **waned, wan·ing** **1.** To diminish in size and brilliance: opposed to *wax.* **2.** To decline or decrease gradually; draw to an end. — *n.* **1.** Decrease, as of power, prosperity, or reputation. **2.** The decrease of the moon's visible illuminated surface; also, the period of such decrease. — **on the wane** Waning. [OE *wanian*]

wan-gle (wang'gəl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *Informal v.t.* **1.** To obtain or accomplish by indirect or irregular methods: to *wangle* an introduction. **2.** To manipulate or adjust, esp., dishonestly. — *v.i.* **3.** To resort to indirect, irregular, or dishonest methods. — *n.* An act of wangling. [? Alter. of WAGGLE] — **wan'gler** *n.*

want (wont, wônt) *v.t.* **1.** To feel a desire or wish for. **2.** To wish; desire: used with the infinitive: Your friends *want* to help you. **3.** To be deficient in; lack; be without. **4.** To be lacking to the extent of: He *wants* three inches of six feet. **5.** *Brit.* To need; require. — *v.i.* **6.** To have need: usu. with *for.* **7.** To be needy or destitute. **8.** *Rare* To be lacking or absent. — **to want for** To be in need of; lack. — **to want to** *Informal* Ought to: You *want to* eat well. — *n.* **1.** A lack; scarcity; shortage. **2.** Privation; poverty; need. **3.** Something lacking; a need. **4.** A conscious need of something; a craving. — **for want of** Because of the lack or absence of: The crop failed *for want of* rain. [Prob. < ON *vanta* to be lacking] — **want'er** *n.*

wa'n't (wont, wônt) Was not: a dialectal contraction.

want ad *Informal* A classified advertisement for something wanted, as hired help, a job, a lodging, etc.

want column A column of want ads.

want·ing (won'ting, wôn'-) *adj.* **1.** Not at hand; missing; lacking. **2.** Not coming up to need or expectation: His work was found *wanting.* — **wanting in** Deficient in. — *prep.* **1.** Without; lacking. **2.** Minus; less.

wan-ton (won'tən) *adj.* **1.** Licentious; lustful. **2.** Unjust; malicious; *wanton* savagery; also, unprovoked: a *wanton* murder. **3.** Of abundant growth; rank. **4.** Extravagant; excessive; unrestrained: *wanton* speech. **5.** *Poetic* Not bound or tied; loose: *wanton* curls; also, frolicsome. — *v.i.* **1.** To act wantonly or playfully; revel or sport. **2.** To grow luxuriantly. — *v.t.* **3.** To waste wantonly. — *n.* **1.** A licentious person, esp., a woman. **2.** A playful or frolicsome person or animal. **3.** A trifler; dallier. [ME < OE *wan* deficient + ME *towen* < OE < *tēon* to educate] — **wan'ton·ly** *adv.* — **wan'ton·ness** *n.*

wap·i·ti (wop'ə·tē) *n. pl.* **·tis** or **·ti** *U.S. & Canadian* A large North American deer; an elk. [< Algonquian]

war (wôr) *n.* **1.** An armed conflict between nations or states, or between different parties in the same state. See table MAJOR WARS OF HISTORY. **2.** Any act or state of hostility; enmity; also, a contest or conflict. **3.** The science

MAJOR WARS OF HISTORY

NAME	CONTESTANTS (*victor shown first*)	NOTABLE BATTLES	TREATIES
Greco-Persian Wars 499–478 B.C.	Greek states — Persia	Marathon, 490; Thermopylae, Salamis, 480; Plataea, 479	
Peloponnesian War 431–404 B.C.	Sparta — Athens	Syracuse, 415; Cyzicus, 410; Aegospotami, 405	Peace of Nicias, 421
First Punic War 264–241 B.C.; **Second Punic War** 218–201 B.C.; **Third Punic War** 149–146 B.C.	Rome — Carthage	Drepanum, 249; Aegates, 241; Lake Trasimene, 217; Cannae, 216; Zama, 202	
Norman Conquest 1066	Normandy — England	Hastings, 1066	
Crusades 1096–1291	Christianity — Islam (*indecisive*)	Jerusalem, 1099; Acre, 1191	
Hundred Years' War 1338–1453	England — France	Crécy, 1346; Poitiers, 1356; Agincourt, 1415; Siege of Orléans, 1428–39	
Wars of the Roses 1455–85	Lancaster — York (*indecisive*)	St. Albans, 1455	
Thirty Years' War 1618–48	Catholics — Protestants	Leipzig, Breitenfeld, 1631; Lützen, 1632	Westphalia, 1648
Civil War (English) 1642–46	Roundheads — Cavaliers	Marston Moor, 1643; Naseby, 1645	
Second Great Northern War 1700–1721	Russia — Sweden and Baltic allies	Poltava, 1709	Nysted, 1721
War of the Spanish Succession 1701–14	England, Austria, Prussia, Netherlands — France, Spain	Blenheim, 1704	Utrecht, 1713
War of the Austrian Succession 1740–48	France, Prussia, Sardinia, Spain — Austria, England	Dettingen, 1743; Fontenoy, 1745	Aix-la-Chapelle, 1748
French & Indian War 1755–63	England — France	Plains of Abraham, 1759; Montreal, 1760	
Seven Years' War 1756–63	Prussia — Austria, France, Russia	Rossbach, Leuthen, 1757	Hubertusberg, 1763
Revolutionary War 1775–83	American Colonies — England	Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill, 1775; Saratoga, 1777; Yorktown, 1781	Paris, 1783
Napoleonic Wars 1796–1815	England, Austria, Russia, Prussia, etc. — France	Nile, 1798; Trafalgar, 1805; Jena, Auerstädt, 1806; Leipzig, 1813; Waterloo, 1815	Campoformio, 1797; Tilsit 1807; Schönbrunn, 1809 Paris, 1814–15; Vienna, 181
War of 1812 1812–15	United States — England	Lake Erie, 1813; New Orleans, 1815	Ghent, 1814
War of Independence (Greek) 1821–29	Greece, England, Sweden, Russia — Turkey	Navarino, 1827	London, 1827
Mexican War 1846–48	United States — Mexico	Resaca de la Palma, 1846; Chapultepec, 1847	Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848
Crimean War 1854–56	Turkey, England, France, Sardinia — Russia	Sevastopol, 1854	Paris, 1856
Civil War (United States) 1861–65	Union (North) — Confederate States (South)	Bull Run, 1861; Antietam, 1862; Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, 1863; Wilderness, 1864	
Franco-Prussian War 1870–71	Prussia — France	Sedan, 1870	Versailles, 1871
Spanish-American War 1898	United States — Spain	Manila Bay, Santiago, 1898	Paris, 1898
Boer War 1899–1902	England — Transvaal Republic & Orange Free State	Ladysmith, 1899	Vereeniging, 1902
Russo-Japanese War 1904–1905	Japan — Russia	Port Arthur, Mukden, Tsushima, 1905	Portsmouth, 1905
First Balkan War 1912–13; **Second Balkan War** 1913	Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, Montenegro — Turkey	Scutari, 1912; Salonika, 1912; Adrianople, 1912	London, 1913
World War I 1914–18	Allies — Central Powers	Dardanelles, 1915; Verdun, Somme, Jutland, 1916; Caporetto, 1917; Vittorio Veneto, Amiens, Marne, Ypres, 1918	Versailles, Saint-Germain Neuilly, 1919; Trianon, Sèvres, 1920; Lausanne, 192
Civil War (Spanish) 1936–39	Insurgents — Loyalists	Teruel, 1937; Ebro River, 1938	
World War II 1939–45	United Nations — Axis 1939–45	Dunkirk, 1940; Crete, 1941; El Alamein, 1942; Tunis, 1943; Stalingrad, 1942–43; Kharkov, 1943; Cassino, 1943–44; Saint-Lô, 1944; Rhine, Ruhr, Berlin, 1945	Potsdam, 1945
	United Nations — Japan 1941–45	Pearl Harbor, 1941; Bataan, 1941–1942; Singapore, Coral Sea, Midway Island, Guadalcanal, 1942; Bismarck Sea, Tarawa, 1943; Leyte Gulf, 1944; Philippines, 1944–45; Okinawa, 1945	San Francisco, 1951
Korean War 1950–52	United Nations — North Korea	Inchon, Pyongyang, 1950; Seoul, 1951	Panmunjom, 1953
Viet Nam War 1958–1973	South Vietnam — North Vietnam (*indecisive*)	Pleiku, 1965; Dak To, 1966–68; Da Nang, 1968–69; Hue, 1968–69	Paris, 1973

of military operations; strategy. — *v.i.* **warred, war·ring** 1. To wage war; fight or take part in a war. 2. To be in any state of active opposition. — *adj.* Of, used in, or resulting from war. [OE < AF < OHG *werra* strife]

war belt Among certain North American Indians, a belt of wampum sent to declare war, to invoke aid in war, etc.

War between the States The U.S. Civil War: used esp., in the former Confederate States.

war·ble (wôr′bəl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.t.* 1. To sing with trills and runs, or with tremulous vibrations. 2. To celebrate in song. — *v.i.* 3. To sing with trills, etc. 4. To make a liquid, murmuring sound, as a stream. 5. *U.S.* To yodel. — *n.* The act of warbling: a carol; song. [< AF and OF < *werble* warble]

war·bler (wôr′blər) *n.* 1. One who or that which warbles 2. Any of various plain-colored, mostly Old World bird noted for their song. 3. Any of various small American in sectivorous birds, usu. brilliantly colored.

war bonnet The ceremonial head dress of the North Amer ican Plains Indians.

war crime Any of various crimes considered in violation o the rules of warfare, as atrocities against civilians, slav labor, genocide, and the mistreatment of prisoners.

war cry A rallying cry used by combatants in a war, or b participants in any contest.

ward (wôrd) *n.* 1. A large room in a hospital, usu. for a or more patients. 2. An administrative or electoral divisio of a city. 3. *Law* A person, often a minor, who is in th

charge of a guardian. **4.** The act of guarding, or the state of being guarded; custody. **5.** A means of defense: a protection. **6.** A defensive attitude, as in fencing; guard. **7.** Any of the separate divisions of a prison. — *v.t.* **1.** To repel or turn aside, as a blow: usu., with *off*. **2.** To keep in safety. **3.** *Archaic* To guard. [OE < *weardian* to watch, guard]

-ward *suffix* Toward; in the direction of: *upward, homeward*. Also **-wards**. [OE *-weard, -weardes* at, toward]

war dance A dance of savage tribes before going to war or in celebration of a victory.

war·den[1] (wôr′dən) *n.* **1.** *U.S.* The chief officer of a prison. **2.** *Brit.* The head of certain colleges. **3.** In Connecticut, the chief executive of a borough. **4.** A churchwarden. **5.** A warder. [< AF *wardein*, OF *gardein, guarden* < Gmc] — **war′den·ry, war′den·ship** (-ship) *n.*

war·den[2] (wôr′dən) *n.* A variety of pear used chiefly for cooking. Also **War′den.** [ME *wardon*]

ward·er (wôr′dər) *n.* **1.** A keeper; guard; sentinel; watchman. **2.** An official staff or baton; a truncheon. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* A prison official; warden. [< AF < *warder* to keep]

ward heel·er *U.S. Slang* A hanger-on of a political boss, who does minor tasks, canvasses votes, etc. [< WARD (def. 2) + HEELER (def. 1)]

ward·robe (wôrd′rōb′) *n.* **1.** All the garments belonging to any one person. **2.** An upright cabinet for clothes. **3.** Theatrical costumes; also, the room in which they are kept. [< AF < OF < *warder* to keep + *robe* dress]

ward·room (wôrd′rōōm′, -rŏŏm′) *n.* On a warship, the common recreation area and dining room for the commissioned officers; also, these officers as a group.

ward·ship (wôrd′ship) *n.* **1.** The state of being a ward or having a guardian. **2.** Custody; guardianship.

ware (wâr) *n.* **1.** Articles of the same class; esp., manufactured articles: used collectively, often in combination: *tableware, glassware.* **2.** *pl.* Articles of commerce; goods; merchandise. **3.** Pottery; earthenware. [OE *waru*]

ware·house (wâr′hous′) *n.* A storehouse for goods or merchandise. — *v.t.* **·housed** (-houzd′), **·hous·ing** (-hou′·zing) To place or store in a warehouse.

ware·house·man (wâr′hous′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who works in, manages, or owns a warehouse.

war·fare (wôr′fâr′) *n.* **1.** The waging or carrying on of war; conflict with arms; war. **2.** Struggle; strife.

war game *pl.* Practice maneuvers imitating the conditions of actual warfare.

war·head (wôr′hed′) *n.* *Mil.* The section at the nose of a guided missile, bomb, etc., containing the explosive.

war horse **1.** *Informal* A veteran; esp., an aggressive or veteran politician. **2.** A horse used in combat; charger.

war·like (wôr′līk) *adj.* **1.** Disposed to engage in war; belligerent. **2.** Relating to, used in, or suggesting war; military. **3.** Threatening war; pugnacious; hostile.

war·lock (wôr′lok′) *n.* A wizard; sorcerer; also, a demon. [OE < *wǣr* covenant + *lēogan* to lie, deny]

warm (wôrm) *adj.* **1.** Moderately hot; having heat somewhat greater than temperate. **2.** Imparting warmth or heat. **3.** Preserving warmth; preventing loss of bodily heat: a *warm* coat. **4.** Having a feeling of heat greater than ordinary: *warm* from exertion. **5.** Affectionate; loving; warmhearted. **6.** Possessing ardor, liveliness, etc.: a *warm* argument. **7.** Excited; agitated; also, vehement; passionate: a *warm* temper. **8.** United by affection. **9.** Having predominating tones of red or yellow. **10.** Recently made; fresh: a *warm* trail. **11.** Near to discovering concealed fact or object. **12.** *Informal* Uncomfortable; dangerous. **13.** Characterized by brisk activity: a *warm* skirmish. — *v.t.* **1.** To heat slightly. **2.** To make ardent or enthusiastic; interest. **3.** To fill with kindly feeling. — *v.i.* **4.** To become warm. **5.** To become ardent or enthusiastic: often with *to*. **6.** To become kindly disposed or friendly: with *to* or *toward*. **— to warm up** **1.** To warm. **2.** To exercise just before a game, etc. **3.** To run an engine until it reaches operating temperature. — *n.* *Informal* Warmth; a heating. [OE *wearm*] — **warm′er** *n.* — **warm′ly** *adv.* — **warm′ness** *n.*

warm-blood·ed (wôrm′blud′id) *adj.* **1.** *Zool.* Preserving a uniform body temperature, as man. **2.** Enthusiastic; ardent; passionate.

warm·heart·ed (wôrm′här′tid) *adj.* Kind; affectionate.

warm·ing pan (wôr′ming) A closed metal pan with a long handle, containing hot coals or water, for warming a bed.

war·mon·ger (wôr′mung′gər, -mong′-) *n.* One who propagates warlike ideas. — **war′mon′ger·ing** *adj.* & *n.*

warmth (wôrmth) *n.* **1.** The state, quality, or sensation of being warm. **2.** Ardor or fervidness of disposition or feeling; excitement of temper or mind. **3.** The effect produced by warm colors. [ME < OE *wearm* + *-thu, th* -th[1]]

warm-up (wôrm′up′) *n.* *Informal* The act of one who or that which warms up.

warn (wôrn) *v.t.* **1.** To make aware of possible harm; caution. **2.** To advise; admonish. **3.** To give notice in advance. **4.** To notify (a person) to stay away etc.: with *off, away*, etc. [OE *warnian*] — **warn′er** *n.*

warn·ing (wôr′ning) *n.* **1.** The act of one who warns; also, notice of danger. **2.** That which warns or admonishes. — *adj.* Serving as a warning. — **warn′ing·ly** *adv.*

War of 1812 See table for WAR.

War of American Independence *Brit.* The American Revolution.

War of Independence The American Revolution.

War of Secession The Civil War in the U.S.

War of the Spanish Succession See table for WAR.

warp (wôrp) *v.t.* **1.** To turn or twist out of shape, as by shrinkage or heat. **2.** To turn from a correct course; give a twist or bias to; corrupt. **3.** To stretch (yarn) so as to form a warp. **4.** *Naut.* To move (a vessel) by hauling on a rope fastened to a pier or anchor. — *v.i.* **5.** To become turned or twisted out of shape. **6.** To deviate from a proper course; go astray. **7.** *Naut.* To move by means of ropes fastened to a pier, etc. — *n.* **1.** The state of being warped; a distortion, esp. in wood. **2.** A mental or moral deviation; bias. **3.** The threads that run the long way of a fabric, crossing the woof. **4.** *Naut.* A cable used for warping a ship. [OE *weorpan* to throw] — **warp′er** *n.*

war paint **1.** Paint applied to faces and bodies by primitive peoples in token of going to war. **2.** *Informal* Cosmetics; finery; also, official garb or regalia.

war·path (wôr′path′, -päth′) *n.* The route taken by American Indians going to war. — **on the warpath** **1.** On a warlike expedition. **2.** Ready for a fight; angry.

war·plane (wôr′plān′) *n.* An airplane equipped for fighting.

war·rant (wôr′ənt, wor′-) *n.* **1.** *Law* A judicial writ or order authorizing arrest, search, seizure, etc. **2.** Something that assures or attests; evidence; guarantee. **3.** That which gives authority for some act; sanction; justification. **4.** A certificate of appointment given to army and navy warrant officers. **5.** A document giving a certain authority; esp., for receipt or payment of money. — *v.t.* **1.** To guarantee the quality, sufficiency, etc., of: to *warrant* a title to property. **2.** To guarantee the character of; pledge oneself for. **3.** To guarantee against injury, loss, etc. **4.** To be sufficient grounds for; justify. **5.** To give legal authority; to empower; authorize. **6.** To say confidently; feel sure. [< AF *warant*, OF *guarant*] — **war′rant·a·ble** *adj.* — **war′rant·a·bly** *adv.* — **war′rant·er** *n.*

war·ran·tee (wôr′ən·tē′, wor′-) *n.* *Law* The person to whom a warranty is given.

warrant officer *Mil.* An officer serving without a commission, but having authority by virtue of a certificate or warrant, with rank superior to that of a noncommissioned officer. See tables at GRADE.

war·rant·or (wôr′ən·tôr, wor′-) *n.* *Law* One who makes or gives a warranty to another.

war·ran·ty (wôr′ən·tē, wor′-) *n.* *pl.* **·ties** **1.** *Law* **a** An assurance that facts regarding property, insurance risks, etc., are as they are stated to be. **b** A covenant securing a title of ownership. **2.** A guarantee (def. 1). **3.** Authorization; warrant. [< AF *warantie*, < OF *guarant* warrant]

war·ren (wôr′ən, wor′-) *n.* **1.** A place where rabbits live and breed in communities. **2.** An enclosure for keeping small game. **3.** An obscure, crowded place of habitation. [< AF < *warir* to preserve]

war·ri·or (wôr′ē·ər, -yər, wor′-) *n.* A man engaged in or experienced in warfare. [< AF < OHG *werra* strife]

war·ship (wôr′ship′) *n.* Any vessel used in naval combat.

Wars of the Roses See table for WAR.

wart (wôrt) *n.* **1.** A small, usu. hard and nonmalignant bump formed on and rooted in the skin. **2.** A hard glandular protuberance on a plant. [OE *wearte*] — **wart′y** *adj.*

wart hog An African wild hog having warty excrescences on the face and large tusks in both jaws.

war·time (wôr′tīm′) *n.* A time of war. — *adj.* Caused by or related to a war, or occurring during a period of war.

war whoop A yell, as that made by American Indians, uttered as a signal for attack or to terrify opponents in battle.

war·y (wâr′ē) *adj.* **war·i·er, war·i·est** **1.** Carefully watching and guarding. **2.** Shrewd; wily. [< OE *warian*] — **war′i·ly** *adv.* — **war′i·ness** *n.*

was (wuz, woz, *unstressed* wəz) First and third person singular, past indicative of BE. [OE *wæs*]

wash (wosh, wŏsh) *v.t.* **1.** To cleanse by immersing in or applying water or other liquid, often with rubbing. **2.** To purify from defilement or guilt. **3.** To wet or cover with liquid. **4.** To flow against or over: a beach *washed* by the ocean. **5.** To remove by the action of water: with *away, off, out*, etc. **6.** To form or wear by erosion: The storm *washed* gulleys in the hillside. **7.** To purify, as gas, by passing

through a liquid. **8.** To coat with a thin layer of color or a thin coat of metal. **9.** *Mining* To subject (gravel, earth, etc.) to the action of water so as to separate the ore, etc. — *v.i.* **10.** To wash oneself. **11.** To wash clothes, etc. **12.** To withstand the effects of washing: That calico will *wash*. **13.** *Brit. Informal* To undergo testing successfully: That story won't *wash*. **14.** To flow with a lapping sound, as waves. **15.** To be removed by the action of water: with *away*, *off*, *out*, etc. **16.** To be eroded by the action of water. — **to wash down** **1.** To drink liquid along with or right after (food) to facilitate swallowing. **2.** To scrub from top to bottom, as walls. — **to wash up** **1.** To wash oneself. **2.** *Brit. Informal* To wash the dishes. — *n.* **1.** The act or process of washing; cleansing. **2.** A number of clothes, etc. set apart to be washed at one time; laundry. **3.** Liquid or semiliquid refuse; swill. **4.** A preparation used in washing or coating, as: **a** A mouthwash. **b** Water color spread on a picture. **5.** The breaking of a body of water upon the shore, or the sound made by waves breaking or surging against a surface; swash. **6.** Erosion of soil by the action of running water. **7.** Churned air, water, or other fluid resulting from the passage of an object through it. **8.** An area washed by a sea or river; a marsh; bog. — *adj.* Washable without injury: *wash* fabrics. [OE *wascan*, *wæscan*]

wash·a·ble (wosh′ə·bəl, wôsh′-) *adj.* That may be washed without fading or injury.

wash-and-wear (wosh′ən·wâr′, wôsh′-) *adj.* Designating or pertaining to a garment or fabric so treated as to require little or no ironing after washing.

wash·board (wosh′bôrd′, -bōrd′, wôsh′-) *n.* A board or frame having a corrugated surface on which to rub clothes while washing them.

wash·bowl (wosh′bōl′, wôsh′-) *n.* A basin or bowl used for washing the hands and face. Also **wash′ba′sin** (-bā′sən).

wash·cloth (wosh′klôth′, -kloth′, wôsh′-) *n.* A small cloth used for washing the body.

wash·day (wosh′dā′, wôsh′-) *n.* A day of the week set aside for doing household washing.

washed-out (wosht′out′, wôsht′-) *adj.* **1.** Faded; colorless; pale. **2.** *Informal* Exhausted; worn-out; tired.

washed-up (wosht′up′, wôsht′-) *adj.* **1.** *Slang* No longer successful, popular, etc.; finished. **2.** *Informal* Tired.

wash·er (wosh′ər, wô′shər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which washes. **2.** *Mech.* A small, flat, perforated disk of metal, leather, rubber, etc., used for placing beneath a nut or at an axle bearing or joint, to serve as a cushion, to prevent leakage, or to relieve friction. **3.** A washing machine.

wash·er·wom·an (wosh′ər·wo͝om′ən, wô′shər-) *n. pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) A laundress.

wash·ing (wosh′ing, wô′shing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which washes. **2.** Things, as clothing, washed or to be washed on one occasion. **3.** That which is retained after being washed: a *washing* of ore. **4.** A thin coating of metal.

washing machine A machine for washing laundry.

washing soda Sodium carbonate in crystalline form, used for washing textiles and as a bleaching agent.

wash-out (wosh′out′, wôsh′-) *n.* **1.** A considerable erosion of earth by the action of water; also, the excavation thus made; a gully or gulch. **2.** *Slang* A failure. **3.** The act of one who or that which washes out.

wash·rag (wosh′rag′, wôsh′-) *n.* A washcloth.

wash·room (wosh′ro͝om′, -rō͝om′, wôsh′-) *n.* A lavatory.

wash·stand (wosh′stand′, wôsh′-) *n.* A stand for washbowl, pitcher, etc.

wash·tub (wosh′tub′, wôsh′-) *n.* A tub used for washing.

wash·wom·an (wosh′wo͝om′ən, wôsh′-) *n. pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) A washerwoman.

wash·y (wosh′ē, wô′shē) *adj.* **wash·i·er, wash·i·est** **1.** Overly diluted; weak. **2.** Faded; wan. — **wash′i·ness** *n.*

was·n't (wuz′ənt, woz′-) Was not.

wasp (wosp, wôsp) *n.* Any of numerous stinging insects, including social wasps, that make nests of vegetable matter, and solitary wasps, living in mud or sand nests. [OE *wæsp*]

WASP (wosp, wôsp) *n. Slang* A white Protestant American: sometimes used contemptuously. Also **Wasp.** [Acronym formed from the initial letters of "white Anglo-Saxon Protestant"]

wasp·ish (wos′pish, wôs′-) *adj.* **1.** Having a nature like a wasp; irritable; irascible. **2.** Having a waspish form or slender waist. — **wasp′ish·ly** *adv.* — **wasp′ish·ness** *n.*

wasp waist A waist so slender as to suggest that of a wasp. — **wasp-waist·ed** (wosp′wās′tid, wôsp′-) *adj.*

wasp·y (wos′pē, wôs′-) *adj.* **wasp·i·er, wasp·i·est** Like a wasp; waspish.

was·sail (wos′əl, was′-, wo·sāl′) *n.* **1.** An ancient salutation or toast to someone's health. **2.** The liquor, as spiced ale, prepared for a wassail. **3.** A festivity at which healths are drunk; a carousal. — *v.i.* **1.** To take part in a wassail; carouse. — *v.t.* **2.** To drink the health of; toast. [ME < ON *ves heill* be in good health] — **was′sail·er** *n.*

Was·ser·mann test (wos′ər·mən) A diagnostic test for syphilis, based on the reaction of the blood serum of an infected individual. Also **Wassermann reaction.** [after August von *Wassermann*, 1866–1925, German bacteriologist.]

wast (wost, *unstressed* wəst) Archaic second person singular, past indicative of BE: used with *thou*.

wast·age (wās′tij) *n.* That which is lost by wear, waste, etc.

waste (wāst) *v.* **wast·ed, wast·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To use or expend thoughtlessly, uselessly, or without return; squander. **2.** To cause to lose strength, vigor, or bulk. **3.** To use up; consume. **4.** To fail to use or take advantage of, as an opportunity. **5.** To lay waste; devastate. — *v.i.* **6.** To lose strength, vigor, or bulk: often with *away*. **7.** To diminish or dwindle gradually. **8.** To pass gradually: said of time. — *n.* **1.** The act of wasting or the state of being wasted; useless or unnecessary expenditure, consumption, etc. **2.** Misuse, neglect, or failure to take advantage of opportunity, etc. **3.** A place or region that is devastated or made desolate; desert. **4.** A continuous, gradual diminishing of strength, vigor, or substance by use or wear. **5.** The act of laying waste or devastating. **6.** Something rejected as worthless or unneeded; esp., tangled spun cotton thread. **7.** Garbage; rubbish; trash. — **to lay waste** To turn into ruins; destroy utterly; devastate. — *adj.* **1.** Cast aside as worthless; worn out; discarded. **2.** Excreted, as undigested material, etc. **3.** Not under cultivation; unproductive; unoccupied. **4.** Made desolate; ruined. **5.** Containing or conveying waste products. **6.** Superfluous: *waste* energy. [< AF, ult. < L *vastare* to lay waste < *vastus* desert, desolate]

Waste, meaning containing or conveying refuse or waste, may appear as a combining form or as the first element in two-word phrases, as in:

waste bin **waste heap** **waste pipe**

waste·bas·ket (wāst′bas′kit, -bäs′-) *n.* An open container for paper scraps and other waste. Also **wastepaper basket.**

waste·ful (wāst′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Prone to waste; extravagant. **2.** Causing waste. — **waste′ful·ly** *adv.* — **waste′ful·ness** *n.*

waste·land (wāst′land′) *n.* A barren or desolate land.

waste·pa·per (wāst′pā′pər) *n.* Paper thrown away as worthless. Also **waste paper.**

wast·er (wās′tər) *n.* One who wastes; a wastrel.

wast·ing (wās′ting) *adj.* **1.** Producing emaciation; enfeebling: a *wasting* fever. **2.** Laying waste; devastating.

wast·rel (wās′trəl) *n.* **1.** A waster; spendthrift. **2.** An idler; loafer; vagabond. [Dim. of WASTER]

watch (woch) *v.i.* **1.** To look attentively. **2.** To wait expectantly: with *for*. **3.** To be constantly on the alert. **4.** To do duty as a guard or sentinel. **5.** To be an onlooker. **6.** To go without sleep; keep vigil. — *v.t.* **7.** To look at steadily and attentively; observe. **8.** To keep informed concerning. **9.** To be alert for: to *watch* one's opportunity. **10.** To keep watch over; guard; tend. — **to watch out** To be on one's guard. — *n.* **1.** The act of watching; close and continuous attention; careful observation. **2.** A small, portable timepiece worn or carried on the person, and usu. actuated by a coiled spring. **3.** Position or service as a guard. **4.** One or more persons set to watch. **5.** An act or period of wakefulness or attentive alertness, esp. during the night; vigil. **6.** The period of time during which a guard is on duty. **7.** *Naut.* **a** One of the two divisions of a ship's officers and crew, performing duty in alternation. **b** The period of time during which each division is on duty: usually four hours. [OE *wæccan*] — **watch′er** *n.*

watch band A band to fasten a watch on the wrist.

watch·case (woch′kās′) *n.* The protecting case of a watch.

watch·dog (woch′dôg′, -dog′) *n.* **1.** A dog kept to guard property. **2.** One who acts as a vigilant guardian.

watch·ful (woch′fəl) *adj.* Vigilant. — **watch′ful·ly** *adv.* — **watch′ful·ness** *n.*

watch·mak·er (woch′mā′kər) *n.* One who makes or repairs watches. — **watch′mak′ing** *n.*

watch·man (woch′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) Anyone who keeps watch or guard, as over a building at night.

watch night A religious service usu. held on New Year's Eve. Also **watch meeting.**

watch·tow·er (woch′tou′ər) *n.* A tower upon which a sentinel is stationed.

watch·word (woch′wûrd′) *n.* **1.** A password. **2.** A rallying cry or maxim.

wa·ter (wô′tər, wot′ər) *n.* **1.** A limpid, tasteless, odorless liquid compound of hydrogen and oxygen, H_2O, in the proportion by weight of approximately 2 parts of hydrogen to 16 of oxygen. When pure, water has its maximum density at 4° C. or 39° F.; at normal atmospheric pressure it freezes at 0° C. or 32° F., and boils at 100° C. or 212° F. **2.** Any body of water, as a lake, river, or a sea. **3.** Any one of the aqueous or liquid secretions of the body, as perspiration, tears, urine, etc. **4.** Any preparation of water holding gaseous or volatile substance in solution. **5.** The transparency or luster of a precious stone or a pearl. **6.** Excellence; quality: first *water*. **7.** An undulating sheen given to certain fabrics, as silk, etc. **8.** In commerce and finance

stock issued without increase of paid-in capital to represent it. **— above water** Out of danger; secure. **— like water** Very freely or quickly: to spend money *like water*. **— of the first water** Of the highest degree. **— to hold water** To be valid or effective: His argument doesn't *hold water*. **— to make water** To urinate. — *v.t.* **1.** To pour water upon; moisten; sprinkle. **2.** To provide with water for drinking. **3.** To dilute with water: often with *down*. **4.** To give an undulating sheen to the surface of (silk, etc.). **5.** To enlarge the number of shares of (a stock company) without increasing the paid-in capital in proportion. **6.** To provide with streams or sources of water; irrigate. — *v.i.* **7.** To secrete or discharge water, tears, etc. **8.** To fill with saliva, as the mouth, from desire for food. **9.** To drink water. **10.** To take in water, as a locomotive. [OE *wæter*] **— wa'ter·er** *n.*

Water may appear as a combining form, or as the first element in two-word phrases, as in:

water meter	**water right**
water motor	**water supply**
water-repellant	**water system**

Water Bearer The constellation and sign of the zodiac Aquarius.

wa·ter·borne (wô'tər·bôrn', -bōrn', wot'ər-) *adj.* **1.** Floating on water. **2.** Transported or carried by water.

wa·ter·buck (wô'tər·buk', wot'ər-) *n.* Either of two large African antelopes frequenting the neighborhood of rivers and swimming with ease. [< Afrikaans *waterbok*]

WATER BUFFALO (To 6 feet high at shoulder)

water buffalo A large buffalo of Asia, India, and the Philippines, having a very wide spread of horns, and often domesticated for use as a draft animal: also called *water ox, carabao*.

water chestnut **1.** The edible fruit of an aquatic plant contained in a hard, nutlike husk. **2.** The plant itself.

water clock An instrument for measuring time by the regulated flow of water.

water closet A toilet.

water color **1.** A color prepared for painting with water as the medium, as distinguished from one to be used with oil, tempera, etc. **2.** A picture or painting done in water colors. **— wa·ter-col·or** (wô'tər·kul'ər, wot'ər-) *adj.*

wa·ter-cool (wô'tər·kōōl', wot'ər-) *v.t.* To cool by means of water, as by using a water jacket on an internal-combustion engine. **— wa'ter-cooled'** *adj.* **— wa'ter-cool'ing** *adj.*

water cooler A vessel or apparatus for cooling and dispensing drinking water.

wa·ter·course (wô'tər·kôrs', -kōrs', wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** A stream of water; river; brook. **2.** The course or channel of a stream or canal.

wa·ter·craft (wô'tər·kraft', -kräft', wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** Skill in sailing boats or in aquatic sports. **2.** Any boat or ship; also, sailing vessels collectively.

wa·ter·cress (wô'tər·kres', wot'ər-) *n.* A perennial herb of the mustard family, growing in springs and clear, cool streams and having edible, pungent leaves used as salad.

water cure *Med.* Hydropathy.

wa·ter·fall (wô'tər·fôl', wot'ər-) *n.* A steep fall of water, as of a stream over a dam or from a precipice; cascade.

wa·ter·fowl (wô'tər·foul', wot'ər-) *n. pl.* **·fowl** or **·fowls** **1.** A bird that lives on or about the water; esp., a swimming game bird. **2.** Such birds collectively.

wa·ter·front (wô'tər·frunt', wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** Real property abutting on or overlooking a natural body of water. **2.** That part of a town fronting on a body of water, esp. the area containing wharves, docks, etc.

water gap A deep ravine in a mountain ridge, giving passage to a stream.

water gas A poisonous mixture, chiefly of hydrogen and carbon monoxide, produced by forcing steam over white-hot carbon, as coal or coke, and used for cooking, heating, and as an illuminant. **— wa·ter-gas** (wô'tər·gas', wot'ər-) *adj.*

water gate A floodgate (def. 1)

water gauge A gauge indicating the level of water, as in a boiler. Also **water gage.**

water glass **1.** A drinking glass. **2.** Any glass vessel for holding water. **3.** Sodium silicate, a soluble silicate preparation; esp., an aqueous solution used in preserving eggs, etc. **4.** A water gauge on a steam boiler, etc.

water hole A small pond, pool, or depression containing water; esp., one used by animals as a drinking place.

water ice A frozen dessert made with water, sugar, and fruit juice.

wa·ter·ing (wô'tər·ing, wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which waters. **2.** The process of producing a wavy, ornamental effect on fabric, etc. — *adj.* **1.** That waters. **2.** Situated near the shore or near mineral springs.

watering can A container used for watering plants, etc., esp. one having a long spout. Also **watering pot.**

watering place **1.** A place where water can be obtained, as a spring. **2.** A health resort having mineral springs; also, a pleasure resort near the water.

water jacket A casing containing water and surrounding a cylinder or mechanism, esp. the cylinder block of an internal-combustion engine, for keeping it cool.

water jump A water barrier, as a pool, stream, or ditch, to be jumped over by the horses in a steeplechase.

water level **1.** The level of still water in the sea or in any other body of water. **2.** *Geol.* A water table. **3.** *Naut.* A ship's water line.

water lily **1.** Any of a genus of aquatic plants having showy flowers with numerous white or pinkish petals: also called *pond lily*. **2.** Any of various related plants.

water line **1.** *Naut.* The part of the hull of a ship that corresponds with the water level at various loads: also called *water level*. **2.** A line or demarcation corresponding to the height to which water has risen or may rise.

wa·ter-logged (wô'tər·lôgd', -logd', wot'ər-) *adj.* **1.** Heavy and unmanageable on account of the leakage of water into the hold, as a ship. **2.** Water-soaked; saturated with water.

Wa·ter·loo (wô'tər·lōō) *n.* A final and decisive defeat: usu. in the phrase **to meet one's Waterloo.** [after Napoleon's defeat at *Waterloo*, Belgium]

water main A large conduit for carrying water.

wa·ter·man (wô'tər·mən, wot'ər-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man who works with a boat or small vessel on the water; a boatman. **— wa'ter·man·ship'** *n.*

wa·ter·mark (wô'tər·märk', wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** A mark showing the extent to which water rises. **2.** In papermaking: **a** A marking in paper, usu. produced by pressure of a projecting design on a processing roll or in the mold. **b** The metal pattern that produces this marking. — *v.t.* **1.** To impress (paper) with a watermark. **2.** To impress as a watermark.

wa·ter·mel·on (wô'tər·mel'ən, wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** The large, edible fruit of a trailing plant of the gourd family, containing a many-seeded red or pink pulp and a watery juice. **2.** The plant on which this fruit grows.

water mill A mill operated by waterpower.

water moccasin A venomous pit viper of the southern U.S.: also called *cottonmouth*.

water nymph In classical mythology, any nymph or goddess living in or guarding a body of water.

water of crystallization *Chem.* Molecules of water forming part of certain crystallized salts. They may be eliminated by heat, often with apparent loss of crystalline structure.

water ouzel Any of various small birds adapted to feeding under water. Also **water ousel.**

water ox A water buffalo.

water pipe **1.** A hookah. **2.** A conduit for water.

water polo A game in which two teams of swimmers push or throw a buoyant ball toward opposite goals.

wa·ter·pow·er (wô'tər·pou'ər, wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** The power of water derived from its momentum, as applied to the driving of machinery. **2.** A fall in a stream, yielding kinetic energy from which motive power may be obtained.

wa·ter·proof (wô'tər·prōōf', wot'ər-) *adj.* **1.** Permitting no water to enter or pass through; impervious to water. **2.** Coated with some substance, as rubber, that resists the passage of water. — *n.* **1.** Material or fabric rendered impervious to water. **2.** *Brit.* A raincoat or other garment made of such fabric. — *v.t.* To render waterproof.

water rat **1.** The muskrat. **2.** The European vole. **3.** Any aquatic rodent. **4.** *Slang* A waterfront thief or tough.

wa·ter·shed (wô'tər·shed', wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** The line of separation between two contiguous drainage valleys. **2.** The region from which a river receives its supply of water.

wa·ter·side (wô'tər·sīd', wot'ər-) *n.* The shore of a body of water; the water's edge. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or living, growing, or working by the water's edge.

wa·ter-ski (wô'tər·skē', wot'ər-) *v.i.* **-skied, -ski·ing** To glide over water on water-skis, while being towed by a motorboat. — *n. pl.* **-skis** or **-ski** A broad, skilike runner with a fitting to hold the foot, worn when water-skiing: also **water ski.** **— wa'ter-ski'er** *n.* **— wa'ter-ski'ing** *n.*

water snake Any of various harmless snakes that live chiefly in or near fresh water.

wa·ter-soak (wô'tər·sōk', wot'ər-) *v.t.* To fill the pores or crevices of with water; soak in water.

water softener A substance added to hard water to counteract the effect of its mineral content.

wa·ter-sol·u·ble (wô'tər·sol'yə·bəl, wot'ər-) *adj.* Soluble in water: said esp. of certain organic compounds.

water spaniel A large, reddish brown spaniel having a curly, waterproof coat, used primarily for retrieving ducks.

wa·ter·spout (wô'tər·spout', wot'ər-) *n.* **1.** A moving,

whirling column of spray and mist, with masses of water in the lower parts, generated at sea or on other large bodies of water. **2.** A pipe for the free discharge of water.

water sprite A sprite living in the water; water nymph.

water table *Geol.* The surface marking the upper level of a water-saturated zone extending beneath the ground to depths determined by the thickness of the permeable strata.

wa·ter·tight (wô′tər·tīt′, wot′ər-) *adj.* **1.** So closely made that water cannot enter or leak through. **2.** Having no loopholes; foolproof: *watertight* tax laws.

water tower **1.** A standpipe or tower, often of considerable height, used as a reservoir for a system of water distribution. **2.** A vehicular towerlike structure having an extensible vertical pipe from which water can be thrown on the upper floors of a burning building.

water vapor The vapor of water, esp. when below the boiling point, as in the atmosphere.

water wave An undulating effect of the hair, artificially produced when the hair is wet, and set by drying with heat.

wa·ter·way (wô′tər·wā′, wot′ər-) *n.* A river, channel, canal, etc., used as a means of travel.

water wheel A wheel so equipped with floats, buckets, etc., that it may be turned by flowing water, as a noria.

water wings A waterproof, inflatable device used as a support for the body while swimming or learning to swim.

wa·ter·works (wô′tər·wûrks′, wot′ər-) *n.pl.* A system of machines, buildings, and appliances for furnishing a water supply, esp. for a city.

wa·ter·worn (wô′tər·wôrn′, -wōrn′, wot′ər-) *adj.* Worn smooth by running or falling water.

wa·ter·y (wô′tər·ē, wot′ər·ē) *adj.* **1.** Containing or discharging water. **2.** Brimming; flowing. **3.** Resembling water; thin or liquid. **4.** Consisting of or pertaining to water. **5.** Diluted with water; weak. — **wa′ter·i·ness** *n.*

watt (wot) *n.* The practical unit of electric power, activity, or rate of work, equivalent to one joule per second, or one volt-ampere. [after James *Watt* 1736–1819, Scottish inventor]

wat·tage (wot′ij) *n.* **1.** Amount of electric power in terms of watts. **2.** The total number of watts needed to operate an appliance.

watt-hour (wot′our′) *n.* Electrical energy equivalent to one watt acting for one hour.

wat·tle (wot′l) *n.* **1.** A structure of rods or twigs woven together. **2.** A twig or withe. **3.** A naked, fleshy process, often wrinkled and brightly colored, hanging from the throat of a bird or snake. **4.** Any of various acacias of Australia, Tasmania, and South Africa. — *v.t.* **·tled, ·tling** **1.** To weave or twist, as twigs, into a network. **2.** To form, as baskets, by intertwining flexible twigs. **3.** To bind together with wattles. — *adj.* Made of or covered with wattles. [OE *watel*, *watul*] — **wat′tled** *adj.*

watt·me·ter (wot′mē′tər) *n.* An instrument for measuring electrical power in watts.

wave (wāv) *v.* **waved, wav·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To move freely back and forth or up and down, as a flag in the wind; fluctuate. **2.** To be moved back and forth or up and down as a signal; also, to make a signal by moving something thus. **3.** To have an undulating shape or form: Her hair *waves*. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to wave: to *wave* a banner. **5.** To form with an undulating surface or outline. **6.** To give a wavy appearance to; water, as silk. **7.** To form into waves: to *wave* one's hair. **8.** To signal by waving something: He *waved* me aside. **9.** To express by waving something: to *wave* farewell. — *n.* **1.** A ridge or undulation moving on the surface of a liquid. **2.** One of the rising curves on an undulatory surface; one of a series of curves: *waves* of grain. **3.** Something that comes, like a wave, with great volume or power: a *wave* of enthusiasm. **4.** One of a series, as of events, occurring with wavelike fluctuations: He went ashore with the first *wave* of Marines. **5.** A progressive change in temperature or in barometrical condition: a heat *wave*. **6.** A wavelike tress or curl of hair. **7.** The act of waving; a sweeping or undulating motion, as with the hand. **8.** A wavelike stripe or undulation impressed on a surface. **9.** *Physics* One of the periodic vibratory impulses produced by a disturbance in and propagated through an elastic medium, as sound. **10.** *Usu. pl. Poetic* Any body of water, esp., the sea. [OE *wafian*] — **wav′er** *n.* — **wave′less** *adj.*

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** *Wave* is the general term for an upheaval of the ocean's surface. A *ripple* is a very small *wave*, such as might be produced by a light breeze, or by an object dropping into still water. *Billow* is a poetic word for any *wave*, but esp., for a *wave* of great height. A *roller* is one of the long, irregular *waves* that move swiftly outward from a storm center.

Wave (wāv) *n.* A member of the WAVES.

wave band *Physics* A specified group of wave frequencies, esp. one assigned for radio or television broadcasting.

wave·length (wāv′length′) *n.* *Physics* The distance, measured along the line of propagation, between two points representing similar phases of two consecutive waves.

wave·let (wāv′lit) *n.* A little wave.

wave mechanics The branch of physics that investigates the wave characteristics ascribed to the atom and its associated particles, esp. with reference to the quantum theory

wa·ver (wā′vər) *v.i.* **1.** To move one way and the other; sway; flutter. **2.** To be uncertain or undecided; show irresolution; vacillate. **3.** To show signs of falling back or giving way; falter. **4.** To flicker; gleam. **5.** To quaver; tremble. — *n.* A wavering. [< ME *waveren*] — **wa′ver·er** *n.* — **wa′ver·ing·ly** *adv.*

WAVES or **W.A.V.E.S.** (wāvz) *n.* A corps of women in the U.S. Navy; officially, Women in the United States Navy (1946). [< *W*(*omen*) *A*(*ccepted for*) *V*(*oluntary*) *E*(*mergency*) *S*(*ervice*), an earlier name]

wave set A preparation put on the hair before setting to make waves and curls last.

wav·y (wā′vē) *adj.* **wav·i·er, wav·i·est** **1.** Full of waves; ruffled by or raised into waves. **2.** Undulatory; waving. **3.** Unstable; wavering. — **wav′i·ly** *adv.* — **wav′i·ness** *n.*

wax[1] (waks) *n.* *pl.* **wax·es** **1.** Beeswax. **2.** *Chem.* Any of various natural substances consisting of the esters of fatty acids and alcohols other than glycerol, including spermaceti and the secretions of certain plants and insects. **3.** A soli mineral substance resembling wax, as paraffin. **4.** Sealing wax. **5.** Earwax. — *v.t.* To coat or treat with wax. — *adj.* Made of or pertaining to wax. [OE *weax*]

wax[2] (waks) *v.i.* **waxed, waxed** (*Poetic* **wax·en**), **wax·ing** **1.** To become larger gradually; increase in size or numbers; grow: said esp., of the moon as it approaches fullness. **2.** To become: to *wax* angry. [OE *weaxan* to grow]

wax bean A variety of string bean of a pale yellow color cultivated in the U.S.: also called *butter bean*.

wax·ber·ry (waks′ber′ē) *n.* *pl.* **·ries** **1.** The wax myrtle. **2.** Its wax-covered fruit. **3.** The snowberry.

wax·en (wak′sən) *adj.* **1.** Resembling wax. **2.** Consisting wholly or in part of wax; covered with wax. **3.** Pale; pallid: a *waxen* complexion; also, pliable or impressible as wax.

wax myrtle Any of various North American shrubs or small trees having fragrant leaves and small berries covered with wax, often used in making candles: also called *bayberry*, *candleberry*, *waxberry*.

wax palm **1.** A South American palm with pinnate leaves, having a lofty straight trunk covered with a waxy, whitish resinous substance. **2.** A Brazilian palm whose young leaves yield a valuable wax.

wax paper Paper coated or treated with wax and used to retain or protect against moisture. Also **waxed paper**.

wax·weed (waks′wēd′) *n.* An annual, clammy, hairy herb of the loosestrife family with irregular purplish flowers.

wax·wing (waks′wing′) *n.* Any of various crested birds having soft, mainly brown plumage and wing feathers tipped with appendages resembling red or yellow sealing wax.

wax·work (waks′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** Work produced in wax; esp., ornaments or life-size figures of wax. **2.** *pl.* An exhibition of such figures. — **wax′work′er** *n.*

wax·y (wak′sē) *adj.* **wax·i·er, wax·i·est** **1.** Like wax in appearance, consistency, color, etc.; pliable; impressionable; pallid. **2.** Made of or abounding in wax; rubbed with wax. — **wax′i·ness** *n.*

way (wā) *n.* **1.** A manner or method of doing something; procedure. **2.** Direction; turn; route; line of motion: Which *way* is the city? **3.** A path, or track leading from one place to another or along which one goes. **4.** Space or room to advance or work: Make *way* for the king. **5.** Length of space passed over. **6.** Distance in general: a little *way* off: often popularly, **ways**. **7.** Passage from one place to another. **8.** Headway; progress. **9.** A customary style; manner peculiar to certain people: the British *way* of doing things. **10.** A point of relation; particular: He erred in two *ways*. **11.** A course of life or experience: the *way* of sin. **12.** *Informal* State of health: to be in a bad *way*. **13.** A course wished for or resolved upon: Have it your *way*. **14.** The range of one's observation: An accident threw it in his *way*. **15.** *Naut. pl.* A tilted framework of timbers upon which a ship slides when launched. **16.** *Law* A right of way. **17.** *Informal* Neighborhood, or route home: He lives out of my *way*. — **by the way** In passing; incidentally. — **by ways of** **1.** With the purpose of; to serve as: *by way of* introduction. **2.** Through; via. — **out of the way** **1.** Removed as an obstruction. **2.** Remarkable; unusual. **3.** Improper; wrong. **4.** Out of place; lost; remote. — **the way** *Informal* In the manner that; as: Do it *the way* I told you to. — **under way** In motion; making progress. — *adv.* *Informal* Away; very much or very far. [OE *weg*]

way back *Informal* Long ago. [Short for AWAY BACK]

way·bill (wā′bil′) *n.* A list describing or identifying goods or naming passengers carried by a train, steamer, etc.

way·far·er (wā′fâr′ər) *n.* One who journeys.

way·far·ing (wā′fâr′ing) *adj.* & *n.* Journeying; being on the road.

way·lay (wā′lā′, wā′lā′) *v.t.* **·laid, ·lay·ing** **1.** To lie in at

bush for and attack, as in order to rob. **2.** To accost on the way. [< WAY + LAY[1]] — **way'lay'er** *n.*

-ways *suffix of adverbs* In a (specified) manner, direction, or position: *noways, sideways:* often equivalent to *-wise.* Also **-way.** [< WAY + -S[3]]

ways and means Means or methods of accomplishing an end or defraying expenses; esp., in legislation, methods of raising funds for the use of the government.

way·side (wā'sīd') *adj.* Standing or being near the side of a road. — *n.* The side or edge of the road or highway.

way station Any station between principal stations, esp. on a railroad; a local station.

way train A train stopping at way stations.

way·ward (wā'wərd) *adj.* **1.** Wanting its way; willful. **2.** Without definite course; unsteady; capricious. **3.** Unexpected or unwished for. [ME < *awei* away + -WARD] — **way'ward·ly** *adv.* — **way'ward·ness** *n.*

way-worn (wā'wôrn', -wōrn') *adj.* Fatigued by travel.

we (wē) *pron. pl., possessive* **our** or **ours,** *objective* **us** The nominative plural pronoun of the first person, used by the persons speaking or writing to denote themselves, by an individual to refer to himself or herself and one or more others, by an editor or other writer to give his words an impersonal character, or by a sovereign on formal occasions. [OE *wē*]

weak (wēk) *adj.* **1.** Lacking in physical strength; wanting in energy or activity; feeble. **2.** Insufficiently resisting stress: a *weak* link or bridge. **3.** Lacking in strength of will or stability of character; pliable. **4.** Ineffectual, as from deficient supply: *weak* artillery support. **5.** Lacking in power or sonorousness: a *weak* voice. **6.** Lacking a specified component or components in the proper amount; of less than customary potency: *weak* tea. **7.** Lacking the ability to function properly: a *weak* heart. **8.** Lacking in mental or moral strength. **9.** Showing or resulting from poor judgment: a *weak* plan; unable to convince: a *weak* argument. **10.** Lacking in influence or authority. **11.** Deficient in strength, skill, experience, or the like. **12.** *Gram.* In Germanic languages, denoting a weak verb. **13.** *Phonet.* Unstressed; unaccented, as a syllable or sound. **14.** In prosody, indicating a verse ending in which the accent falls on a word or syllable otherwise without stress. **15.** Wanting in impressiveness or interest: a *weak* play. [< ON *veikr*] — **weak'ly** *adv.* — **weak'ness** *n.*

Weak may appear as a combining form, as in the following self-explanatory compounds:

weak-backed	**weak-looking**	**weak-stemmed**
weak-bodied	**weak-made**	**weak-tasting**
weakbrained	**weak-muscled**	**weak-throated**
weak-brewed	**weak-natured**	**weak-tinted**
weak-built	**weak-nerved**	**weak-toned**
weak-colored	**weak-seeming**	**weak-voiced**
weak-eyed	**weak-sided**	**weak-walled**
weak-growing	**weak-sighted**	**weak-willed**
weakhanded	**weak-smelling**	**weak-winged**
weakhearted	**weak-sounding**	**weak-witted**
weak-limbed	**weak-spirited**	**weak-woven**

weak·en (wē'kən) *v.i. v.t. &* To make or become weak or weaker. — **weak'en·er** *n.*

weak·fish (wēk'fish') *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** Any of several marine food fishes of the coastal waters of the eastern U.S.

weak-kneed (wēk'nēd') *adj.* **1.** Weak in the knees. **2.** Without resolution, strong purpose, or energy; spineless.

weak·ling (wēk'ling) *n.* A feeble person or animal. — *adj.* Having no natural strength or vigor.

weak·ly (wēk'lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Sickly; feeble; weak.

weak-mind·ed (wēk'mīn'did) *adj.* **1.** Indecisive; weak-willed. **2.** Feeble-minded. — **weak'mind'ed·ness** *n.*

weak·ness (wēk'nis) *n.* **1.** The state, condition, or quality of being weak. **2.** A characteristic indicating feebleness. **3.** A slight failing; a fault. **4.** A penchant or fondness: with *for*: a *weakness* for pastry.

weal[1] (wēl) *n. Archaic* A sound or healthy state; prosperity; welfare. [OE *wela*]

weal[2] (wēl) *n.* A welt (def. 3). [Var. of WALE]

weald (wēld) *n. Chiefly Brit.* An exposed forest area; waste woodland; also, an open region; down. [OE, a forest]

wealth (welth) *n.* **1.** A large aggregate of real and personal property; riches; also, the state of being rich. **2.** *Econ.* All material objects having economic utility; also, in the private sense, all property possessing a monetary value. **3.** Great abundance of anything: usu. preceded by *a*: a *wealth* of learning. [ME < *wele* weal]

— **Syn. 1.** affluence, opulence. Compare PROPERTY.

wealth·y (wel'thē) *adj.* **wealth·i·er, wealth·i·est** **1.** Possessing wealth; affluent. **2.** More than sufficient; abounding. — **wealth'i·ly** *adv.* — **wealth'i·ness** *n.*

wean (wēn) *v.t.* **1.** To transfer (the young of any mammal) from dependence on its mother's milk to another form of nourishment. **2.** To estrange from former habits or associations: usu. with *from.* [OE *wenian* to accustom]

wean·ling (wēn'ling) *adj.* Freshly weaned. — *n.* A child or animal newly weaned.

weap·on (wep'ən) *n.* **1.** Any implement for fighting or warfare. **2.** Any means that may be used against an adversary: verbal *weapons.* **3.** The sting, claw, spur, etc., of an animal. — *v.t.* To furnish with a weapon or weapons. [OE *wǣpen*] — **weap'on·less** *adj.*

weap·on·ry (wep'ən·rē') *n.* Weapons collectively.

wear[1] (wâr) *v.* **wore, worn, wear·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To carry or have on the person as a garment, ornament, etc. **2.** To bear on the person habitually: He *wears* a derby. **3.** To have in one's appearance; exhibit: He *wears* a scowl. **4.** To bear habitually in a specified manner; carry: She *wears* her hair long. **5.** To display or fly: A ship *wears* its colors. **6.** To impair, waste, or consume by use or constant action. **7.** To cause by rubbing, etc.: to *wear* a hole in a coat. **8.** To bring to a specified condition by wear: to *wear* a sleeve to tatters. **9.** To exhaust; weary. — *v.i.* **10.** To be impaired gradually by use, rubbing, etc. **11.** To withstand the effects of use, wear, etc.: The skirt *wears* well. **12.** To become as specified from use or attrition: His patience is *wearing* thin. **13.** To pass gradually or tediously: with *on* or *away.* — **to wear out** **1.** To make or become worthless by use. **2.** To waste gradually; use up: He *wears out* patience. **3.** To tire. — *n.* **1.** The act of wearing, or the state of being worn. **2.** The material or clothes to be worn: silk for summer *wear*: also in compounds: *footwear.* **3.** The destructive effect of use, work, or time. **4.** Capacity for resistance to use or impairment; durability. [OE *werian*] — **wear'a·bil'i·ty** *n.* — **wear'a·ble** *adj.* — **wear'er** *n.*

wear[2] (wâr) *v.* **wore, worn, wear·ing** *Naut. v.t.* **1.** To turn (a vessel) through an arc in which its head points momentarily directly to leeward. — *v.i.* **2.** To go about with the wind astern. [Prob. alter. of VEER[1]]

wear and tear Loss by the service, exposure, decay, or injury incident to ordinary use.

wear·ing (wâr'ing) *adj.* **1.** Fatiguing; exhausting; wasting: a *wearing* job. **2.** Capable of being, or designed to be, worn. — **wear'ing·ly** *adv.*

wearing apparel Clothing; garments.

wea·ri·some (wir'i·səm) *adj.* Causing fatigue; tiresome or tedious. — **wea'ri·some·ly** *adv.* — **wea'ri·some·ness** *n.*

wea·ry (wir'ē) *adj.* **·ri·er, ·ri·est** **1.** Tired; fatigued. **2.** Discontented or vexed by continued endurance, as of something disagreeable, tedious, etc.: often with *of*: *weary* of life. **3.** Indicating or characteristic of fatigue, boredom, etc. **4.** Wearisome. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** To make or become weary; tire. [OE *wērig*] — **wea'ri·ness** *adj.* — **wea'ri·ly** *adv.* — **wea'ri·ness** *n.*

wea·sel (wē'zəl) *n.* **1.** Any of certain small, slender, predacious carnivores having brownish fur that in northern regions turns white in winter. **2.** A sneaky, treacherous person. — *v.i.* **·seled, ·sel·ing** *U.S. Informal* To speak or act evasively, etc. [OE *wesle*]

WEASEL (To 9 inches long; tail 2 inches)

weasel word A word that weakens a statement by rendering it ambiguous or equivocal.

weath·er (weth'ər) *n.* **1.** Atmospheric condition as regards temperature, moisture, winds, or other meteorological phenomena. **2.** Bad weather; storm. — **to keep one's weather eye open** *Informal* To be alert. — **under the weather** *Informal* **1.** Ailing; ill. **2.** Somewhat intoxicated. — *v.t.* **1.** To expose to the action of the weather. **2.** To discolor, crumble, or otherwise affect by action of the weather. **3.** To pass through and survive, as a crisis. **4.** *Naut.* To pass to windward of: to *weather* Cape Horn. — *v.i.* **5.** To undergo changes resulting from exposure to the weather. **6.** To resist the action of the weather. — *adj. Chiefly Naut.* Facing the wind. [OE *weder*] — **weath'ered** *adj.*

Weather may appear as a combining form or as the first element in two-word phrases, as in **weather report, weather-marked, weathertight.**

weath·er-beat·en (weth'ər·bēt'n) *adj.* **1.** Bearing or showing the effects of exposure to weather. **2.** Toughened or tanned by or as by exposure to weather, as a face.

weath·er·board (weth'ər·bôrd', bōrd') *n.* A clapboard. — *v.t.* To fasten weatherboards on.

weath·er-bound (weth'ər·bound') *adj.* Detained by unfavorable weather, as a vessel in port.

Weather Bureau A bureau of the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C., serving as headquarters for meteorological observation, the diffusion of information concerning the weather, etc.

weath·er·cock (weth'ər·kok') *n.* **1.** A weather vane in the form of a cock. **2.** A fickle person or variable thing.

weath·er·glass (weth′ər·glas′, -gläs′) *n.* An instrument for indicating the state of the weather; esp., a simple barometer showing falls in atmospheric pressure.

weath·er·man (weth′ər·man′) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-men′) *n. Informal* A meteorologist, esp. one concerned with daily weather conditions and reports.

weather map A map or chart indicating weather conditions, as temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind velocity, precipitation, etc., for a given region and time.

weath·er·proof (weth′ər·prōōf′) *adj.* Capable of withstanding rough weather without appreciable deterioration. — *v.t.* To make weatherproof.

weather station A station or office where meteorological observations are taken and recorded.

weath·er·strip (weth′ər·strip′) *v.t.* **·stripped, ·strip·ping** To equip or fit with weather strips.

weather strip A narrow strip of material placed over or in crevices, as at windows, to keep out drafts, rain, etc.

weather stripping 1. A weather strip. 2. Weather strips collectively.

weather vane A vane that indicates the direction from which the wind is blowing; weathercock.

weath·er·wise (weth′ər·wīz′) *adj.* 1. Experienced in observing or predicting the weather. 2. Skillful in predicting trends or shifts in public opinion, etc.

weave (wēv) *v.* **wove** or *for def. 10* **weaved, wo·ven** or (*less common*) **wove, weav·ing** *v.t.* 1. To form, produce, or manufacture as a textile, by interlacing threads or yarns; esp., in a loom. 2. To form by interlacing strands, strips, twigs, etc.: to *weave* a basket. 3. To produce by combining details or elements: to *weave* a story. 4. To bring together so as to form a whole. 5. To twist into, about, or through: to *weave* ribbons through one's hair. 6. To spin (a web). 7. To make or effect by moving from side to side or in a winding or zigzag course: to *weave* one's way through a crowd. — *v.i.* 8. To make cloth, baskets, etc., by weaving. 9. To become woven or interlaced. 10. To move from side to side or with a zigzagging motion. — *n.* A particular method or style of weaving. [OE *wefan*]

weav·er (wē′vər) *n.* 1. One who weaves; esp., one whose occupation is the weaving of textiles, etc. 2. A weaverbird.

weav·er·bird (wē′vər·bûrd′) *n.* Any of various finchlike birds, native to Asia, Africa, etc., and constructing intricately woven nests.

web (web) *n.* 1. Any fabric, structure, etc., woven of or as of interlaced or interwoven strands. 2. Textile fabric, esp. in the piece or being woven in a loom. 3. The network of delicate threads spun by a spider to entrap its prey, by certain caterpillars, other insect larvae, etc.; a cobweb. 4. Any complex network: a *web* of highways. 5. Anything artfully contrived or elaborated into a trap or snare: a *web* of espionage. 6. *Zool.* A membrane or fold of skin connecting the digits of an animal, as in aquatic birds, otters, bats, frogs, etc. 7. *Ornithol.* The series of barbs on either side of the shaft of a feather: also called *vane*. 8. A plate or sheet, as of metal, connecting the heavier sections, ribs, frames, etc., of any structural or mechanical element. 9. *Archit.* The part of a ribbed vault between the ribs. — *v.t.* **webbed, web·bing** 1. To provide with a web. 2. To cover or surround with a web; entangle. [OE]

webbed (webd) *adj.* 1. Having a web. 2. Having the digits united by a membrane, as the foot of a goose or duck.

web·bing (web′ing) *n.* 1. A woven strip of strong fiber, used for safety belts, in upholstery, etc. 2. Any structure or material forming a web.

web·by (web′ē) *adj.* **·bi·er, ·bi·est** Resembling, having, or consisting of a web or membrane.

web·foot (web′fo͝ot′) *n.* *pl.* **·feet** 1. A foot with webbed toes. 2. A web-footed bird or animal.

web-foot·ed (web′fo͝ot′id) *adj.* Having the toes connected by a membrane, as many aquatic animals and birds.

Web·ste·ri·an (web·stir′ē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Daniel or Noah Webster.

wed (wed) *v.* **wed·ded, wed** or **wed·ded, wed·ding** *v.t.* 1. To take as one's husband or wife; marry. 2. To unite or give in matrimony; join in wedlock. 3. To join in a close relationship or attachment. — *v.i.* 4. To marry. [OE *weddian* to pledge]

we'd (wēd) 1. We had. 2. We would.

wed·ded (wed′id) *adj.* 1. Joined in wedlock; married. 2. Characteristic of marriage. 3. Having a close relationship or attachment: often with *to*: *wedded* to his work.

wed·ding (wed′ing) *n.* 1. The ceremony or celebration of a marriage. 2. The anniversary of a marriage: golden *wedding*. [OE *weddung* < *weddian* to pledge]

wedge (wej) *n.* 1. A piece of wood, metal, etc., that is V-shaped in longitudinal cross section, capable of being inserted into a narrow opening, and used as an aid in splitting substances, securing movable parts, raising weights, etc. 2. Anything in the form of a wedge, as a piece of pie, a formation of soldiers, etc. 3. An action, procedure, or idea constituting the earliest stage in a division of unity, change of policy, intrusive action, etc. — *v.* **wedged, wedg·ing** *v.t.* 1. To force apart or split with or as with a wedge. 2. To compress or fix in place with a wedge. 3. To crowd or squeeze (something) into a narrow or confined space. — *v.i.* 4. To jam or be forced in like a wedge. [OE *weeg*]

Wedg·wood (wej′wo͝od) *n.* A type of fine, hard pottery, often of unglazed, tinted clay bearing small, white, finely detailed, classical figures in cameo relief. Also **Wedgwood ware.** [after Josiah *Wedgwood*, 1730–95, English potter]

wedg·y (wej′ē) *adj.* **wedg·i·er, wedg·i·est** Having the form or uses of a wedge.

wed·lock (wed′lok) *n.* The state or relationship of being married; matrimony. — **in wedlock** 1. With one's parents legally married to one another, as at the time of one's conception or birth. 2. In the married state. — **out of wedlock** With one's parents not married to one another, as at the time of one's conception or birth. [OE < *wed* pledge + *-lāc*, suffix of nouns of action]

Wednes·day (wenz′dē, -dā) *n.* The fourth day of the week. [OE *Wōdnesdæg* day of Woden]

wee (wē) *adj.* **we·er, we·est** Very small; tiny. — *n. Chiefly Scot.* A short time or space; a bit: bide a *wee*. [ME *wei* < OE *wǣge* a quantity]

weed[1] (wēd) *n.* 1. Any common, unsightly, or troublesome plant that grows in abundance, esp. to injurious excess or in cultivated ground. 2. *Informal* Tobacco: usu. with *the*; also, a cigarette or cigar. 3. Any worthless animal or thing. 4. The stem and leaves of any useful plant as distinguished from its flower and fruit: dill *weed*. 5. Thick, luxuriant growth, as of underbrush or shrubs. — *v.t.* 1. To pull up and remove weeds from. 2. To remove (a weed): often with *out*. 3. To remove (anything regarded as harmful or undesirable): with *out*. 4. To rid of anything harmful or undesirable. — *v.i.* 5. To remove weeds, etc. [OE *wēod*] — **weed′er** *n.* — **weed′less** *adj.*

weed[2] (wēd) *n.* 1. A token of mourning, as a band of crepe worn as part of the dress. 2. *pl.* A widow's mourning garb. [OE *wǣd* garment]

weed·y (wē′dē) *adj.* **weed·i·er, weed·i·est** 1. Having a growth of weeds; abounding in weeds. 2. Of or pertaining to a weed or weeds. 3. Resembling a weed; weedlike, as in rapid, ready growth. 4. *Informal* Gawky; awkward; ungainly: *weedy* youths. — **weed′i·ly** *adv.* — **weed′i·ness** *n.*

wee folk Fairies, elves, etc.

wee hours The hours after midnight; early morning.

week (wēk) *n.* 1. A period of seven days; esp., such a period beginning with Sunday. ◆ Collateral adjective: *hebdomadal*. 2. The period of time within a week devoted to work: a 35-hour *week*. 3. A period of seven days preceding or following any given day or date: a *week* from Tuesday. [OE *wucu, wicu, wice*]

week·day (wēk′dā′) *n.* Any day of the week except Sunday.

week·end (wēk′end′) *n.* The end of the week; esp., the time from Friday evening or Saturday to the following Monday morning. — *v.i. Informal* To pass the weekend: We *weekended* in the country. — **week′end′er** *n.*

week·long (wēk′lông′, -long′) *adj.* Continuing for a week; lasting all week.

week·ly (wēk′lē) *adv.* Once a week; esp., at regular seven-day intervals. — *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to a week or to weekdays. 2. Done or occurring once a week. — *n.* *pl.* **·lies** A publication issued once a week.

ween (wēn) *v.t. & v.i. Archaic* To suppose; guess; fancy. [OE *wēnan* to think]

ween·ie (wē′nē) *n. U.S. Informal* A wiener.

weep (wēp) *v.* **wept, weep·ing** *v.i.* 1. To manifest grief or other strong emotion by shedding tears. 2. To mourn; lament: with *for*. 3. To ooze or shed liquid in drops. — *v.t.* 4. To weep for; mourn. 5. To shed (tears, or drops of other liquid). 6. To bring to a specified condition by weeping: to *weep* oneself to sleep. — *n.* The act of weeping, or a fit of tears. [OE *wēpan*] — **weep′er** *n.*

weep·ing (wē′ping) *adj.* 1. That weeps; crying; tearful. 2. Having slim, pendulous branches: *weeping* willow.

weeping willow A willow having long, slender, pendulous branches.

weep·y (wē′pē) *adj.* **weep·i·er, weep·i·est** *Informal* Inclined to weep; tearful.

wee·vil (wē′vəl) *n.* 1. Any of numerous small beetles, many of them serious pests, having snoutlike heads and strong, pincerlike jaws, and feeding on plants and plant products. 2. Any of a family of small beetles that feed principally on beans and seeds. [OE *wifel* beetle] — **wee′vil·y** or **wee′vil·ly** *adj.*

weft (weft) *n.* 1. The cross threads in a web of cloth; woof. 2. A woven fabric; web. 3. *Naut.* A waft. [OE]

Wehr·macht (vâr′mäkht) *n. German* The armed forces collectively, of Germany; literally, defense force.

weigh[1] (wā) *v.t.* 1. To determine the weight of, as by measuring on a scale or balance. 2. To balance or hold in the

hand so as to estimate weight or heaviness. **3.** To measure (a quantity or quantities of something) according to weight: with *out*. **4.** To consider carefully; estimate the worth or advantages of: to *weigh* a proposal. **5.** To press or force down by weight or heaviness; burden or oppress: with *down*. **6.** To raise or hoist: now only in the phrase **to weigh anchor.** — *v.i.* **7.** To have weight; be heavy to a specified degree: She *weighs* ninety pounds. **8.** To have influence or importance: The girl's testimony *weighed* heavily with the jury. **9.** To be burdensome or oppressive: with *on* or *upon*: What *weighs* on your mind? **10.** *Naut.* **a** To raise anchor. **b** To begin to sail. — **to weigh in** In a prize fighter, etc., to be weighed before a contest. — **to weigh one's words** To consider one's words carefully before speaking. [OE *wegan* to weigh, carry, lift] — **weigh'er** *n.*

weigh[2] (wā) *n.* Way: used in the phrase **under weigh** by mistaken analogy with *aweigh*. [Var. of WAY]

weight (wāt) *n.* **1.** Any quantity of heaviness, expressed indefinitely or in terms of standard units. **2.** The measure of the force with which bodies tend toward the center of the earth or other celestial body, equal to the mass of the body multiplied by the acceleration due to gravitation; also, the quality so measured. **3.** Any object or mass that weighs a definite or specific amount. **4.** A definite mass of metal, etc., equal to a specified unit or amount of heaviness, and used in scales as a standard; also, any unit of heaviness, as a pound, ounce, etc. **5.** Any mass used as a counterpoise or to exert pressure by force of gravity: a *paperweight*. **6.** Burden; oppressiveness: the *weight* of care. **7.** The relative tendency of any mass toward a center of superior mass: the *weight* of a planet. **8.** A scale or graduated system of standard units of weight: avoirdupois *weight*. [See tables front of book.] **9.** Influence; importance; consequence: a man of *weight*. **10.** The comparative heaviness of clothes, as appropriate to the season: summer *weight*. — **by weight** Measured by weighing. — **to carry weight** To be of importance or significance. — **to pull one's weight** To do one's share; perform one's duty. — **to throw one's weight around** *Informal* To exercise one's authority more than is necessary or proper; make unwarranted use of position or power. — *v.t.* **1.** To add weight to; make heavy. **2.** To oppress or burden. **3.** To adulterate or treat (fabrics, etc.) with extraneous substances. [OE *wiht*, *gewiht*]

weight-less (wāt'lis) *adj.* **1.** Having or seeming to have no weight. **2.** *Aerospace* Being at zero gravity. — **weight'-less-ly** *adv.* — **weight'less-ness** *n.*

weight-y (wā'tē) *adj.* **weight-i-er, weight-i-est** **1.** Having great weight; ponderous. **2.** Having power to move the mind; cogent. **3.** Of great importance. **4.** Influential, as in public affairs. **5.** Burdensome. — **weight'i-ly** *adv.* — **weight'i-ness** *n.*

Weimar Republic A German Republic formed by a constitutional assembly at Weimar, 1919; dissolved 1933.

weir (wir) *n.* **1.** An obstruction or dam placed in a stream to raise the water, divert it into a millrace or irrigation ditches, etc. **2.** An aperture in such an obstruction, used to determine the quantity of water flowing through it. **3.** A series of wattled enclosures in a stream to catch fish. [OE *wer* < *werian* to dam up]

weird (wird) *adj.* **1.** Concerned with the unnatural or with witchcraft; unearthly; uncanny. **2.** Strange; bizarre. **3.** Pertaining to or having to do with fate or the Fates. [OE *wyrd* fate] — **weird'ly** *adv.* — **weird'ness** *n.*

weird-ie (wir'dē) *n.* *pl.* **weird-ies** *U.S. Slang* A bizarre or freakish person, thing, or occurrence. Also **weird'y.**

weiss beer (vīs, wīs) A pale, effervescent beer, brewed usu. from wheat. [< G *weissbier*, lit., white beer]

welch (welch, welsh) *v.i.* To welsh. — **welch'er** *n.*

Welch (welch, welsh) See WELSH.

Welch-man (welsh'mən, welch-) See WELSHMAN.

wel-come (wel'kəm) *adj.* **1.** Admitted gladly to a place or festivity; received cordially: a *welcome* guest. **2.** Producing satisfaction or pleasure; pleasing: *welcome* tidings. **3.** Made free to use or enjoy: She is *welcome* to my purse. — **you are** (or **you're**) **welcome** You are under no obligation: a conventional response to "thank you." — *n.* The act of bidding or making welcome; a hearty greeting. — **to wear out one's welcome** To come so often or to linger so long as no longer to be welcome. — *v.t.* **-comed, -com-ing** **1.** To give a welcome to; greet hospitably. **2.** To receive with pleasure. [OE < *will-* will, pleasure + *cuma* guest] — **wel'come-ly** *adv.* — **wel'come-ness** *n.* — **wel'com-er** *n.*

welcome mat *Informal* **1.** A doormat. **2.** Any enthusiastic welcome or reception: chiefly in the phrase **to put** (or **roll**) **out the welcome mat.**

weld (weld) *v.t.* **1.** To unite, as two pieces of metal, usu. with hammering or pressure, by the application of heat along the area of contact. **2.** To bring into close association or connection. — *v.i.* **3.** To be capable of being welded. — *n.* The consolidation of pieces of metal by welding; also, the closed joint so formed. [Alter. of WELL[1], v.] — **weld'a-bil'i-ty** *n.* — **weld'a-ble** *adj.* — **weld'er** *n.*

wel-fare (wel'fâr) *n.* **1.** The condition of faring well; prosperity. **2.** Welfare work. **3.** Aid, as money, food, or clothing, given to those in need. — **on welfare** Receiving money, food, clothing, etc., from a government because of need. [ME < *wel* well + *fare* a going]

welfare state A state or polity in which the government assumes a large measure of responsibility for the social welfare of its members, as through unemployment and health insurance, fair employment legislation, etc.

welfare work Organized efforts carried on by government or private organizations to improve the social and economic condition of a group or class. — **welfare worker**

wel-kin (wel'kin) *n.* *Archaic* or *Poetic* **1.** The vault of the sky; the heavens. **2.** The air. [OE *wolcen*, *wolcn* cloud]

well[1] (wel) *n.* **1.** A hole or shaft sunk into the earth to obtain a fluid, as water, oil, brine, or natural gas. **2.** A spring of water; a fountain. **3.** A source of continued supply, or that which issues forth continuously; a wellspring: a *well* of learning. **4.** A depression, cavity, or vessel used to hold a supply of liquid: an *inkwell*. **5.** *Archit.* A vertical opening descending through floors, or a deep enclosed space in a building for light, ventilation, etc.: a *stairwell*; an elevator *well*. **6.** *Naut.* The enclosed space in a vessel's hold, housing the pumps. — *v.i.* **1.** To pour forth or flow up, as water in a spring. — *v.t.* **2.** To gush: Her eyes *welled* tears. [OE < *weallan* to boil, bubble up]

well[2] (wel) *adv.* **bet-ter, best** **1.** Satisfactorily; favorably; according to one's wishes: Everything goes *well*. **2.** In a good or correct manner; expertly: to speak *well*. **3.** Suitably; with reason or propriety: I cannot *well* remain here. **4.** In a successful manner; also, agreeably or luxuriously: He lives *well*. **5.** Intimately: How *well* do you know him? **6.** To a considerable extent or degree: *well* aware. **7.** Completely; wholly. **8.** Far; at some distance: He lagged *well* behind us. **9.** Kindly; generously; graciously. — **as well** **1.** Also; in addition. **2.** With equal effect or consequence: He might just *as well* have sold it. — **as well as** **1.** As satisfactorily as. **2.** To the same degree as. **3.** In addition to. — *adj.* **1.** Having good health. **2.** Satisfactory; right: All is *well*. **3.** Prosperous; comfortable. — *interj.* An exclamation used to express surprise, expectation, resignation, doubt, indignation, acquiescence, etc., or merely to preface a remark. [OE *wel*]

◆ *Well* may be used in combination, as in *well-chosen*, *well-informed*, etc. Such combinations are hyphenated before the words they modify, as in *well-aimed* shots, but not when used predicatively, as in: The shots were *well aimed*.

we'll (wēl) **1.** We will. **2.** We shall.

well-ap-point-ed (wel'ə-poin'tid) *adj.* Properly equipped; excellently furnished.

well-a-way (wel'ə-wā') *interj.* *Archaic* Woe is me! alas! Also **well'a-day'** (-dā'). [OE *wā lā wā* woe! lo! woe!]

well-bal-anced (wel'bal'ənst) *adj.* **1.** Evenly balanced or proportioned. **2.** Sensible; sane; sound.

well-be-ing (wel'bē'ing) *n.* A condition of health, happiness, or prosperity; welfare.

well-born (wel'bôrn') *adj.* Of good birth or ancestry.

well-bred (wel'bred') *adj.* **1.** Characterized by or showing good breeding; polite. **2.** Of good stock, as an animal.

well-curb (wel'kûrb') *n.* The frame or stone ring around the mouth of a well.

well-dis-posed (wel'dis-pōzd') *adj.* Disposed or inclined to be kind, favorable, etc.

well-do-er (wel'dōō'ər) *n.* One who performs good deeds. — **well'-do'ing** *n.*

well-done (wel'dun') *adj.* **1.** Satisfactorily accomplished. **2.** Thoroughly cooked, as meat.

well enough Tolerably good or satisfactory. — **to let well enough alone** To leave things as they are lest the result of interference be worse.

well-fa-vored (wel'fā'vərd) *adj.* Of attractive appearance; comely; handsome. Also *Brit.* **well'-fa'voured.**

well-fed (wel'fed') *adj.* **1.** Plump; fat. **2.** Properly nourished.

well-fixed (wel'fiskt') *adj.* *Informal* Affluent; well-to-do.

well-found (wel'found') *adj.* Well equipped or supplied.

well-found-ed (wel'foun'did) *adj.* Based on fact, sound, evidence, etc.: *well-founded* suspicions.

well-groomed (wel'grōōmd') *adj.* **1.** Carefully dressed, combed, etc.; very neat. **2.** Carefully curried, as a horse.

well-ground-ed (wel'groun'did) *adj.* **1.** Adequately schooled in the elements of a subject. **2.** Well-founded.

well-head (wel'hed') *n.* **1.** A natural source supplying water to a spring or well. **2.** Any source or fountainhead.

well-heeled (wel′hēld′) *adj. Slang* Plentifully supplied with money.
well-in·ten·tioned (wel′in·ten′shənd) *adj.* Having good intentions; well-meant: often with connotation of failure.
well-known (wel′nōn′) *adj.* **1.** Widely known; famous. **2.** Thoroughly or fully known.
well-man·nered (wel′man′ərd) *adj.* Characterized by good manners; courteous; polite.
well-mean·ing (wel′mē′ning) *adj.* **1.** Having good intentions. **2.** Done with or characterized by good intentions: also **well′-meant′** (-ment′).
well-nigh (wel′nī′) *adv.* Very nearly; almost.
well-off (wel′ôf′, -of′) *adj.* In comfortable or favorable circumstances; fortunate.
well-read (wel′red′) *adj.* Having a wide knowledge of literature or books; having read much.
well-round·ed (wel′roun′did) *adj.* **1.** Having or displaying diverse knowledge, interests, etc. **2.** Wide in scope; comprehensive: a *well-rounded* program. **3.** Fully formed or developed: a *well-rounded* figure.
well-spo·ken (wel′spō′kən) *adj.* **1.** Fitly or excellently said. **2.** Of gentle speech and manners.
well·spring (wel′spring′) *n.* **1.** The source of a stream or spring; fountainhead. **2.** A source of continual supply.
well sweep A device used for drawing water from a well, consisting of a pole swung on a pivot attached to a high post, and having a bucket suspended from one end.
well-thought-of (wel′thôt′uv′, -ov′) *adj.* In good repute; esteemed; respected.
well-to-do (wel′tə·dōō′) *adj.* Prosperous; affluent.
well-wish·er (wel′wish′ər) *n.* One who wishes well, as to another. — **well′-wish′ing** *adj. & n.*
welsh (welsh, welch) *v.i. Slang* **1.** To cheat by failing to pay a bet or debt: often with *on*. **2.** To avoid fulfilling an obligation: often with *on*. Also spelled *welch*. [? Back formation < *welsher*, prob. < *Welsher* Welshman, with ref. to supposed national traits] — **welsh′er** *n.*
Welsh (welsh, welch) *adj.* Pertaining to Wales, its people, or their language. — *n.* **1.** The Celtic people of Wales: with *the*: also called *Cymry*. **2.** The Celtic language of Wales, belonging to the Brythonic or Cymric group: also called *Cymric*. Also spelled *Welch*. [OE *wealh* foreigner]
Welsh·man (welsh′mən, welch′-) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man of Welsh birth or ancestry. Also spelled *Welchman*.
Welsh rabbit A concoction of melted cheese cooked in cream or milk, often with ale or beer added, and served hot on toast or crackers. ◆ The form *rarebit* was a later development and is the result of mistaken etymology.
Welsh terrier A black-and-tan terrier having a flat skull and wiry coat, used for hunting.
welt (welt) *n.* **1.** A strip of material, covered cord, etc., applied to a seam to cover or strengthen it. **2.** A strip of leather set into the seam between the edges of the upper and the outer sole of a shoe. **3.** A stripe raised on the skin by a blow: also called *wale, weal*. — *v.t.* **1.** To sew a welt on or in; decorate with a welt. **2.** *Informal* To flog severely, so as to raise welts. [ME *welte, walt*]
wel·ter (wel′tər) *v.i.* **1.** To roll about; wallow. **2.** To lie or be soaked in some fluid, as blood. **3.** To surge or move tumultuously, as the sea. — *n.* **1.** A rolling movement, as of waves. **2.** A commotion; turmoil. [< MDu. *welteren*]
wel·ter·weight (wel′tər·wāt′) *n.* A boxer or wrestler whose fighting weight is between 136 and 147 pounds. [< *welter* heavyweight horseman + WEIGHT]
Welt·schmerz (velt′shmārts′) *n. German* Melancholy pessimism over the state of the world; literally, world pain.
wen (wen) *n. Pathol.* Any benign tumor of the skin containing sebaceous matter, occurring commonly on the scalp. [OE *wenn, wænn*] — **wen′nish, wen′ny** *adj.*
wench (wench) *n.* **1.** A young woman; girl: a humorous term. **2.** *Archaic* A young peasant woman; also, a female servant; maid. **3.** *Archaic* A prostitute; strumpet. — *v.i. Archaic* To keep company with strumpets. [ME < OE *wencel* child, servant]
wend (wend) *Chiefly Poetic v.* **wen·ded** (*Archaic* **went**), **wend·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To direct or proceed on (one's course or way). — *v.i.* **2.** To travel; proceed; go. [OE *wendan*]
Wend (wend) *n.* One of a Slavic people now occupying the region between the Elbe and Oder rivers in eastern Germany: also called *Sorb, Sorbian*. [< G *Wende, Winde*]
Wend·ish (wen′dish) *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Wends or their language: also *Sorbian*. — *n.* The West Slavic language of the Wends; Sorbian. Also **Wend′ic**.
went (went) An archaic past tense and past participle of *wend*, now used as past tense of GO.
wept (wept) Past tense and past participle of WEEP.
were (wûr, *unstressed* wər) Plural and second person singular past indicative, and past subjunctive singular and plural of BE. [OE *wære, wæron*, pt. forms of *wesan* to be]
we're (wir) We are.
were·n't (wûr′ənt) Were not.
were·wolf (wir′wōōlf′, wûr′-) *n. pl.* **·wolves** (-wōōlvz′) In European folklore, a human being transformed into a wolf or one having power to assume the form of a wolf at will. Also **wer′wolf′**. [OE < *wer* man + *wulf* wolf]
wert (wûrt, *unstressed* wərt) Archaic second person singular, past tense of both indicative and subjunctive of BE: used with *thou*.
Wes·ley·an (wes′lē·ən, *Brit.* wez′lē·ən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to John Wesley or Methodism. — *n.* A disciple of John Wesley; a Methodist. — **Wes′ley·an·ism** *n.*
Wes·sex (wes′iks) The ancient kingdom of the West Saxons in southern England.
west (west) *n.* **1.** The direction of the sun in relation to an observer on earth at sunset. **2.** One of the four cardinal points of the compass, directly opposite *east* and 90° counterclockwise from *north*. See COMPASS CARD. **3.** Any direction near this point. **4.** *Sometimes cap.* Any region west of a specified point. — **the West** **1.** The countries lying west of Asia and Turkey; the Occident. **2.** The western hemisphere. — *adj.* **1.** To, toward, facing, or in the west; western. **2.** Coming from the west: the *west* wind. — *adv.* In or toward the west; westward. [OE]
west·bound (west′bound′) *adj.* Going westward. Also **west′-bound′**.
west·er·ing (wes′tər·ing) *adj.* Moving or turning westward: the *westering* sun.
west·er·ly (wes′tər·lē) *adj.* **1.** In, toward, or pertaining to the west. **2.** From the west, as a wind. — *n. pl.* **·lies** A wind or storm from the west. — *adv.* Toward or from the west. — **west′er·li·ness** *n.*
west·ern (wes′tərn) *adj.* **1.** To, toward, or in the west. **2.** Native to or inhabiting the west: a *western* species. **3.** *Sometimes cap.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the west or the West. **4.** From the west, as a wind. — *n.* **1.** A westerner. **2.** A type of fiction or motion picture using cowboy and pioneer life in the western U.S. as its material.
Western Church **1.** The medieval church of the Western Roman Empire, now the Roman Catholic Church: distinguished from the church of the Eastern Empire, now the Eastern Orthodox Church. **2.** The Christian churches of western Europe and America.
west·ern·er (wes′tər·nər) *n.* **1.** One who is native to or lives in the west. **2.** *Usu. cap.* One who lives in or comes from the western U.S.
western frontier Formerly, the part of the U.S. bordering on the still unsettled regions of the west.
west·ern·ism (wes′tər·niz′əm) *n.* An expression or practice peculiar to the west, esp. the western U.S.
west·ern·ize (wes′tər·nīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To make western in characteristics, habits, etc. — **west′ern·i·za′tion** *n.*
west·ern·most (wes′tərn·mōst) *adj.* Farthest west.
Western Ocean In ancient geography, the ocean lying westward of the known world; the Atlantic Ocean.
Western (Roman) Empire The part of the Roman Empire west of the Adriatic that existed as a separate empire from A.D. 395 until the fall of Rome in A.D. 476.
West Highland white terrier A small, short-legged terrier having a stiff, white coat.
west-north·west (west′north′west′) *n.* The direction midway between west and northwest, 26 points or 292° 30′ clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. — *adj. & adv.* In, toward, or from the west-northwest.
West Saxon **1.** One of a Saxon tribe that invaded England in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. and settled in Wessex. **2.** The dialect of Old English spoken in Wessex.
west-south·west (west′south′west′) *n.* The direction midway between west and southwest, 22 points or 247° 30′ clockwise from due north. See COMPASS CARD. — *adj. & adv.* In, toward, or from the west-southwest.
west·ward (west′wərd) *adv.* Toward the west: also **west·wards**. — *adj.* To, toward, facing, or in the west. — *n.* A western part or region. — **west′ward·ly** *adv.*
wet (wet) *adj.* **wet·ter, wet·test** **1.** Covered or saturated with water or other liquid. **2.** Not yet dry: *wet* varnish. **3.** Treated or separated by means of water or other liquids. **4.** Preserved in liquid; also, bottled in alcohol, as laboratory specimens. **5.** Marked by showers or by heavy rainfall; rainy. **6.** *Informal* Favoring or permitting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages: a *wet* State. — **all wet** *Slang* Quite wrong; crazy. — **wet behind the ears** Inexperienced or unsophisticated. — *n.* **1.** Water; moisture; wetness. **2.** Showery or rainy weather; rain. **3.** *Informal* One opposed to prohibition. — *v.t. & v.i.* **wet** or **wet·ted, wet·ting** To make or become wet. — **to wet one's whistle** *Informal* To take a drink. [OE *wǣt*] — **wet′ly** *adv.* — **wet′ness** *n.* — **wet′ta·ble** *adj.* — **wet′ter** *n.*
wet·back (wet′bak′) *n. U.S. Informal* A Mexican laborer who enters the U.S. illegally. [So called because many cross the border by swimming or wading across the Rio Grande]
wet blanket *Informal* One who or that which has a discouraging effect on enthusiasm, activity, etc.

weth·er (weth′ər) *n.* A castrated ram. [OE]
wet-nurse (wet′nûrs′) *v.t.* **-nursed, -nurs·ing** **1.** To act as a wet nurse to. **2.** To attend to with painstaking care.
wet nurse A woman who is hired to suckle the child of another woman.
wet·ting (wet′ing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who wets, or the state of being wetted. **2.** A liquid, as water, used in moistening something, as flour in breadmaking.
wetting agent *Chem.* Any of a class of substances that, by reducing surface tension, enable a liquid to spread more readily over a solid surface.
we've (wēv) We have.
whack (hwak) *v.t. & v.i.* **1.** *Informal* To strike sharply; beat; hit. **2.** *Slang* To share: often with *up*. — *n.* **1.** *Informal* A sharp, resounding stroke or blow. **2.** *Slang* A share; portion. — **to have a whack at** *Slang* **1.** To give a blow to. **2.** To have a chance or turn at. — **out of whack** *Slang* Out of order. [? Var. of THWACK]
whack·ing (hwak′ing) *Chiefly Brit. Informal adj.* Strikingly large; whopping. — *adv.* Very; extremely.
whale[1] (hwāl) *n.* **1.** A marine mammal of fishlike form, esp. one of the larger pelagic species, having the fore limbs developed as paddles, a broad, flat tail, and a thick layer of fat or blubber immediately beneath the skin. The principal types are the toothless or whalebone whales and the toothed whales. **2.** *Informal* Something extremely good or large: a *whale* of a party. — *v.i.* **whaled, whal·ing** To engage in the hunting of whales. [OE *hwæl*]
whale[2] (hwāl) *v.t.* **whaled, whal·ing** *Informal* To strike as if to produce wales or stripes; flog; wale. [? Var. of WALE[1], v.]
whale·back (hwāl′bak′) *n.* A steamship having a rounded main deck, used on the Great Lakes.
whale·boat (hwāl′bōt′) *n.* A long, deep rowboat, sharp at both ends, often steered with an oar, so called because first used in whaling, but now carried on steamers as lifeboats.
whale·bone (hwāl′bōn′) *n.* **1.** The horny substance developed in plates from the upper jaw on either side of the palate of certain whales; baleen. **2.** A strip of whalebone, used in stiffening dress bodies, corsets, etc.
whal·er (hwā′lər) *n.* **1.** A person or a vessel engaged in whaling. **2.** A whaleboat.
whal·ing (hwā′ling) *n.* The industry of capturing whales. — *adj. Slang* Huge; whopping.
wham·my (hwam′ē) *n. pl.* **·mies** *U.S. Slang* A jinx; hex; to put the *whammy* on someone. [< *wham*, informal interjection imit. of the sound of a hard blow]
whang (hwang) *Informal v.t. & v.i.* To beat or sound with a resounding noise. — *n.* A heavy blow. [Imit.]
wharf (hwôrf) *n. pl.* **wharves** (hwôrvz) or **wharfs** A structure of masonry or timber erected on the shore of a harbor, river, etc., alongside which vessels may lie to load or unload cargo, passengers, etc.; also, any landing place for vessels, as a pier or quay. — *v.t.* **1.** To moor to a wharf. **2.** To provide or protect with a wharf or wharves. **3.** To deposit or store on a wharf. [OE *hwearf*]
— **Syn.** (noun) A *wharf* is usually a platform supported by wooden piles. A *pier* usually has a masonry foundation and projects into the water at right angles to the bank. A *dock* was originally the water between two *piers*, in which a vessel floated; by extension, any *pier* or *wharf* has come to be called a *dock*.
wharf·age (hwôr′fij) *n.* **1.** The use of wharves for unloading ships, storing goods, etc. **2.** Charge for the use of a wharf. **3.** Wharves collectively.
wharf·in·ger (hwôr′fin·jər) *n.* One who keeps a wharf for landing goods and collects wharfage fees. [Earlier *wharfager*]
wharf rat **1.** A brown rat that inhabits wharves. **2.** *U.S. Slang* One who loiters about wharves, esp. with criminal intent.
wharf·side (hwôrf′sīd′) *n.* The space on or at the side of a wharf. — *adj.* On or at the side of a wharf.
wharve (hwôrv) In spinning, a round piece on a spindle, serving as a pulley. [OE *hweorfa*]
what (hwot, hwut) *pron.* **1.** Which specific thing or things, action, etc.: *What* does he do? I don't know *what* to do. **2.** That which: He knew *what* he wanted. — **and what not** What need not be mentioned in addition; and so forth. — **what for** *Slang* A punishment; scolding: I'll give him *what for*. — **what have you** What need not be mentioned in addition; and so forth. — **what if** What would happen if; suppose that. — **what's what** *Informal* The actual situation or state of affairs. — **what with** As a result of taking into consideration. — *adj.* **1.** In interrogative construction: **a** Asking for information that will specify the person or thing qualified by it; which: Of *what* person do you speak? **b** How much; *What* money has he? **2.** How surprising, ridiculous, great, etc.: *What* genius! **3.** Whatever: *What* money he had left was soon spent. — *adv.* **1.** In what respect; to what extent: *What* are you profited? **2.** For what reason; why: with *for*: *What* are you saying that for? — *conj. Informal* That: used only in negative expressions: I do not doubt but *what* he will come. [OE *hwæt*, neut. of *hwā* who]
what·ev·er (hwot′ev′ər, hwut′-) *pron.* **1.** As a compound relative, the whole that; anything that; no matter what: often added for emphasis to a negative assertion: *whatever* makes life dear; I do not want anything *whatever*. **2.** *Informal* What: usually interrogative: *Whatever* were you saying? Also *Poetic* **what'e'er'** (-ãr′).
what·not (hwot′not′, hwut′-) *n.* An ornamental set of shelves for holding bric-à-brac, etc.
what·so·ev·er (hwot′sō·ev′ər, hwut′-) *adj. & pron.* Whatever: a more formal usage. Also *Poetic* **what'so·e'er'** (-ãr′).
wheat (hwēt) *n.* **1.** The grain of a cereal grass, widely cultivated and providing a flour used for bread, pastries, etc. **2.** The plant producing this grain, bearing at its summit a dense spike called the ear or head, sometimes with awns (**bearded wheat**) and sometimes without awns (**beardless** or **bald wheat**). **3.** A field of wheat; crop of wheat. [OE *hwæte*]
wheat·en (hwēt′n) *adj.* Belonging to or made of wheat.
whee·dle (hwēd′l) *v.* **·dled, ·dling** *v.t.* **1.** To persuade or try to persuade by flattery, cajolery, etc.; coax. **2.** To obtain by cajoling or coaxing. — *v.i.* **3.** To use flattery or cajolery. [? OE *wædlian* to beg, be poor] — **whee'dler** *n.* — **whee'dling·ly** *adv.*

WHEAT
a Bearded. *b* Beardless. *c,d* Grain.

wheel (hwēl) *n.* **1.** A circular rim and hub connected by spokes or a disk, capable of rotating on a central axis, as in vehicles and machines. **2.** An instrument or device having a wheel or wheels as its distinguishing characteristic, as a steering wheel, water wheel, spinning wheel, etc. **3.** Anything resembling or suggestive of a wheel; any circular object or formation. **4.** *Informal* A bicycle. **5.** An old instrument of torture or execution, consisting of a wheel to which the limbs of the victim were tied and then broken with an iron bar. **6.** A turning; rotation; revolution. **7.** *pl.* That which imparts or directs motion or controls activity; the moving force: the *wheels* of democracy. — **at the wheel** **1.** Driving or steering a vehicle, boat, etc. **2.** In control. — *v.t.* **1.** To move or convey on wheels. **2.** To cause to turn on or as on an axis; pivot or revolve. **3.** To perform with a circular movement. **4.** To provide with a wheel or wheels. — *v.i.* **5.** To turn on or as on an axis; rotate or revolve. **6.** To take a new direction or course of action: often with *about*. **7.** To move in a circular or spiral course. **8.** To move on wheels. — **to wheel and deal** *U.S. Slang* To act freely or independently, without restrictions, as in business. [OE hwēol]
wheel·bar·row (hwēl′bar′ō) *n.* A boxlike vehicle ordinarily with one wheel and two handles, for moving small loads. — *v.t.* To convey in a wheelbarrow.
wheel·base (hwēl′bās′) *n.* The distance from the center of a back hub to the center of the front hub on the same side, as in an automobile.
wheel·chair (hwēl′chãr′) *n.* A mobile chair mounted between large wheels, for the use of invalids. Also **wheel chair.**
wheel·er (hwē′lər) *n.* **1.** One who wheels. **2.** A wheel horse or other draft animal working next to the wheel. **3.** Something furnished with a wheel or wheels: a *side-wheeler*.
wheel·er-deal·er (hwē′lər·dē′lər) *n. U.S. Slang* One who wheels and deals; a shrewd, quick-witted person.
wheel horse **1.** A horse harnessed to the pole or shafts when there is a leader or leaders in front. **2.** One who does the heaviest work or assumes the greatest responsibility.
wheel·house (hwēl′hous′) *n.* A pilothouse.
wheel of fortune The wheel represented as being turned in order to bring about changes in human destiny, and that symbolizes the uncertainty of fate.
wheel·wright (hwēl′rīt′) *n.* A man whose business is making or repairing wheels.
wheeze (hwēz) *v.t. & v.i.* **wheezed, wheez·ing** To breathe or utter with a husky, whistling sound. — *n.* **1.** A wheezing sound. **2.** A loud whisper. **2.** *Informal* A popular tale, saying, or trick, esp. a trite one. [Prob. < ON *hvæsa* hiss] — **wheez'er** *n.* — **wheez'ing·ly** *adv.*
wheez·y (hwē′zē) *adj.* **wheez·i·er, wheez·i·est** Affected with or characterized by wheezing. — **wheez'i·ly** *adv.* — **wheez'i·ness** *n.*
whelk[1] (hwelk) *n.* Any of various large marine mollusks having whorled shells, that burrow in sand, esp. the common whelk, much eaten in Europe. [OE *weoloc*]

whelk[2] (hwelk) *n.* A swelling, protuberance, or pustule. [OE *hwylca* pustule] — **whelk'y** *adj.*

whelm (hwelm) *v.t.* **1.** To cover with water or other fluid; submerge; engulf. **2.** To overpower; overwhelm. — *v.i.* **3.** To roll with engulfing force. [Prob. blend of OE *helmian* to cover and *gehwielfan* to bend over]

whelp (hwelp) *n.* **1.** One of the young of a dog, wolf, lion, or other beast. **2.** A dog. **3.** A young fellow: a contemptuous term. — *v.t. & v.i.* To give birth (to): said of dogs, lions, etc. [OE *hwelp*]

when (hwen) *adv.* **1.** At what or which time: *When* did you arrive? I know *when* he arrived. **2.** At which: the time *when* we went on a picnic. — *conj.* **1.** At what or which time: They watched until midnight, *when* they fell asleep. **2.** As soon as: He laughed *when* he heard it. **3.** Although: He walks *when* he might ride. **4.** At the time that; while: *when* we were young. **5.** If; considering that: How can I buy it *when* I have no money? **6.** After which: We had just awakened *when* you called. — *pron.* What or which time: since *when*; until *when*. — *n.* The time; date: I don't know the *when* or the circumstances of it. [OE *hwanne, hwenne*]

whence (hwens) *Archaic adv.* From what place or source: *Whence* and what are you? — *conj.* **1.** From what or which place, source, or cause; from which: the place *whence* these sounds arise. **2.** To the place from which. **3.** For which reason; wherefore. [ME < OE *hwanne* when]

whence·so·ev·er (hwens'sō·ev'ər) *Archaic adv. & conj.* From whatever place, cause, or source.

when·e'er (hwen'âr') *adv. & conj. Poetic* Whenever.

when·ev·er (hwen'ev'ər) *adv. & conj.* At whatever time.

when·so·ev·er (hwen'sō·ev'ər) *adv. & conj.* Whenever.

where (hwâr) *adv.* **1.** At or in what place, relation, or situation: *Where* is my book? **2.** To what place or end: *Where* are you going? **3.** From what place: *Where* did you get that hat? **4.** At or in which place: *where* men gather. **5.** To a place or situation in or to which: Let us go *where* the mountains are. — *conj.* **1.** At which place: Let us go home *where* we can relax. **2.** With the condition that: xy = 4 *where* x = 2 and y = 2. — *pron.* **1.** The place in which: The bear passed three yards from *where* we stood. **2.** The point at which: That's *where* you are wrong. — *n.* Place; locality. ◆ *Where* has absorbed completely the sense of *whither* but not of *whence*. We must use a preposition to express the idea of motion from a place: *Where* did you come from? We do not use a preposition to show place at which: *Where* is the dog *at*? is not accepted in standard usage. [OE *hwær*]

where·a·bouts (hwâr'ə·bouts') *adv.* Near or at what place; about where. — *n.pl.* (*construed as sing.*) The place in or near which a person or thing is.

where·as (hwâr'az') *conj.* **1.** Since the facts are such as they are; seeing that: used in the preamble of a resolution, etc. **2.** The fact of the matter being that; when in truth: implying opposition to a previous statement. — *n. pl.* **·as·es** A clause or item beginning with the word "whereas."

where·at (hwâr'at') *Archaic* or *Rare adv.* At what: *Whereat* are you angry? — *conj.* At which; for which reason.

where·by (hwâr'bī') *adv.* **1.** By means of which; through which: the gate *whereby* he entered. **2.** By what; how.

wher·e'er (hwâr'âr') *adv. Poetic* Wherever.

where·fore (hwâr'fôr', -fōr') *Archaic adv.* For what reason; why: *Wherefore* do you doubt me? — *conj.* For which reason: It began to rain, *wherefore* we called off the picnic.

where·from (hwâr'frum', -from') *Archaic adv.* Whence.

where·in (hwâr'in') *adv.* **1.** In what: *Wherein* is the error? **2.** In which: a marriage *wherein* there is discord.

where·of (hwâr'uv', -ov') *Archaic adv.* **1.** Of or from what: *Whereof* did you partake? **2.** Of which or whom.

where·on (hwâr'on', -ôn') *Archaic adv.* On what or on which.

where·so·ev·er (hwâr'sō·ev'ər) *Archaic adv. & conj.* In or to whatever place; wherever.

where·to (hwâr'tōō') *Archaic adv.* To what place or end: *Whereto* serves avarice? — *conj.* To which or to whom.

where·up·on (hwâr'ə·pon', -ə·pôn') *adv. Archaic* Upon what; whereon. — *conj.* Upon which or whom; in consequence of which; after which: *whereupon* they took in sail.

wher·ev·er (hwâr'ev'ər) *adv. & conj.* In, at, or to whatever place; wheresoever.

where·with (hwâr'with', -with') *Archaic adv.* Interrogatively, with what: *Wherewith* shall I do it? — *conj.* With which; by means of which: the food *wherewith* we abated hunger. — *pron.* That with or by which: with the infinitive: I have not *wherewith* to do it.

where·with·al (hwâr'with·ôl') *n.* The necessary means or resources; esp., the necessary money: with the definite article.

wher·ry (hwer'ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A light, fast rowboat used on inland waters. **2.** *Brit.* A fishing vessel with two sails. **3.** A rowboat for racing or exercise, built for one person. **4.** *Brit.* A very broad, light barge. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** To transport in or use a wherry. [Origin unknown]

whet (hwet) *v.t.* **whet·ted, whet·ting** **1.** To sharpen, as a knife, by friction. **2.** To make more keen or eager; excite; stimulate, as the appetite. — *n.* **1.** The act of whetting. **2.** Something that whets. [OE *hwettan*] — **whet'ter** *n.*

wheth·er (hweth'ər) *conj.* **1.** If it be the case that: used to introduce an indirect question, often with the negative being implied: Tell me *whether* you are considering our plan. **2.** In case; in either case: as the first alternative, followed by correlative *or*, or *or whether*: *Whether* it rains or (*whether* it snows, the roads become very slippery. **3.** Either: *Whether* by luck or sheer determination, he will probably succeed — **whether or no** In any case. [OE *hwæther*]

whet·stone (hwet'stōn') *n.* A fine-grained stone for whetting knives, axes, etc.

whew (hwōō, hwyōō) *interj.* An exclamatory sound, expressive of amazement, dismay, relief, admiration, etc.

whey (hwā) *n.* A clear, straw-colored liquid that separates from the curd when milk is curdled, as in making cheese [OE *hwæg*] — **whey'ey, whey'ish** *adj.*

whey-face (hwā'fās') *n.* A pale, sallow face; also, a person having such a face. — **whey'faced'** *adj.*

which (hwich) *pron. & adj.* **1.** What particular person or thing or collection of persons or things of a certain class: *Which* (or *which* apples) do you want? We don't know *which* (or *which* story) to believe. **2.** The thing designated; it: a relative pronoun whose antecedents refer now only to animals or objects; that: the story *which* we preferred. ◆ *Which* sometimes has an entire clause or sentence as its antecedent: He raised his hand, *which* surprised me. See also usage note under WHO. [OE *hwilc*]

which-ev·er (hwich'ev'ər) *pron.* One or another (of two or of several). — *adj.* No matter which. Also **which'so·ev'er.**

whiff (hwif) *n.* **1.** Any sudden or slight gust or puff of air. **2.** A gust or puff of odor: a *whiff* of onions. **3.** A single expulsion or inhalation of breath or smoke from the mouth; puff. — *v.t.* **1.** To drive or blow with a whiff or puff. **2.** To exhale or inhale in whiffs. **3.** To smell or sniff. **4.** To smoke, as a pipe. — *v.i.* **5.** To blow or move in whiffs or puffs. **6.** To exhale or inhale whiffs. [Prob. ult. imit.] — **whiff'er** *n.*

whif·fet (hwif'it) *n. Informal* **1.** A trifling, useless person. **2.** A small, snappish dog. [? Dim. of WHIFF]

whif·fle (hwif'əl) *v.* **·fled, ·fling** *v.i.* **1.** To blow with puffs or gusts; shift about, as the wind. **2.** To vacillate; veer. — *v.t.* **3.** To blow or dissipate with or as with a puff. [Freq. of WHIFF] — **whif'fler** *n.* — **whif'fler·y** *n.*

whif·fle·tree (hwif'əl·trē') *n.* A horizontal crossbar to which the ends of the traces of a harness are attached: also called *singletree, swingletree, whippletree.* [Var. of WHIPPLETREE]

Whig (hwig) *n.* **1.** An American colonist who supported the Revolutionary War in the 18th century in opposition to the Tories. **2.** A member of an American political party (1834–1855) formed in opposition to the Democratic Party and in 1856 succeeded by the Republican Party. **3.** In England, a member of a more or less liberal political party in the 18th and 19th centuries, opposed to the Tories and later known as the Liberal Party. — *adj.* Consisting of or supported by Whigs. [< ? *Whiggamore* < dial. E (Scottish) *Whig*, a cry to urge on a horse + *mere* horse] — **Whig'ger·y** *n.* — **Whig'gish** *adj.* — **Whig'gish·ly** *adv.* — **Whig'gish·ness** *n.* — **Whig'gism** *n.*

while (hwīl) *n.* **1.** A short time; also, any period of time: Stay and rest a *while*. **2.** Time or pains expended on a thing: only in the phrase **worth while** or **worth one's while.** — **between whiles** From time to time. — **the while** At the same time. — *conj.* **1.** During the time that; as long as. **2.** At the same time that; although: *While* he found fault, he also praised. **3.** Whereas: This man is short, *while* that one is tall. ◆ This sense is widely used and is generally considered standard, although some authorities still disapprove of it. — *v.t.* **whiled, whil·ing** To cause (time) to pass lightly and pleasantly: usu. with *away*. [OE *hwil*]

whiles (hwīlz) *Archaic* or *Dial. adv.* **1.** Occasionally. **2.** In the meantime. — *conj.* While; during the time that.

whi·lom (hwī'ləm) *Archaic adj.* Former. — *adv.* Formerly. [OE *hwilum* at times, dative pl. of *hwil* a while]

whilst (hwīlst) *conj. Chiefly Brit.* While.

whim (hwim) *n.* A sudden or unexpected notion or fanciful idea; caprice. [Short for earlier *whim-wham* trifle]

whim·per (hwim'pər) *v.i.* **1.** To cry or whine with plaintive broken sounds. — *v.t.* **2.** To utter with a whimper. — *n.* A low, broken, whining cry; whine. [Imit.] — **whim'per·er** *n.* — **whim'per·ing** *n.* — **whim'per·ing·ly** *adv.*

whim·si·cal (hwim'zi·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Having eccentric ideas; capricious. **2.** Oddly constituted; fantastic; quaint. — **whim'si·cal'i·ty** (-kal'ə·tē) *n.* — **whim'si·cal·ly** *adv.* — **whim'si·cal·ness** *n.*

whim·sy (hwim'zē) *n. pl.* **·sies** **1.** A whim. **2.** Quaint, fanciful humor, as in a literary work. Also **whim'sey.**

whin (hwin) *n.* Furze. [Prob. < Scand.]
whine (hwīn) *v.* **whined, whin·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To utter a low, plaintive sound expressive of grief, peevishness, etc. **2.** To complain in a tiresome or childish way. —*v.t.* **3.** To utter with a whine. —*n.* The act or sound of whining. [OE *hwīnan*] —**whin'er** *n.* —**whin'ing·ly** *adv.* —**whin'y** *adj.*
whin·ny (hwin'ē) *v.* **·nied, ·ny·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To neigh, esp. in a low or gentle way. —*v.t.* **2.** To express with a whinny. —*n. pl.* **·nies** A neigh, esp. if low and gentle. [< WHINE]
whip (hwip) *v.* **whipped** or **whipt, whip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To strike with a lash, rod, strap, etc. **2.** To punish by striking thus; flog. **3.** To drive or urge with lashes or blows: with *on, up, off,* etc. **4.** To strike in the manner of a whip: The wind *whipped* the trees. **5.** To beat, as eggs or cream, to a froth. **6.** To seize, move, jerk, throw, etc., with a sudden motion: with *away, in, off, out,* etc. **7.** In fishing, to make repeated casts upon the surface of (a stream, etc.). **8.** To wrap (rope, cable, etc.) with light line so as to prevent chafing or wear. **9.** To wrap or bind about something. **10.** To sew, as a flat seam, with a loose overcast or overhand stitch. **11.** *U.S. Informal* To defeat; overcome. —*v.i.* **12.** To go, come, move, or turn suddenly and quickly: with *away, in, off, out,* etc. **13.** To thrash about in a manner suggestive of a whip: pennants *whipping* in the wind. —**to whip up 1.** To excite; arouse. **2.** *Informal* To prepare quickly, as a meal. —*n.* **1.** An instrument consisting of a lash attached to a handle, used for driving draft animals or for administering punishment. **2.** One who handles a whip expertly, as a driver. **3.** A stroke, blow, or lashing motion with, or as with, a whip. **4.** In politics, a member of a legislative body, as Congress or Parliament, appointed unofficially to enforce the discipline and look after the interests of his party. **5.** A dish or dessert containing cream or eggs and usu. fruit, whipped to a froth. [ME *wippen*] —**whip'per** *n.*
whip·cord (hwip'kôrd') *n.* **1.** A strong, hard-twisted or braided hempen cord, used in making whiplashes. **2.** A worsted fabric with a pronounced diagonal rib.
whip hand **1.** The hand that wields the whip in riding or driving. **2.** An instrument or means of mastery; advantage.
whip·lash (hwip'lash') *n.* The lash of a whip.
whiplash injury An injury to the neck caused by a sudden jolting, as in an automobile collision.
whip·per-snap·per (hwip'ər-snap'ər) *n.* A pretentious but insignificant person, esp. a young one. [? Extension of *whipsnapper* a cracker of whips]
whip·pet (hwip'it) *n.* A small, swift breed of dog, probably a cross between a greyhound and a terrier, used esp. in racing and coursing. [Dim. of WHIP]
whip·ping (hwip'ing) *n.* **1.** The act of one who or that which whips; esp., a flogging. **2.** Cord or other material used to whip or lash parts together.
whipping boy Anyone who receives punishment deserved by another; scapegoat.
whipping post The post to which those sentenced to flogging are secured.
whip·ple·tree (hwip'əl·trē') *n.* A whiffletree. [Prob. < WHIP]
whip·poor·will (hwip'ər·wil) *n.* A small nocturnal bird allied to the goatsuckers, common in the eastern U.S. [Imit. of its reiterated cry]
whip·saw (hwip'sô') *n.* A long, narrow, tapering saw, mounted in a wooden frame. —*v.t.* **·sawed, ·sawed** or **·sawn, ·saw·ing** **1.** To saw with a whipsaw. **2.** To get the best of (an opponent) in spite of every effort he makes.
whip·stitch (hwip'stich') *v.t.* To sew or gather with overcast stitches. —*n.* A stitch made in this way.
whip·stock (hwip'stok') *n.* The handle of a whip.
whir (hwûr) *v.t. & v.i.* **whirred, whir·ring** To fly, move, or whirl with a buzzing sound. —*n.* **1.** A whizzing, swishing sound, as that caused by the sudden rising of birds. **2.** Confusion; bustle. Also *Brit.* **whirr.** [Prob. < Scand.]
whirl (hwûrl) *v.i.* **1.** To turn or revolve rapidly, as about a center. **2.** To turn away or aside quickly. **3.** To move or go swiftly. **4.** To have a sensation of spinning: My head *whirls.* —*v.t.* **5.** To cause to turn or revolve rapidly. **6.** To carry or bear along with a revolving motion: The wind *whirled* the dust into the air. —*n.* **1.** A swift rotating or revolving motion. **2.** Something whirling. **3.** A state of confusion; turmoil. **4.** A rapid succession of events, social activities, etc. **5.** *Informal* A brief drive or trip. **6.** *Informal* A try. [Prob. < ON *hvirfla* to revolve] —**whirl'er** *n.*
whirl·i·gig (hwûr'lə·gig') *n.* **1.** Any toy or small device that revolves rapidly on an axis. **2.** A merry-go-round. **3.** Anything that moves in a cycle. **4.** A whirling motion. [< *whirly* (< WHIRL) + obs. *gig,* a whirling toy]
whirl·pool (hwûrl'pōōl') *n.* **1.** A vortex where water moves with a whirling motion, as from the meeting of two currents. **2.** Anything resembling the motion of a whirlpool.
whirl·wind (hwûrl'wind') *n.* **1.** A funnel-shaped column of air, with a rapid, upward spiral motion and moving forward on the surface of the land or sea. **2.** Anything resembling a whirlwind, as rotary motion or violent activity. —*adj.* Extremely swift or impetuous: a *whirlwind* courtship.
whish (hwish) *v.i.* To move with a swishing, whistling sound. —*n.* A swishing sound. [Imit.]
whisk (hwisk) *v.t.* **1.** To bear along or sweep with light movements, as of a small broom: often with *away* or *off.* **2.** To cause to move with a quick sweeping motion. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* To beat with a quick movement, as eggs, etc. —*v.i.* **4.** To move quickly and lightly. —*n.* **1.** A sudden, sweeping movement. **2.** A little broom or brush. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* A small culinary instrument for rapidly whipping (cream, etc.) to a froth. [Prob. < Scand.]
whisk·broom (hwisk'brōōm', -brŏŏm') *n.* A small, short-handled broom for brushing clothing, etc.
whisk·er (hwis'kər) *n.* **1.** *pl.* The hair that grows on the sides of a man's face, as distinguished from that on his lips, chin, and throat; loosely, the beard or any part of the beard. **2.** A hair from the whiskers or beard. **3.** One of the long, bristly hairs on the sides of the mouth of some animals, as cats and rodents. —**whisk'ered, whisk'er·y** *adj.*
whis·key (hwis'kē) *n. pl.* **·keys** **1.** An alcoholic liquor obtained by the distillation of certain fermented grains, as rye, barley, corn, etc., and containing about 40 to 50 percent of alcohol. **2.** A drink of whiskey. —*adj.* Pertaining to or made of whiskey. Also **whis'ky.** [Short for *usquebaugh* < Irish, water of life < *uisge* water + *beatha* life]
whis·per (hwis'pər) *n.* **1.** A low, soft, breathy voice. **2.** A low, rustling sound. **3.** *Phonet.* The sound produced by the passage of breath through the partially closed glottis. **4.** A whispered utterance; secret communication; hint; insinuation. —*v.i.* **1.** To speak in a whisper. **2.** To talk cautiously or furtively; plot or gossip. **3.** To make a low, rustling sound. —*v.t.* **4.** To utter in a whisper. **5.** To speak to in a whisper. [OE *hwisprian*] —**whis'per·er** *n.* —**whis'per·ing** *adj. & n.* —**whis'per·ing·ly** *adv.*
whispering campaign A deliberate spreading of rumors in order to discredit a person or group.
whist[1] (hwist) *n.* A game of cards, the forerunner of bridge, played by four persons. [Alter. of earlier *whisk*]
whist[2] (hwist) *interj.* Hush! be still! —*adj.* Silent or quiet.
whis·tle (hwis'əl) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.i.* **1.** To make a musical tone, usu. shrill, by sending the breath through the teeth or through a small orifice formed by contracting the lips. **2.** To emit a sharp, shrill cry, as some birds and animals. **3.** To cause a sharp, shrill sound by swift passage through the air, as wind, etc. **4.** To blow or sound a whistle. —*v.t.* **5.** To produce (a tune) by whistling. **6.** To call, manage, or direct by whistling. **7.** To send or move with a whistling sound. —**to whistle for** To go without; fail to get. —*n.* **1.** A device for producing a shrill tone by forcing a current of air, etc., through a pipe or tube with a narrowed aperture, or against a thin edge. **2.** A whistling sound. **3.** The act of whistling. **4.** *Slang* The mouth and throat: to wet one's *whistle.* [OE *hwistle* shrill pipe]
whis·tler (hwis'lər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which whistles. **2.** Any of various birds so called from the noise of their wings in flight. **3.** A radio signal of very low frequency generated by atmospheric electricity.
whistle stop *U.S. Informal* A small town, where a train stops only on signal. —**whis·tle-stop** (hwis'əl·stop') *adj.*
whit (hwit) *n.* The smallest particle; speck: not a *whit* abashed. [Var. of *wight* < OE *wiht* a certain amount]
white (hwīt) *adj.* **whit·er, whit·est** **1.** Having the color produced by reflection of all of the visible solar spectrum, as from a bed of new-fallen snow. **2.** Light or comparatively light in color. **3.** Bloodless; ashen: *white* with rage. **4.** Very fair; blond. **5.** Silvery or gray. **6.** Snowy. **7.** Habited in white clothing: *white* nuns. **8.** Not intentionally wicked; not harmful: a *white* lie. **9.** Free from spot or stain; innocent. **10.** Incandescent: *white* heat. **11.** Blank; unmarked by ink. **12.** Belonging to a racial group characterized by light-colored skin; esp., Caucasian. **13.** Of, pertaining to, or controlled by white men: the *white* power structure. **14.** *Informal* Fair and honorable; honest. **15.** Designating any of various wines ranging in color from pale yellow to deep amber. —*n.* **1.** The color seen when light is reflected without sensible absorption of any of the visible rays of the spectrum; the color of new-fallen snow. **2.** The state or condition of being white. **3.** *Biol.* The white or light-colored part of something, as the albumen of egg or the white part of the eyeball. **4.** A white or light-colored thing, as a white fabric, a white pigment, etc. **5.** *pl.* A white uniform or outfit: a sailor's summer *whites.* **6.** A member of the so-called white race. —*v.t.* **whit·ed, whit·ing** To make white; whiten. [OE *hwīt*] —**white'ly** *adv.* —**white'ness** *n.*

white ant Loosely, a termite.
white-bait (hwīt′bāt′) *n.* The young of various fishes, esp. of sprat and herring, netted in great quantities and much esteemed in Europe as a delicacy.
white bear The polar bear.
white birch 1. Birch. 2. The common European birch, having an ash-colored bark.
white-cap (hwīt′kap′) *n.* A wave with a crest of foam.
white cedar 1. An evergreen tree of the pine family, growing in moist places along the Atlantic coast: also called *cypress*. 2. Its soft, easily worked wood.
white clover A common variety of clover, with white flowers.
white coal Water considered as a source of power.
white-collar (hwīt′kol′ər) *adj.* Designating workers, jobs, attitudes, etc., associated with clerical, professional, and other nonmanual occupations.
whit·ed sepulcher (hwī′tid) A hypocrite. *Matt.* xxiii 27.
white elephant 1. A rare, pale gray variety of Asian elephant held sacred by the Burmese and Siamese. 2. Anything rare but expensive to keep. 3. Any burdensome possession.
white-faced (hwīt′fāst′) *adj.* 1. Pallid in countenance; pale. 2. Having a white mark or spot on the face or front of the head, as a horse. 3. Having a white facing or exposed surface.
white-fish (hwīt′fish′) *n. pl.* **·fish** or **·fish·es** 1. Any of various food fishes of North America, living mostly in lakes, some species of which are called chubs. 2. Any of various other fish having a silvery appearance, as the beluga. 3. A tropical marine food fish of California.
white flag 1. A flag of truce. 2. A white flag or cloth hoisted as a signal of surrender during a battle.
White Friar A Carmelite friar: so called from the color of his cloak.
white gold An alloy of gold with a white metal, usu. nickel and zinc, sometimes palladium and platinum.
white goods Household linens, such as sheets, towels, etc.
White·hall (hwīt′hôl) 1. A street in Westminster, London, where a number of government offices are located. 2. The British government.
white heat 1. The temperature at which a body becomes incandescent. 2. Great excitement, intense emotion, etc.
white horse A wave crested with foam; whitecap.
white-hot (hwīt′hot′) *adj.* 1. Exhibiting the condition of white heat. 2. *Informal* Extremely angry.
White House, The 1. The official residence of the President of the U.S., at Washington, D.C., a white, colonial style building: officially called the *Executive Mansion*. 2. The executive branch of the U.S. government.
white lead A heavy, white, poisonous mixture of lead carbonate and lead oxide, used as a pigment and in some medicinal ointments for burns.
white lie See under LIE.
white-liv·ered (hwīt′liv′ərd) *adj.* 1. Having a pale and unhealthy look. 2. Base; cowardly.
white man 1. A person belonging to a racial group characterized by light-colored skin. 2. A male member of the so-called white race.
white man's burden The alleged duty of the white peoples to spread culture among the so-called backward peoples of the world: phrase originated by Rudyard Kipling.
white matter *Anat.* The portion of the brain and spinal cord composed mainly of medullated nerve fibers, giving it a white appearance.
white meat The light-colored meat or flesh of animals, as veal or the breast of turkey.
whit·en (hwīt′n) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become white; blanch; bleach. — **whit′en·er** *n.*
— Syn. *Whiten, bleach,* and *blanch* mean to make nearly or completely white or colorless. *Whiten* implies overlay with a white paint or polish, while *bleach* and *blanch* refer to removal of color by sunlight, chemical agents, etc. Industrial products are *bleached*, while foodstuffs are *blanched*.
white oak 1. A North American oak of the eastern U.S. with long leaves having from five to nine entire, rounded lobes. 2. Any of several related species. 3. The wood of any species of white oak.
white pine 1. A pine widely distributed in eastern North America, with soft, bluish green leaves in clusters of five. The cone and tassel of this tree are the State emblem of Maine. 2. The light, soft wood of this tree. 3. Any of several similar species of pine.
white plague *Pathol.* Tuberculosis, esp. of the lungs.
white poplar A large, rapidly growing Old World tree, often planted in the U.S. for shade or for its ornamental green and silvery white leaves.
white potato The common potato.
white race The Caucasian ethnic division of mankind.
white rat One of a special breed of albino Norway rats much used in biological and medical experimentation.
White Russian Byelorussian.
white sale A sale of sheets, towels, etc., at reduced prices.
white sauce A sauce made of butter, flour, milk, etc., used for vegetables, meats, and fish.
white slave A girl forced into or held in prostitution. — **white-slave** (hwīt′slāv′) *adj.*
white slavery The business or practice of forced prostitution. — **white slaver**
white supremacy The doctrine arising from the belief that the white race is superior to the Negro race and that the latter must therefore be kept in an inferior economic and social position. — **white su·prem·a·cist** (sə·prem′ə·sist)
white-tailed deer (hwīt′tāld′) A common North American deer, having a moderately long tail white on the underside: also called *Virginia deer*.
white-throat·ed sparrow (hwīt′thrō′tid) A common North American sparrow, with a white patch on the throat.
white tie 1. A white bow tie, worn with men's formal evening attire. 2. A swallowtail coat and its correct accessories.
white·wash (hwīt′wosh′, -wôsh′) *n.* 1. A mixture of slaked lime and water, sometimes with salt, whiting, and glue added, used for whitening walls, etc. 2. *Slang* A covering up or glossing over of reprehensible actions or inefficiencies, esp. of a political figure; also, a suppression of adverse evidence, as in a legal matter. 3. *Informal* A failure to score in a game. — *v.t.* 1. To coat with whitewash. 2. *Slang* To gloss over; hide. 3. *Informal* In sports, to defeat without allowing the losing side to score. — **white′wash′er** *n.*
white water *U.S. & Canadian* Rapids in a river.
white whale The beluga.
whith·er (with′ər) *Archaic & Poetic adv.* 1. To what or which place? Where? 2. To what point, end, extent, etc.? — *conj.* To which or what place, end, etc. [OE *hwider*]
whith·er·so·ev·er (with′ər·sō·ev′ər) *adv. Archaic* To whatever place.
whit·ing (hwī′ting) *n.* A pure white chalk, powdered and washed, used in making putty and whitewash, as a pigment, and for polishing.
whit·ish (hwī′tish) *adj.* Somewhat white or, esp., very light gray. — **whit′ish·ness** *n.*
whit·low (hwit′lō) *n. Pathol.* An inflammatory tumor, esp. on the terminal phalanx of a finger, seated between the epidermis and true skin; a felon. [ME *whitflaw*]
Whit·mon·day (hwit′mun′dē, -dā) *n.* The Monday next following Whitsunday, observed in England as a holiday. Also **Whit-Monday, Whit′sun-Mon′day.**
Whit·sun (hwit′sən) *n.* Whitsunday: frequently used in combination: *Whitsun-week*.
Whit·sun·day (hwit′sun′dē, -dā, hwit′sən·dā′) *n.* Pentecost (def. 1). [OE *Hwita Sunnandæg*, lit., white Sunday]
Whit·sun·tide (hwit′sən·tīd′) *n.* The week that begins with Whitsunday, esp. the first three days. Also **Whitsun Tide.**
whit·tle (hwit′l) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.t.* 1. To cut or shave bits from (wood, a stick, etc.). 2. To make or shape by carving or whittling. 3. To reduce or wear away by or as by paring a little at a time: with *down, off, away,* etc. — *v.i.* 4. To whittle wood, usu. as an aimless diversion. [Alter. of ME *thwitel* < OE *thwītan* to cut] — **whit′tler** *n.*
whit·tlings (hwit′lingz) *n.pl.* The fine chips and shavings made by a whittler.
whiz (hwiz) *v.* **whizzed, whiz·zing** *v.i.* 1. To make a hissing and humming sound while passing through the air. 2. To move or pass with such a sound. — *v.t.* 3. To cause to whiz. — *n. pl.* **whiz·zes** 1. A whizzing sound. 2. *Slang* Any person or thing of extraordinary excellence or ability. Also **whizz.** [Imit.]
who (hōō) *pron. possessive case* **whose**; *objective case* **whom** 1. Which or what person or persons: *Who* said that? I know *who* he is. 2. That; a relative pronoun: used when the antecedent refers to a human being. 3. He, she, or they that; whoever: *Who* steals my purse steals trash. — **as who should say** As if one should say. [OE *hwā*]
◆ In modern usage, *who* as a relative is applied only to persons, *which* only to animals or to inanimate objects, *that* to persons or things indiscriminately. The use of *whom* as an interrogative pronoun in initial position, as in *Whom* did you see?, is supported by some grammarians, but the more natural *Who* did you see? *Who* did you give the book to? are in wider use and are now considered acceptable. However, when used after a verb or preposition, *whom* is still required, as in To *whom* did you give it? You saw *whom*?
whoa (hwō) *interj.* Stop! stand still! [Var. of HO]
who·dun·it (hōō·dun′it) *n. Informal* A type of mystery fiction or dramatic production that challenges the reader or spectator to detect the perpetrator of a crime.
who·ev·er (hōō·ev′ər) *pron.* Any one without exception; any person who.
whole (hōl) *adj.* 1. Containing all the parts necessary to make up a total; entire. 2. Having all the essential or original parts unbroken and uninjured; intact. 3. In or having regained sound health; hale. 4. Constituting the full

extent, amount, quantity, etc.; total; entire. **5.** Having the same parents; full, as opposed to *half*: a *whole* brother. **6.** *Math.* Integral. **— as a whole** Completely; altogether. **— on the whole** Taking everything into consideration. **— out of whole cloth** Fabricated; made up, without foundation in truth or fact. **—** *n.* **1.** All the parts or elements entering into and making up a thing; totality. **2.** An organization of parts making a unity or system; an organism. [OE *hāl*] **— whole'ness** *n.*

whole blood Blood as taken directly from the body, esp. that used in transfusions.

whole-heart·ed (hōl'här'tid) *adj.* Done or experienced with earnestness, sincerity, etc.; earnest. **— whole'heart'ed·ly** *adv.* **— whole'heart'ed·ness** *n.*

whole hog *Slang* The whole of anything; completeness. **— to go the whole hog** *Slang* To do something thoroughly; become involved without reservation.

whole milk Milk containing all its constituents.

whole note *Music* A note having a time value equal to one half of a breve: also, *Chiefly Brit., semibreve.*

whole number *Math.* An integer.

whole·sale (hōl'sāl') *n.* The selling of goods in large bulk or quantity, esp. for resale: distinguished from *retail.* **—** *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, involving, or engaged in the sale of goods at wholesale. **2.** Made or done on a large scale or indiscriminately: *wholesale* murder. **—** *adv.* **1.** In bulk or quantity. **2.** Indiscriminately. **—** *v.t. & v.i.* **·saled, ·sal·ing** To sell at wholesale. [ME < *by hole sale* in large quantities] **— whole'sal'er** *n.*

whole·some (hōl'səm) *adj.* **1.** Tending to promote health; salubrious; healthful: *wholesome* air or food. **2.** Favorable to virtue and well-being; beneficial: *wholesome* entertainment. **3.** Indicative or characteristic of health: *wholesome* red cheeks. **4.** Safe; free from danger or risk. [ME *holsum*] **— whole'some·ly** *adv.* **— whole'some·ness** *n.*

whole tone *Music* A tone (def. 3b).

whole-wheat (hōl'hwēt') *adj.* Made from wheat grain and bran.

who'll (hōōl) **1.** Who will. **2.** Who shall.

whol·ly (hō'lē, hōl'lē) *adv.* **1.** Completely; totally. **2.** Exclusively; only.

whom (hōōm) *pron.* The objective case of WHO.

whom·ev·er (hōōm'ev'ər), **whom·so·ev·er** (hōōm'sō·ev'ər) Objective cases of WHOEVER, WHOSO, etc.

whoop (hōōp, hwōōp, hwōōp) *v.i.* **1.** To utter loud cries, as of excitement, rage, or exultation. **2.** To hoot, as an owl. **3.** To make a loud, gasping inspiration, as after a paroxysm of coughing. **—** *v.t.* **4.** To utter with a whoop or whoops. **5.** To call, urge, chase, etc., with whoops; hoot. **— to whoop up** *Slang* To arouse enthusiasm in or for. **— to whoop it** (or **things**) **up** *Slang* **1.** To make noisy revelry. **2.** To arouse enthusiasm. **—** *n.* The cry, shout, or sound of one who or that which whoops. **— not worth a whoop** *Informal* Not worth anything. **—** *interj.* An exclamation of joy, enthusiasm, etc. [ME *whope*]

whoop-ee (hwōō'pē, hwōōp'ē) *interj. & n.* An exclamation of joy, excitement, etc. **— to make whoopee** To have a noisy, festive time. [< WHOOP]

whoop·er (hōō'pər, hwōō'pər, hwōōp'r) *n.* **1.** One who or that which whoops. **2.** A large Old World swan: so called from its loud cry.

whoop·ing cough (hōō'ping, hōōp'ing) *Pathol.* A contagious respiratory disease of bacterial origin chiefly affecting children, marked in its final stage by violent coughing.

whop (hwop) *Informal n.* A blow or fall, or the resulting noise. **—** *v.* **whopped, whop·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To strike or beat. **2.** To defeat convincingly. **—** *v.i.* **3.** To drop or fall suddenly; flop. [Prob. imit.]

whop·per (hwop'ər) *n. Informal* Something large or remarkable; esp., a big falsehood.

whop·ping (hwop'ing) *adj.* Unusually large; great.

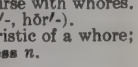
whore (hōr, hōr) *n.* A prostitute. **—** *v.i.* **whored, whor·ing** **1.** To have illicit sexual intercourse, esp. with a prostitute. **2.** To be a whore. [OE *hōre*, prob. < ON *hōra*]

whore·house (hōr'hous', hōr'-) *n.* A house of prostitution.

whore·mas·ter (hōr'mas'tər, -mäs'-, hōr'-) *n. Archaic* **1.** A procurer. **2.** A man who has intercourse with whores. Also **whore·mon·ger** (hôr'mung'gər, -mong'-, hōr'-).

whor·ish (hōr'ish, hōr'ish) *adj.* Characteristic of a whore; lewd. **— whor'ish·ly** *adv.* **— whor'ish·ness** *n.*

whorl (hwûrl, hwôrl) *n.* **1.** The flywheel of a spindle. **2.** *Bot.* A set of leaves, etc., on the same plane with one another, distributed in a circle. **3.** *Zool.* A turn or volution, as of a spiral shell. **4.** Any of the convoluted ridges of a fingerprint. [ME *wharwyl, whorwhil*]



WHORL (*def.* 2)

whorled (hwûrld, hwôrld) *adj.* Furnished with or arranged in whorls.

whor·tle·ber·ry (hwûr'təl·ber'ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** **1.** A European variety of blueberry. **2.** Its blue-black fruit. Also called *bilberry.* [< OE *horta* + BERRY]

whose (hōōz) The possessive case of WHO and often of WHICH. [ME < OE *hwæs*, altered by analogy with nominative form *hwo*]

whose·so·ev·er (hōōz'sō·ev'ər) Possessive case of WHOSOEVER.

who·so (hōō'sō) *pron.* Whoever; any person who. [Reduced form of OE *swā hwā swā*]

who·so·ev·er (hōō'sō·ev'ər) *pron.* Any person whatever; who; whoever.

why (hwī) *adv.* **1.** For what cause, purpose, or reason? wherefore? **2.** The reason or cause for which: I don't know *why* he went. **3.** Because of which; for which: I know no reason *why* he went. **—** *n. pl.* **whys** **1.** An explanatory cause; reason; cause. **2.** A puzzling problem; riddle; enigma. **—** *interj.* An introductory expletive, sometimes denoting surprise. ◆ The *why* in the expression *the reason why*, though sometimes condemned as a redundancy, is commonly used in standard written English. [OE *hwȳ, hwī*, instrumental case of *hwæt* what]

wich (wich) *n.* The wych-elm.

wich-elm (wich'elm') See WYCH-ELM.

wick (wik) *n.* A wand of loosely twisted or woven fibers, as in a candle or lamp, acting by capillary attraction to convey oil or other illuminant to a flame. [OE *wēoce*]

wick·ed (wik'id) *adj.* **1.** Evil in principle and practice; vicious; sinful; depraved. **2.** Mischievous; roguish. **3.** Noxious; pernicious. **4.** Troublesome; painful. **5.** *Informal* Done with great skill: a *wicked* game. [ME, alter. of *wikke, wicke*] **— wick'ed·ly** *adv.* **— wick'ed·ness** *n.*

wick·er (wik'ər) *adj.* Made of twigs, osiers, etc. **—** *n.* **1.** A pliant young shoot or rod; twig; osier. **2.** Wickerwork. [Prob. < Scand.]

wick·er·work (wik'ər·wûrk') *n.* A fabric or texture, as a basket, made of woven twigs, osiers, etc.; basketwork.

wick·et (wik'it) *n.* **1.** A small door or gate subsidiary to or made within a larger entrance. **2.** A small opening in a door. **3.** A small sluice gate in a canal lock or at the end of a millrace. **4.** In cricket: **a** An arrangement of three stumps set near together, with two bails laid over the top. **b** The place at which the wicket is set up. **c** The right or turn of each batsman at the wicket. **d** The playing pitch between the wickets: a fast *wicket.* **e** An inning that is not finished or not begun. **5.** In croquet, any one of the arches, usu. of wire, through which the ball must be hit. [< AF *wiket*, OF *guichet*, prob. < Gmc.]

wick·et-keep·er (wik'it·kē'pər) *n.* In cricket, the fielder stationed behind the wicket that is being bowled at.

wide (wīd) *adj.* **wid·er, wid·est** **1.** Having relatively great extent between sides; broad. **2.** Extended far in every direction; ample; spacious: a *wide* expanse. **3.** Having a specified degree of width or breadth: an inch *wide.* **4.** Distant from the desired or proper point by a great extent of space; remote; wild: *wide* of the mark. **5.** Having intellectual breadth; liberal: a man of *wide* views. **6.** Fully open; expanded or extended: *wide* eyes. **7.** Comprehensive; inclusive: *wide* learning. **8.** Loose; roomy: *wide* breeches. **—** *n.* **1.** In cricket, a ball bowled too far over or on either side of the wicket to be within the batsman's reach. **2.** Breadth of extent; also, a broad, open space. **—** *adv.* **1.** To a great distance; extensively. **2.** Far from the mark. **3.** To the greatest extent; fully open. [OE *wīd*] **— wide'ly** *adv.* **— wide'ness** *n.*

wide-an·gle lens (wīd'ang'gəl) *Photog.* A type of lens permitting an angle of view wider than that of the ordinary lens.

wide-a·wake (wīd'ə·wāk') *adj.* **1.** Fully awake. **2.** Marked by vigilance and alertness; keen.

wide-eyed (wīd'īd') *adj.* With the eyes wide open, as in wonder or surprise.

wid·en (wīd'n) *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become wide or wider. **— wid'en·er** *n.*

wide-o·pen (wīd'ō'pən) *adj.* **1.** Opened wide. **2.** *Informal* Remiss in the enforcement of laws that regulate various forms of vice, as gambling, etc.: a *wide-open* city.

wide-screen (wīd'skrēn') *adj.* Designating a motion-picture process using an elongated screen designed to accommodate various systems of projection beyond 35 mm.

wide-spread (wīd'spred') *adj.* **1.** Extending over a large space or territory. **2.** Occurring, accepted, etc., among many people; general: a *widespread* belief. Also **wide-spread', wide'spread'ing.**

widge·on (wij'ən) *n.* Any of various river ducks with short bill and wedge-shaped tail. [Cf. MF *vigeon* wild duck]

wid·ow (wid'ō) *n.* **1.** A woman who has lost her husband

by death and has not remarried. **2.** In some card games, an additional hand dealt to the table; also, a kitty. **3.** *Printing* An incomplete line of type at the top of a page or column. — *v.t.* **1.** To make a widow of; deprive of a husband: usu. in the past participle. **2.** To deprive of something desirable; bereave. [OE *widewe, wuduwe*]

wid·ow·er (wid′ō·ər) *n.* A man whose wife is dead, and who has not married again. [ME < OE *widewe* widow]

wid·ow·hood (wid′ō·hŏŏd) *n.* The state or period of being a widow, or, rarely, of being a widower.

widow's mite A small but selfless contribution from one who can hardly afford it. *Mark xii* 42.

widow's peak A hairline growing in a V-shaped point from the forehead.

widow's walk A railed observation area built on the roof of a home near the sea giving the observer a clear view of incoming vessels: also called *captain's walk.*

width (width) *n.* **1.** Dimension or measurement of an object taken from side to side, and at right angles to the length. **2.** The state or fact of being wide; breadth. **3.** Something that has width; esp., one of the several pieces of material used in making a garment. [< WIDE]

width·wise (width′wīz′) *adv.* In the direction of the width; from side to side. Also **width′way′** (-wā′), **width′ways′.**

wield (wēld) *v.t.* **1.** To handle, as a weapon or instrument, esp. with full command and effect. **2.** To exercise (authority, power, etc.). [Fusion of OE *wealdan* to rule and OE *wieldan* to conquer] — **wield′a·ble** *adj.* — **wield′er** *n.*

wield·y (wēl′dē) *adj.* **wield·i·er, wield·i·est** Easily handled or managed; manageable.

wie·ner (wē′nər) *n. U.S.* A kind of sausage, often shorter than a frankfurter, made of beef and pork. Also **wie·nie** (wē′nē), **wie·ner·wurst** (wē′nər·wûrst′, *Ger.* vē′nər·vōōrst′). [Short for G *Wiener-wurst* Vienna sausage]

Wie·ner schnit·zel (vē′nər schnit′səl) A breaded veal cutlet, seasoned or garnished in any of several ways. [< G < *Wiener* Viennese + *schnitzel* cutlet, dim. of *schnitz* slice]

wife (wif) *n. pl.* **wives** (wīvz) **1.** A woman joined to a man in lawful wedlock. ◆ Collateral adjective: *uxorial.* **2.** *Archaic* A grown woman; adult female: now usu. in combination or in certain phrases: *housewife,* old *wives'* tales. — **to take (a woman) to wife** To marry (a woman). [OE *wif*] — **wife′dom, wife′hood** *n.* — **wife′ly** *adj.*

wig (wig) *n.* An artificial covering of hair for the head. — *v.t.* **wigged, wig·ging** **1.** *Rare* To furnish with a wig or wigs. **2.** *Brit. Informal* To censure severely; berate or scold, esp. in public. [Short for PERIWIG]

wig·ging (wig′ing) *n. Brit. Informal* A rebuke; a scolding.

wig·gle (wig′əl) *v.t. & v.i.* **·gled, ·gling** To move or cause to move quickly and irregularly from side to side; squirm; wriggle. — *n.* A wiggling motion. — **to get a wiggle on** *Slang* To hurry up. [? < MLG *wiggelen*] — **wig′gly** *adj.*

wig·gler (wig′lər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which wiggles. **2.** The larva of a mosquito.

wig·wag (wig′wag′) *v.t. & v.i.* **·wagged, ·wag·ging** To send (a message) by moving hand flags, lights, etc., according to a code. — *n.* The act of wigwagging; also, a message so sent. [< dial. E *wig* to wiggle + WAG[1]] — **wig′wag′ger** *n.*

wig·wam (wig′wom, -wôm) *n.* **1.** A dwelling or lodge of the North American Indians, commonly a conical framework of poles covered with bark, hides, etc. **2.** *U.S. Informal* A public building used for political gatherings, mass meetings, etc. [< Algonquian (Ojibwa) *wigwaum,* lit., their dwelling]

wild (wild) *adj.* **1.** Inhabiting the forest or open field; not domesticated or tamed; living in a state of nature. **2.** Growing or produced without care or culture; not cultivated: *wild* flowers. **3.** Being without civilized inhabitants or cultivation; waste: *wild* prairies. **4.** Living in a primitive or savage way; uncivilized: the *wild* men of Borneo. **5.** Boisterous; unruly. **6.** Immoral; orgiastic: a *wild* affair. **7.** Affected with or originating violent disturbances; stormy; turbulent: a *wild* night, a *wild* crowd. **8.** Showing reckless want of judgment; extravagant: a *wild* speculation. **9.** Fantastically irregular or disordered; odd in arrangement or effect: a *wild* imagination, *wild* dress. **10.** Eager and excited, as by reason of joy, fear, desire, etc. **11.** Excited to frenzy or distraction; roused to fury or desperation; crazed or crazy: to drive one *wild.* **12.** Being or going far from the proper course or from the mark aimed at; erratic: a *wild* ball, a *wild* guess. **13.** In some card games, having its value arbitrarily determined by the dealer or holder. — **wild and wooly** *Informal* Untamed; reckless; boisterous. — *n. Often pl.* An uninhabited or uncultivated place; wilderness: the *wilds* of Africa. — **the wild** The wilderness; also, the free, natural, wild life: the call of *the wild.* — *adv.* In a wild manner: without control. [OE *wilde*] — **wild′ly** *adv.* — **wild′ness** *n.*

wild boar The native hog of continental Europe, southern Asia, North Africa, and formerly of Great Britain.

wild carrot An herb having filmy white flowers and from which the cultivated carrot is derived; also called *Queen Anne's lace.*

wild-cat (wīld′kat′) *n.* **1.** An undomesticated feline carnivore of Europe, resembling the domestic cat, but larger and stronger. **2.** The lynx. **3.** One of several other felines, as the ocelot and serval. **4.** An aggressive quick-tempered person, esp. a woman. **5.** An unattached locomotive and its tender, used on special work, as to haul trains, etc. **6.** A successful oil well drilled in an area previously unproductive. **7.** A tricky or unsound business venture; esp. a worthless mine: also **wildcat mine.** Also **wild cat.** — *adj.* **1.** Unsound; risky; esp. financially unsound or risky. **2.** Illegal made or carried on without official sanction or authorization. **3.** Not running on a schedule; also, running wild or without control, as a railroad train or engine. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·cat·ted ·cat·ting** To drill for oil in (an area not known to be productive). — **wild′cat′ting** *n. & adj.*

wildcat strike A strike unauthorized by regular union procedure.

wild-cat·ter (wīld′kat′ər) *n.* **1.** A promoter of mines of doubtful value. **2.** One who develops oil wells in unproved territory. **3.** One who manufactures illicit whisky.

wilde·beest (wil′də·bēst, wil′də-; *Du.* vil′də·bāst) *n.* A gnu [< Afrikaans < Du. *wild* wild + *beeste* beast]

wil·der·ness (wil′dər·nis) *n.* **1.** An uncultivated, uninhabited, or barren region. **2.** A waste, as of an ocean. **3.** A multitudinous and confusing collection: a *wilderness* of curiosities. [ME < OE *wilddēor* wild beast + -NESS]

wild-fire (wīld′fīr′) *n.* **1.** A raging, destructive fire: now generally in the phrase **to spread like wildfire.** **2.** A composition of flammable materials, or the flame produced by it, very hard to put out, as Greek fire. **3.** A phosphorescent luminousness; ignis fatuus.

wild-flow·er (wīld′flou′ər) *n.* Any uncultivated flowering plant; also, the flower of such a plant. Also **wild flower.**

wild-fowl (wīld′foul′) *n. pl.* **·fowl** (*esp. for def. 2*), or **·fowls** **1.** A wild game bird, esp. a wild duck or goose. **2.** *pl.* Wild game birds collectively. Also **wild fowl.**

wild-goose chase (wīld′gōōs′) **1.** Pursuit of the unknown or unattainable. **2.** Any strenuous and fruitless task.

wild-life (wīld′līf′) *n.* Wild animals, trees, and plants collectively.

wild oat **1.** *Usually pl.* An uncultivated grass, esp. a common species of Europe. **2.** *pl.* Indiscretions of youth: usu. in the expression **to sow one's wild oats.**

wild pansy The pansy in its uncultivated state; esp., a European species from which the garden pansy is derived.

wild pitch In baseball, a misplay charged to the pitcher for allowing a runner to advance by throwing a pitch that the catcher does not and could not be expected to catch.

wild rice The grain of a tall aquatic grass of North America, esteemed as a table delicacy.

wild turkey A large North American turkey formerly ranging east of the Rocky Mountains from southern Canada to Florida and Mexico, and first domesticated in Mexico, now rare in the wild state.

Wild West The western U.S., esp. in its early period of Indian fighting, lawlessness, etc.

wild·wood (wīld′wōōd′) *n.* Natural forest land.

wile (wīl) *n.* **1.** An act or a means of cunning deception; also, any beguiling trick or artifice. **2.** Craftiness; cunning. — *v.t.* **wiled, wil·ing** **1.** To lure, beguile, or mislead. **2.** To pass divertingly, as time: usu. with *away*: by confusion with *while.* [ME *wil,* prob. < Scand.]

wil·ful (wil′fəl), **wil·ful·ly, wil·ful·ness** See WILLFUL, etc.

will[1] (wil) *n.* **1.** The power of conscious, deliberate action; the faculty by which the mind makes choices and acts to carry them out. **2.** The act or experience of exercising this faculty. **3.** Strong determination; also, self-control. **4.** That which has been resolved or determined upon; a purpose. **5.** Power to dispose of a matter arbitrarily; discretion. **6.** *Law* The legal declaration of a person's intentions as to the disposal of his estate after his death. **7.** A conscious inclination toward any end or course; a wish. **8.** A request or command. — **at will** As one pleases. — *v.* **willed, will·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To decide upon; choose. **2.** To resolve upon as an action or course; determine to do. **3.** To give, devise, or bequeath by a will. **4.** To control, as a hypnotized person, by the exercise of will. **5.** *Archaic* To have a wish for. — *v.i.* **6.** To exercise the will. [OE *willa*] — **will′a·ble** *adj.*

will[2] (wil) *v.* Present: *3rd person sing.:* **will**; *Archaic 2nd person sing.* **wilt**; past: **would**; *Archaic 2nd person sing.* **would·est** or **wouldst.** An auxiliary verb used with the infinitive without *to,* or elliptically without the infinitive, to express: **1.** Futurity: They *will* arrive by dark. **2.** Willingness or disposition: Why *will* you not tell the truth? **3.** Capability or capacity: The ship *will* survive any storm. **4.** Custom or habit: He *will* sit for hours and brood. **5.** *Informal* Probability or inference: I expect this *will* be the main street. ◆ See usage note under SHALL. — *v.t. & v.i.* To wish or have a wish; desire: As you *will.* [OE *willan*]

willed (wild) *adj.* Having a will, esp. one of a given character: usu. in combination: *self-willed.*

will·ful (wil′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Bent on having one's own way; headstrong. **2.** Resulting from the exercise of one's own will; voluntary; intentional. Also, *esp. Brit.*, *wilful*. [Cf. OE *wilfullice* willfully] — **will′ful·ly** *adv.* — **will′ful·ness** *n.*

wil·lies (wil′ēz) *n.pl. Slang* Nervousness; jitters: with *the*. [? < WILLY-NILLY; with ref. to a state of indecision]

will·ing (wil′ing) *adj.* **1.** Having the mind favorably inclined or disposed. **2.** Answering to demand or requirement; compliant. **3.** Gladly proffered or done; hearty. **4.** Of or pertaining to the faculty or power of choice; volitional. — **will′ing·ly** *adv.* — **will′ing·ness** *n.*

will-o′-the-wisp (wil′ə·thə·wisp′) *n.* **1.** Ignis fatuus. **2.** Any elusive or deceptive object. —*adj.* Deceptive; fleeting; misleading. [Earlier *Will with the wisp*]

wil·low (wil′ō) *n.* **1.** Any of various shrubs and trees, having generally smooth branches and often long, slender, pliant, and sometimes pendent branchlets. **2.** The soft white wood of the willow. **3.** *Informal* Something made of willow wood, especially a baseball or cricket bat. —*adj.* Of or pertaining to the willow; made of willow wood. [OE *welig*] — **wil′low·ish** *adj.*

wil·low·y (wil′ō·ē) *adj.* **1.** Abounding in willows. **2.** Having supple grace of form or carriage.

will power Ability to control oneself; determination; strength or firmness of mind.

wil·ly-nil·ly (wil′ē·nil′ē) *adj.* Having no decisiveness; uncertain; irresolute. —*adv.* Willingly or unwillingly. [Earlier *will I, nill I* whether I will or not]

wilt[1] (wilt) *v.i.* **1.** To lose freshness; droop or become limp, as a flower that has been cut or that has not been watered. **2.** To lose energy and vitality; become faint or languid: We *wilted* under the hot sun. **3.** To lose courage or spirit; subside suddenly. —*v.t.* **4.** To cause to droop or wither. **5.** To cause to lose vitality and energy. —*n.* **1.** The act of wilting. **2.** Languor; faintness. **3.** *Bot.* Any of several plant diseases marked by a wilting of the leaves. [Prob. dial. var. of obs. *welk* to wither]

wilt[2] (wilt) Archaic second person singular, present tense of WILL[2]: used with *thou*.

Wil·ton (wil′tən) *n.* A kind of carpet having the loops of the pile cut, thus giving it a velvety texture. [after *Wilton*, England, where first made] Also **Wilton carpet, Wilton rug.**

Wilt·shire (wilt′shir) *n.* One of a breed of long-horned sheep. [after *Wiltshire*, England, where raised]

Wiltshire cheese A variety of Cheddar cheese.

wi·ly (wī′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** Full of or characterized by wiles; sly; cunning. — **wi′li·ly** *adv.* — **wi′li·ness** *n.*

wim·ble (wim′bəl) *n.* Anything that bores a hole, esp. if turned by hand, as a brace and bit. —*v.t.* **·bled, ·bling** To bore or pierce, as with a wimble. [< AF, OF *quimbel* < MLG *wiemel*]

wim·ple (wim′pəl) *n.* **1.** A cloth, as of linen or silk, wrapped in folds around the neck close under the chin and over the head, exposing only the face, formerly worn as a protection by women outdoors, and still by nuns. **2.** *Scot.* A fold; plait; also, a curve; a winding turn, as in a river or road. —*v.* **·pled, ·pling** *v.t.* **1.** To cover or clothe with a wimple; veil. **2.** To make or fold into plaits, as a veil. **3.** To cause to move with slight undulations; ripple. —*v.i.* **4.** To lie in plaits or folds. **5.** To ripple. [OE *wimpel*]

win (win) *v.* **won, won, win·ning** *v.i.* **1.** To gain a victory; prevail, as in a contest. **2.** To succeed in an effort or endeavor. **3.** To succeed in reaching or attaining a specified end or condition; get: often with *across*, *over*, *through*, etc.: The fleet *won* through the storm. —*v.t.* **4.** To be successful in; gain victory in: to *win* an argument. **5.** To gain in competition or contest: to *win* the blue ribbon. **6.** To gain by effort, persistence, etc.: to *win* fame. **7.** To obtain the good will or favor of: often with *over*. **8.** To secure the love of; gain in marriage: He wooed and *won* her. **9.** To succeed in reaching; attain. **10.** To make (one's way), esp. with effort. **11.** To capture; take possession of. **12.** To earn or procure, as a living. — **to win out** *Informal* To succeed to the fullest extent. —*n.* **1.** A victory; success. **2.** Profit; winnings. **3.** The first position in a race. [OE *winnan* to contend]

wince (wins) *v.i.* **winced, winc·ing** To shrink back or start aside, as from a blow or pain; flinch. —*n.* The act of wincing. [< AF *wenchier*] — **winc′er** *n.*

winch (winch) *n.* **1.** A windlass used for hoisting, as on a crane, having usu., one or more hand cranks geared to a drum. **2.** A crank with a handle, used to impart motion to a grindstone or the like. [OE *wince*] — **winch′er** *n.*

Win·ches·ter (win′ches·tər) *n.* Originally, a repeating rifle, first produced in 1866: now a trade name applied to other firearms. [after Oliver F. *Winchester*, 1810–80, U.S. industrialist]

wind[1] (wind; *for n., also poetic* wīnd) *n.* **1.** Any movement of air, esp., a natural movement. **2.** Any powerful or destructive wind; a tornado; hurricane. **3.** Air in motion by artificial means. **4.** Air pervaded by a scent: The deer got *wind* of the hunter. **5.** A suggestion or intimation: to get *wind* of a plot. **6.** The power of breathing; breath. **7.** Idle chatter; also, vanity. **8.** *pl.* The wind instruments of an orchestra. **9.** The gaseous product of indigestion; flatulence. — **in the wind** Impending; astir; afoot. — **in the wind's eye** Directly opposed to the point from which the wind blows. — **to break wind** To expel gas through the anus. — **to get wind of** To receive a hint of. — **to have in the wind** To be on the track or scent of. — **to have the wind up** To be apprehensive or alarmed. — **to sail close to the wind** **1.** To sail in a direction as near as possible to that from which the wind blows. **2.** To come near to the limit, as of a danger line. **3.** To live economically. —*v.t.* **1.** To follow by scent; to catch a scent of on the wind. **2.** To exhaust the breath of, as by running. **3.** To allow to recover breath by resting. **4.** To expose to the wind, as in ventilating. [OE]

wind[2] (wīnd) *v.* **wound** (*Rare* **wind·ed**), **wind·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To coil (thread, rope, etc.) around some object or fixed core; twine; wreathe. **2.** To cover with something by coiling or wrapping: to *wind* a spool with thread. **3.** To renew the motion of, as a clock, by coiling a spring, etc. **4.** To cause to turn and twist. **5.** To make (one's way) by a twisting course. **6.** To introduce carefully or deviously; insinuate: He *wound* himself into my confidence. **7.** To raise or hoist, as by means of a capstan or windlass. —*v.i.* **8.** To move in a twisting course; meander. **9.** To coil or twine about some central object or core. **10.** To move in a circular or spiral course. **11.** To proceed carefully, subtly, or deviously. — **to wind up** **1.** To coil or wind round and round. **2.** To excite; arouse. **3.** To bring to conclusion or settlement: He *wound up* his affairs. **4.** In baseball, to swing the arm preparatory to pitching. **5.** To hoist. —*n.* The act of winding, or the condition of being wound; a winding, turn, or twist. [OE *windan*] — **wind′a·ble** *adj.* — **wind′er** *n.*

wind[3] (wind, wind) *v.t.* **wind·ed** or **wound, wind·ing** **1.** To blow, as a horn; sound. **2.** To give (a call or signal), as with a horn. [< WIND[1]]

wind·age (win′dij) *n.* **1.** The rush of air caused by the rapid passage of an object, as a projectile or a railway train. **2.** Deflection of an object, as a bullet, from its natural course due to wind pressure. **3.** *Naut.* The surface offered to the wind by a vessel.

wind·bag (wind′bag′) *n. Informal* A wordy talker.

wind-blown (wind′blōn′) *adj.* **1.** Blown by the wind. **2.** Bobbed and brushed forward: said of a woman's hair.

wind-borne (wind′bôrn′, -bōrn′) *adj.* Carried or transported by the wind, as pollen.

wind·break (wind′brāk′) *n.* Something, as a hedge or fence, that protects from or breaks the force of the wind.

Wind·break·er (wind′brā′kər) *n.* A sports jacket with fitted waistband: a trade name. Also **wind′·break′er.**

wind-bro·ken (wind′brō′kən) *adj.* Asthmatic; broken-winded: said of a horse.

wind·ed (win′did) *adj.* Breathless, as from exercise.

wind·fall (wind′fôl′) *n.* **1.** A piece of unexpected good fortune; esp., a sudden and substantial financial profit. **2.** Something, as ripening fruit, brought down by the wind.

wind·flaw (wind′flô) *n.* A sharp gust of wind.

wind·flow·er (wind′flou′ər) *n.* The anemone. [Trans. of Gk. *anemōnē* anemone < *anemos* the wind]

wind gauge A scale on a gunsight to allow for windage (def. 2). Also **wind gage.**

wind·hov·er (wind′huv′ər) *n. Brit.* The kestrel, a bird.

wind·ing (wīn′ding) *n.* **1.** The act or condition of one who or that which winds; a spiral turning or coiling. **2.** A bend or turn, or a series of them. —*adj.* **1.** Turning spirally about an axis or core. **2.** Having bends or lateral turns. — **wind′ing·ly** *adv.*

winding sheet (wīn′ding) The sheet that wraps a corpse.

wind instrument (wind) A musical instrument whose sounds are produced by vibrations of air injected by the lungs or by bellows. Compare ORGAN, WOODWINDS, etc.

wind·jam·mer (wind′jam′ər) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* A merchant sailing vessel. **2.** A member of its crew.

wind·lass (wind′ləs) *n.* Any of several devices for hauling or lifting, esp. one consisting of a drum or barrel on which the hoisting rope winds, and turned by means of cranking. —*v.t. & v.i.* To raise or haul with a windlass. [< ME < ON < *vinda* wind + *ass* beam]

wind·mill (wind′mil′) *n.* **1.** A mill that operates by the action of the wind against adjustable slats, wings, or sails attached to a horizontal axis and that transmit motion to a pump, millstone, or the like. **2.** An imaginary wrong, evil, or foe: usu. in the phrase **to fight** (or **tilt at**) **windmills**, in allusion to Don Quixote's combat with windmills, which he mistook for giants. [< WIND[1] + MILL[1]]

win·dow (win′dō) *n.* **1.** An opening in the wall of a building to admit light and air, commonly equipped with movable sashes that enclose one or more panes of glass. **2.** A sash. **3.** A windowpane. **4.** Anything resembling or suggesting a window. — *v.t.* To provide with a window or windows. [< ON < *vindr* wind + *auga* eye]

window box A box, generally long and narrow, along a window ledge or sill, for growing plants.

win·dow-dress·ing (win′dō-dres′ing) *n.* **1.** The act or art of arranging merchandise attractively in store windows; also, the goods so displayed. **2.** An appearance, statement, etc., that gives an unduly favorable impression of reality. — **win′dow-dress′er** *n.*

win·dow-pane (win′dō-pān′) *n.* A single sheet of glass for a window. Also **window pane.**

window seat A seat in the recess of a window.

window shade A flexible shade or screen, usu., mounted on a spring roller, used to regulate light at a window.

win·dow-shop (win′dō-shop′) *v.i.* **-shopped, -shop·ping** To look at goods shown in store windows without buying them. — **win′dow-shop′per** *n.*

wind·pipe (wind′pīp′) *n.* The trachea.

wind·row (wind′rō′) *n.* **1.** A long ridge or pile of hay or grain raked together preparatory to building into cocks. **2.** A row of Indian corn made by setting two rows together. **3.** A wind-swept line of dust, surf, leaves, etc. — *v.t.* To rake or shape into a windrow. — **wind′row′er** *n.*

wind·shield (wind′shēld′) *n.* A transparent screen, usu. of glass, attached in front of the occupants of an automobile as protection against wind and weather.

wind·sock (wind′sok′) *n. Meteorol.* A large conical bag open at both ends, mounted on a pivot and indicating the direction of wind by the current of air that blows through it. Also **wind sleeve.**

Wind·sor chair (win′zər) A wooden chair, common in the 18th century, typically with a spindle back, slanting legs, and a flat or slightly depressed seat.

Windsor tie A wide, soft necktie knotted loosely in a double bow, usu. of black silk cut on the bias.

wind·storm (wind′stôrm′) *n.* A violent wind, usu. with little or no precipitation.

wind tunnel *Aeron.* A large cylindrical structure in which the aerodynamic properties of airplane models, airfoils, etc., can be observed under the effects of artificially produced winds of varying velocities.

wind-up (wīnd′up′) *n.* **1.** The act of concluding or closing. **2.** A final act or part; conclusion. **3.** In baseball, the swing of the arm preparatory to pitching the ball.

wind·ward (wind′wərd) *adj.* **1.** Of the direction from which the wind is blowing. **2.** Being on the side exposed to the wind. — *n.* The direction from which the wind blows. — *adv.* In the direction from which the wind blows. Opposed to *leeward.*

wind·y (win′dē) *adj.* **wind·i·er, wind·i·est** **1.** Of, consisting of, or abounding in wind; stormy; tempestuous. **2.** Exposed to the wind; wind-swept. **3.** Suggestive of wind; boisterous; swift. **4.** Producing, due to, or troubled with gas in the stomach or intestines; flatulent. **5.** Bombastic; pompous. [OE *windig*] — **wind′i·ly** *adv.* — **wind′i·ness** *n.*

wine (win) *n.* **1.** The fermented juice of the grape, commonly used as a beverage and in cooking. **2.** The fermented juice of some other fruit as the elderberry, or of a plant. **3.** A dark purplish red, the color of certain wines. — *v.* **wined, win·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To entertain with wine. — *v.i.* **2.** To drink wine. [OE < L *vinum*]

wine·bib·bing (win′bib′ing) *adj.* Addicted to excessive drinking of wine. — *n.* The habitual, excessive drinking of wine. — **wine′bib′ber** *n.*

wine cellar **1.** A storage place for wines; also, the wines stored. **2.** Any stock of wines.

wine-col·ored (win′kul′ərd) *adj.* Having the color of certain red wines; dark purplish red.

wine·glass (win′glas′, -gläs′) *n.* A small goblet for drinking wine.

wine·grow·er (win′grō′ər) *n.* One who cultivates a vineyard and makes wine. — **wine′grow′ing** *adj. & n.*

wine·press (win′pres′) *n.* An apparatus or a place where the juice of grapes is expressed. Also **wine′press′er.**

win·er·y (wī′nər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies** **1.** An establishment for making wine. **2.** A room for fining and storing wines.

Wine·sap (win′sap) *n.* A U.S. variety of red winter apple.

wine-skin (win′skin′) *n.* The skin of a domestic quadruped kept as entire as possible and made into a tight bag for containing wine, much used in the Orient.

wing (wing) *n.* **1.** An organ of flight; esp., one of the anterior movable pair of appendages of a bird or bat, homologous with the forelimbs of vertebrates but adapted for flight. **2.** An analogous organ in insects and some other animals. **3.** Anything resembling or suggestive of a wing, as in form or function. **4.** Flight or passage by or as by wings; also, the means or act of flying: to take *wing.* **5.** Something regarded as conferring the power of swift motion or flight: o *wings* of song. **6.** Either of two extremist groups in a politi cal or other organization: the left *wing.* **7.** *Archit.* A part at tached to a side; esp., an extension of a building. **8.** *Aeron* One of the main sustaining surfaces of an airplane. **9.** On of the sides of a stage; also, a piece of scenery for the side **10.** *Mil.* Either division of a military force on either side o the center. **11.** An analogous formation in certain sports, a football. **12.** A side section of something that shuts or folds as a screen, etc. **13.** A tactical unit of the U.S. Air Force larger than a group. **14.** *Slang* An arm; esp., in baseball **15.** One of the pectoral fins of a flying fish. **16.** *Anat.* Al ala: a *wing* of the nose. **17.** *Bot.* Any thin membranous o foliaceous expansion of an organ, as of certain stems, seeds etc. — **Syn.** See FACTION. — **on** (or **upon**) **the wing** **1.** I flight. **2.** Departing; also, journeying. — **to take wing** T fly away. — **under one's wing** Under one's protection. — *v.t.* **1.** To pass over or through in flight. **2.** To accomplis by flying: the bird *winged* its way south. **3.** To enable to fly **4.** To cause to go swiftly; speed. **5.** To transport by flight **6.** To provide with wings for flight. **7.** To supply with a sid body or part. **8.** To wound (a bird) in a wing. **9.** To disabl by a minor wound. — *v.i.* **10.** To fly; soar. [< ON *vængr* — **wing′less** *adj.*

wing chair A large armchair, upholstered throughout, with high back and side pieces designed as protection from drafts

wing commander In the Royal, Royal Canadian, and other Commonwealth air forces, a commissioned officer ranking next below group captain. See table at GRADE.

winged (wingd; *for defs. 1, 2, & 3, also poetic* wing′id) *adj* **1.** Having wings. **2.** Passing swiftly; soaring; lofty; rapt **3.** Alive with creatures having wings. **4.** *Informal* Wounded or disabled in or as in the wing or arm.

wing·spread (wing′spred′) *n.* The distance between the tips of the fully extended wings of a bird, insect, or airplane

wink (wingk) *v.i.* **1.** To close and open the eye or eyelids quickly. **2.** To draw the eyelids of one eye together, as in conveying a hint or making a sign. **3.** To pretend not to see usu. with *at.* **4.** To emit fitful gleams; twinkle. — *v.t.* **5.** To close and open (the eye or eyelids) quickly. **6.** To move force, etc., by winking: with *away, off,* etc. **7.** To signify o express by winking. — *n.* **1.** The act of winking. **2.** The time necessary for a wink. **3.** A twinkle; gleam. **4.** A hint conveyed by winking. — **forty winks** *Informal* A short nap. [OE *wincian* to close the eyes]

wink·er (wing′kər) *n.* **1.** One who winks. **2.** A blinder for a horse.

win·ner (win′ər) *n.* One who or that which wins.

win·ning (win′ing) *adj.* **1.** Successful in achievement, esp. in competition. **2.** Charming; attractive; winsome. — *n.* **1.** The act of one who wins. **2.** *Usu. pl.* That which is won; esp., money won in gambling. — **win′ning·ly** *adv.* — **win′ning·ness** *n.*

win·now (win′ō) *v.t.* **1.** To separate (grain, etc.) from the chaff by means of wind or a current of air. **2.** To blow away (the chaff) thus. **3.** To examine; analyse minutely; sift. **4.** To select or eliminate; distinguish; sort: often with *out.* **5.** To blow upon; cause to flutter. **6.** To beat or fan (the air) with the wings. **7.** To scatter by blowing; disperse. — *v.i.* **8.** To separate grain from chaff. **9.** To fly; flap. — *n.* **1.** Any device used in winnowing grain. **2.** The act of winnowing; also, a vibrating motion caused by a current of air. [OE < *wind* the wind] — **win′now·er** *n.*

win·some (win′səm) *adj.* Having a winning appearance or manner; pleasing; attractive. [OE < *wyn* joy] — **win′some·ly** *adv.* — **win′some·ness** *n.*

win·ter (win′tər) *n.* **1.** The coldest season of the year, occurring between autumn and spring. ◆ Collateral adjectives: *hibernal.* **2.** A period of time marked by lack of life, coldness, or cheerlessness. **3.** *Chiefly Poetic* A year of life: a man of ninety *winters.* — *v.i.* **1.** To pass the winter. — *v.t.* **2.** To care for, feed, or protect during the winter: to *winter* animals. — *adj.* **1.** Of or taking place in winter; hibernal. **2.** Suitable to or characteristic of winter. [OE] — **win′ter·er** *n.* — **win′ter·less** *adj.*

win·ter·green (win′tər·grēn) *n.* **1.** A small evergreen plant of North America, bearing a cluster of bell-shaped flowers, and aromatic oval leaves that yield a colorless volatile oil (**oil of wintergreen**), used as a flavor. **2.** Any of various low evergreen herbs.

win·ter·ize (win′tə·rīz) *v.t.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** To prepare or equip (engines, etc.) for winter.

win·ter-kill (win′tər·kil′) *v.t. & v.i.* To die or kill by exposure to extreme cold: said of plants and grains.

win·try (win′trē) *adj.* **·tri·er, ·tri·est** Belonging to winter; cold; frosty. Also **win′ter·y** (-tər·ē). [OE *wintrig*] — **win′tri·ly** (-trə·lē) *adv.* — **win′tri·ness** *n.*

win·y (wī′nē) *adj.* **win·i·er, win·i·est** Having the taste or qualities of wine.

wipe (wīp) *v.t.* **wiped, wip·ing** **1.** To subject to slight friction or rubbing, usu. with some soft, absorbent material. **2.**

To remove by rubbing lightly; brush: usu. with *away* or *off*. **3.** To move, apply, or draw for the purpose of wiping: He *wiped* his hand across his brow. **— to wipe out** To remove or destroy utterly. **—** *n.* **1.** The act of wiping or rubbing. **2.** *Slang* A blow; a swipe. **3.** *Slang* A handkerchief. **4.** *Slang* A jeer. [OE *wīpian*] **— wip'er** *n.*

wire (wīr) *n.* **1.** A slender rod, strand, or thread of ductile metal. **2.** Something made of wire, as a fence, a snare, etc. **3.** A telegraph or telephone cable. **4.** The telegraph system as a means of communication. **5.** A telegram. **6.** *pl.* A secret means of exerting influence. **— under the wire** Just in time or barely within the limits. **— under wire** Fenced. **—** *v.* **wired, wir·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To fasten with wire. **2.** To furnish or equip with wiring. **3.** To transmit or send by electric telegraph: to *wire* an order. **4.** To send a telegram to. **5.** To place on wire, as beads. **6.** To catch, as a rabbit, with a snare of wire. **—** *v.i.* **7.** To telegraph. [OE *wīr*]

wire-draw (wīr'drô') *v.t.* **-drew, -drawn, -draw·ing 1.** To draw, as a metal rod, through a series of holes of diminishing diameter to produce a wire. **2.** To treat (a subject) with excessive subtlety or overrefinement. **— wire'-draw'er** *n.*

wire gauge 1. A gauge for measuring the diameter of wire, usu. a round plate with calibrated numbered slots on its periphery, or a long graduated plate with a slot of diminishing width. **2.** A standard system of sizes for wire.

wire-haired terrier (wīr'hârd') A fox terrier having a wiry coat. Also **wire'hair'** (-hâr').

wire·less (wīr'lis) *adj.* **1.** Having no wire or wires. **2.** *Brit.* Radio. **—** *n.* **1.** The wireless telegraph or telephone system, or a message transmitted by either. **2.** *Brit.* Radio. **—** *v.t.* & *v.i. Brit.* To communicate (with) by wireless telegraphy.

wireless telegraphy Telegraphy without wires, the message being transmitted through space by electromagnetic waves.

wireless telephony The transmission and reception of vocal messages by radio.

Wire·pho·to (wīr'fō'tō) *n. pl.* **·tos** An apparatus and method for transmitting and receiving photographs by wire: a trade name. Also **wire'pho'to.**

wire·pull·er (wīr'pŏŏl'ər) *n.* **1.** One who pulls wires, as of a puppet. **2.** One who uses secret means to control others or gain his own ends; an intriguer. **— wire'pull'ing** *n.*

wire recorder *Electronics* A device for recording sounds by electromagnetic registration on a fine moving wire, the impulses being reconverted to sound as the magnetized wire is passed through a receiver.

wire service A news agency that collects and distributes news to subscribing newspapers, radio stations, etc.

wire-spun (wīr'spun') *adj.* **1.** Drawn out to form a wire. **2.** Spun or drawn out too fine; overrefined.

wire·tap (wīr'tap) *v.* **·tapped, ·tap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To intercept (information) by means of wiretapping. **—** *v.i.* **2.** To engage in wiretapping. **—** *n.* Wiretapping. [Back formation < WIRETAPPING] **— wire'tap·per** *n.*

wire·tap·ping (wīr'tap'ing) *n.* The act, process, or practice of tapping telephone or telegraph wires for the purpose of secretly securing information: also called *wiretap.*

wire·work (wīr'wûrk) *n.* **1.** Small articles made of wire cloth. **2.** Wire fabrics in general.

wir·ing (wīr'ing) *n.* An entire system of wire installed for the distribution of electric power.

wir·y (wīr'ē) *adj.* **wir·i·er, wir·i·est 1.** Having great resisting power; thin, but tough and sinewy: said of persons. **2.** Like wire; stiff. **— wir'i·ly** *adv.* **— wir'i·ness** *n.*

wis·dom (wiz'dəm) *n.* **1.** The power of true and right discernment; also, conformity to the course of action dictated by such discernment. **2.** Good practical judgment; common sense. **3.** A high degree of knowledge; learning. **4.** A wise saying. [OE *wisdōm* < *wīs* wise]

Wisdom of Solomon A book of the Old Testament Apocrypha, consisting of a hymn in praise of wisdom, ascribed by tradition to Solomon.

wisdom tooth The last molar tooth on either side of the upper and lower jaws in man, usu. appearing between the 17th and 22d year. For illus. see TOOTH. **— to cut one's wisdom teeth** To acquire mature judgment.

wise[1] (wīz) *adj.* **wis·er, wis·est 1.** Possessed of wisdom; having sound judgment. **2.** Sagacious; shrewd. **3.** Marked by wisdom; sensible. **4.** Having great learning; erudite. **5.** *Informal* Aware of; onto: *wise* to his motives. **6.** *U.S. Slang* Arrogant or sarcastic in manner; also, impudent. **— to get wise** *Slang* To know the true facts. **—** *v.t.* **wised, wis·ing** *Slang* To make cognizant of; inform. **— to wise up** *Slang* To make or become aware, informed, or sophisticated. [OE *wīs*] **— wise'ly** *adv.* **— wise'ness** *n.*

wise[2] (wīz) *n.* Way of doing; manner; method: chiefly in the phrases **in any wise, in no wise,** etc. [OE *wīse* manner]

-wise *suffix of adverbs* In a (specified) way or manner: *no-wise, likewise*: often equivalent to *-ways.* [OE *wise* manner]

◆ The suffix *-wise,* long considered archaic, has recently come back into fashion, and is now freely added to nouns, with the general meaning "with reference to": *Weather-wise,* it will probably snow. Such compounds often add no further information to a statement, and should be used with discretion.

wise·a·cre (wīz'ā'kər) *n.* **1.** One who affects great wisdom. **2.** A wise man; sage. [< MDu. *wijssegger* soothsayer]

wise·crack (wīz'krak') *Slang n.* A smart or supercilious remark. **—** *v.i.* To utter a wisecrack. **— wise'crack'er** *n.*

wish (wish) *n.* **1.** A desire or longing, usu. for some definite thing. **2.** An expression of such a desire; petition. **3.** Something wished for. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To have a desire or longing for; want: We *wish* to be sure. **2.** To desire a specified condition or state for (a person or thing): I *wish* this day were over. **3.** To invoke upon or for someone: I *wished* him good luck. **4.** To bid: to *wish* someone good morning. **5.** To request or entreat; also, to command: I *wish* you would be quiet. **—** *v.i.* **6.** To have or feel a desire; yearn; long: usu. with *for.* **7.** To make or express a wish. **— to wish on** To impose (something or someone) on a person. [OE *wȳscan*]

wish·bone (wish'bōn') *n.* The forked bone formed by the united clavicles in many birds. [from the old belief that when pulled apart by two persons, each making a wish, the one who gets the longer part will have his wish fulfilled]

wish·ful (wish'fəl) *adj.* Having a wish or desire; full of longing. **— wish'ful·ly** *adv.* **— wish'ful·ness** *n.*

wishful thinking Thinking characterized by a conscious or unconscious attempt to impose upon reality conditions that, if true, would make it more pleasant or tolerable.

wish-y-wash-y (wish'ē·wosh'ē, -wôsh'ē) *adj. Informal* **1.** Thin; diluted, as liquor. **2.** Lacking character or resolution; indecisive; weak.

wisp (wisp) *n.* **1.** A small bunch, as of hay, straw, or hair. **2.** A small bit; a mere indication: a *wisp* of vapor. **3.** Will-o'-the-wisp. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To dress, brush, or groom with a wisp or whisk. **2.** To fold and lightly twist into a wisp or wisplike form; crumple. [ME *wisp, wips*] **— wisp'y** *adj.*

wisp·ish (wis'pish) *adj.* Like or having the nature of a wisp.

wist (wist) Past tense and past participle of WIT[2].

wis·ter·i·a (wis·tir'ē·ə) *n.* Any of various woody twining shrubs of the bean family, with clusters of blue, purple, or white flowers. Also **wis·tar'i·a** (-târ'ē·ə). [after Caspar *Wistar,* 1761–1818, U.S. anatomist]

wist·ful (wist'fəl) *adj.* **1.** Wishful; longing. **2.** Musing; pensive. [Appar. < obs. *wistly* intently; infl. in form by WISHFUL] **— wist'ful·ly** *adv.* **— wist'ful·ness** *n.*

wit[1] (wit) *n.* **1.** The power of knowing or perceiving; intelligence; ingenuity. **2.** The power or faculty of rapid and accurate observation; the power of comprehending and judging. **3.** *pl.* The faculties of perception and understanding: to use one's *wits.* **4.** *pl.* The mental faculties with regard to their state of balance: out of her *wits.* **5.** The ready perception and happy expression of unexpected or amusing relations between apparently incongruous ideas. **6.** One who has a keen perception of the incongruous or ludicrous and makes skillful use of it in writing or speaking; also, a clever conversationalist. **7.** Significance; meaning. **— at one's wits' end** At the limit of one's devices and resources. [OE]

wit[2] (wit) *v.t.* & *v.i.* **wist, wit·ting** Present indicative: I **wot,** thou **wost,** he **wot,** we, you, they **wite(n)** *Archaic* To be or become aware (of); learn; know. **— to wit** That is to say; namely: used to introduce a detailed statement or explanation, especially in legal documents. [OE *witan* to know]

witch[1] (wich) *n.* **1.** A woman who practices sorcery; one having supernatural powers, esp. to work evil, and usu. by association with evil spirits or the devil. **2.** An ugly, malignant old woman; a hag. **3.** A bewitching or fascinating woman or girl. **—** *v.t.* **1.** To work an evil spell upon. **2.** To effect by witchcraft. **3.** To fascinate or bewitch; enchant. [OE *wicce* witch, fem. of *wicca* wizard]

witch[2] (wich) *n.* The wych-elm. [OE < *wīcan* to yield]

witch-craft (wich'kraft', -kräft') *n.* **1.** The practices or powers of witches or wizards, esp. when regarded as due to dealings with evil spirits or the devil: also called *black magic.* **2.** An instance of such practices. **3.** Extraordinary influence or fascination; witchery.

witch doctor 1. Among certain primitive peoples of Africa, a medicine man skilled in detecting witches and counteracting evil spells. **2.** Any medicine man or magician. **3.** One who professes to heal or cure by sorcery; a hex.

witch-elm (wich'elm') See WYCH-ELM.

witch-er·y (wich'ər·ē) *n. pl.* **·er·ies 1.** Witchcraft. **2.** Power to charm; fascination.

witches' Sabbath In medieval folklore, a midnight orgy of demons and witches, that in German folklore is believed to occur on Walpurgis Night.

witch hazel 1. A shrub of the U.S. and Canada, with several branching crooked trunks and small yellow flowers. 2. An ointment and extract derived from the bark and dried leaves of this shrub. Also *wychhazel*. [< WITCH² + HAZEL]

witch hunt *Informal* An investigation of persons ostensibly to uncover subversive activities, but intended for ulterior motives, such as harassing political opposition. — **witch-hunt·ing** (wich′hun′ting) *adj. & n.* — **witch-hunt·er** *n.*

witch·ing (wich′ing) *adj.* Having power to enchant; weird; fascinating. — *n.* Witchcraft; sorcery. — **witch′ing·ly** *adv.*

with (with, with) *prep.* 1. In the company of; as a member or associate of. 2. Next to; beside: Walk *with* me. 3. Having; bearing: a hat *with* a feather. 4. Characterized or marked by: the house *with* green shutters. 5. In a manner characterized by; exhibiting: to dance *with* grace. 6 Among: counted *with* the others. 7. During; in the course of: We forget *with* time. 8. From; so as to be separated from: to dispense *with* luxury. 9. Against: to struggle *with* an adversary. 10. In the opinion of: That is all right *with* me. 11. Because of; as a consequence of: faint *with* hunger. 12. In possession of: Leave the key *with* the janitor. 13. Using; by means or aid of: to write *with* a pencil. 14. By adding or having as a material or quality: trimmed *with* lace; endowed *with* beauty. 15. Under the influence of: confused *with* drink. 16. In spite of: *With* all his money, he could not buy health. 17. At the same time as: to go to bed *with* the chickens. 18. In the same direction as: to drift *with* the crowd. 19. In regard to; in the case of: I am angry *with* them. 20. Onto; to: Join this tube *with* that one. 21. In proportion to: His fame grew *with* his deeds. 22. In support of: He voted *with* the Left. 23. Of the same opinion as: I'm *with* you there! 24. Compared to; contrasted to: Consider this book *with* that one. 25. Immediately after: *With* that, he slammed the door. 26. Having received or been granted: *With* your consent I'll go. [OE]

with- *prefix* 1. Against: *withstand*. 2. Back; away: *withhold*. [OE *with-* < *with* against]

with·al (with·ôl′, with-) *Archaic adv.* With the rest; in addition. — *prep.* With: intensive form used after its object: a bow to shoot *withal*. [ME < *with* + *alle* all]

with·draw (with·drô′, with-) *v.* **·drew, ·drawn, ·draw·ing** *v.t.* 1. To draw or take away; remove. 2. To take back, as an assertion or a promise. 3. To keep or abstract from use. — *v.i.* 4. To draw back; retire.

with·draw·al (with·drô′əl, with-) *n.* The act or process of withdrawing. Also **with·draw′ment** (-mənt).

withdrawing room 1. A room behind another room for retirement. 2. A drawing room.

with·drawn (with·drôn′, with-) *adj. Psychol.* Lacking in responsiveness, esp. emotional responsiveness.

withe (with, with, with) *n.* 1. A willowy, supple twig. 2. A band made of twisted flexible shoots, straw, or the like. — *v.t.* **withed, with·ing** To bind with withes. [OE *withthe*]

with·er (with′ər) *v.i.* 1. To become limp or dry, as a plant when cut down or deprived of moisture. 2. To waste, as flesh. 3. To droop or languish. — *v.t.* 4. To cause to become limp or dry. 5. To abash, as by a scornful glance. [Appar. var. of WEATHER, v.]

with·ers (with′ərz) *n.pl.* 1. The highest part of the back of the horse between the shoulder blades. 2. The similar part in some other animals, as the deer and ox. [OE *wither* against; so called because the horse opposes this part against the load he pulls]

with·hold (with·hōld′, with-) *v.* **·held, ·hold·ing** *v.t.* 1. To hold back; restrain. 2. To keep back; decline to grant. — *v.i.* 3. To refrain; forbear. — **with·hold′er** *n.*

withholding tax A part of an employee's wages or salary that is deducted as an installment on his income tax.

with·in (with·in′, with-) *adj.* 1. In the inner part; interiorly. 2. Inside the body, heart, or mind. 3. Indoors. — *prep.* 1. In the inner or interior part or parts of; inside. 2. In the limits, range, or compass of (a specified time, space, or distance). 3. Not exceeding (a specified quantity): Live *within* your means. 4. In the reach, limit, or scope of: *within* my power. [OE < *with* with + *innan* in]

with·it (with′it) *adj. Slang* 1. In touch with modern ways; hip. 2. Lively and fashionably up-to-date. Also **with it.**

with·out (with·out′, with-) *prep.* 1. Not having, as the result of loss, privation, negation, etc.; lacking: They are *without* a home. 2. In the absence of: We must manage *without* help. 3. Free from: *without* fear. 4. At, on, or to the outside of. 5. Outside of or beyond the limits of: living *without* the pale of civilization. 6. With avoidance of: He listened *without* paying attention. — *adv.* 1. In or on the outer part. 2. Out of doors. [OE < *with* with + *ūtan* out]

with·stand (with·stand′, with-) *v.* **·stood, ·stand·ing** *v.t.* 1. To oppose with any force; resist successfully. — *v.i.* 2. To endure. [OE < *with-* against + *standan* to stand]

with·y (with′ē, with′ē) *adj.* Made of withes; flexible and tough. — *n. pl.* **with·ies** 1. A rope made of withes. 2. A flexible twig; withe. [OE *withig*]

wit·less (wit′lis) *adj.* Lacking in wit; foolish. [OE *witleas*] — **wit′less·ly** *adv.* — **wit′less·ness** *n.*

wit·ling (wit′ling) *n.* One who considers himself a wit.

wit·ness (wit′nis) *n.* 1. A person who has seen or knows something, and is therefore competent to give evidence concerning it; a spectator. 2. That which serves as or furnishes evidence or proof. 3. *Law* a One who has knowledge of facts relating to a given cause and is subpoenaed to testify. b A person who has signed his name to an instrument executed by another in order that he may testify to the genuineness of the maker's signature. 4. An attestation to a fact or an event; testimony: usu. in the phrase **to bear witness.** — *v.t.* 1. To see or know by personal experience. 2. To furnish or serve as evidence of. 3. To give testimony to. 4. To be the site or scene of: This spot has *witnessed* many heinous crimes. 5. *Law* To see the execution of (an instrument) and subscribe to it for the purpose of establishing its authenticity. — *v.i.* 6. To give evidence; testify. [OE *witnes* knowledge, testimony] — **wit′ness·er** *n.*

witness stand The place in a courtroom from which a witness gives evidence.

wit·ted (wit′id) *adj.* 1. Having wit. 2. Having (a specified kind of) wit: used in combination: quick-*witted*.

wit·ti·cism (wit′ə·siz′əm) *n.* A witty saying. [< WITTY, on analogy with *criticism*; coined by Dryden]

wit·ting (wit′ing) *adj.* Done consciously, with knowledge and responsibility; deliberate. [< WIT³] — **wit′ting·ly** *adv.*

wit·ty (wit′ē) *adj.* **·ti·er, ·ti·est** 1. Given to making original or clever speeches; quick at repartee; humorous. 2. Displaying or full of wit. — **Syn.** See HUMOROUS. [OE *wittig* wise] — **wit′ti·ly** *adv.* — **wit′ti·ness** *n.*

wives (wīvz) Plural of WIFE.

wiz (wiz) *n. Slang* A wizard (def. 2). [Short for WIZARD]

wiz·ard (wiz′ərd) *n.* 1. A male witch; sorcerer. 2. *Informal* A very skillful or clever person: He's a *wizard* with machinery. — *adj.* 1. Having magical powers. 2. Fascinating; enchanting. [ME < OE *wīs* wise]

wiz·ard·ry (wiz′ərd·rē) *n.* The practice or methods of a wizard.

wiz·en (wiz′ən) *v.t. & v.i.* To become or cause to become withered; shrivel. — *adj.* Wizened; shrunken; shriveled. [OE *wisnian* to dry up, wither]

wiz·ened (wiz′ənd) *adj.* Shrunken; withered; dried up.

woad (wōd) *n.* 1. An Old World herb of the mustard family. 2. The blue dyestuff obtained from its leaves. [OE *wād*] — **woad′ed** *adj.*

wob·ble (wob′əl) *v.* **·bled, ·bling** *v.i.* 1. To move or sway unsteadily, as a top while rotating at a low speed. 2. To show indecision or unsteadiness; waver; vacillate. — *v.t.* 3. To cause to wobble. — *n.* An unsteady motion, as that of unevenly balanced rotating bodies. Also spelled *wabble*. [? < LG *wabbeln*] — **wob′bler** *n.* — **wob′bling·ly** *adv.* — **wob′bly** *adj.*

wob·bly (wob′lē) *n. pl.* **·blies** *U.S. Slang* A member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

Wo·den (wōd′n) The Old English name for Odin, the chief Norse god. Also **Wo′dan.**

woe (wō) *n.* 1. Overwhelming sorrow; grief. 2. Heavy affliction or calamity; disaster. — *interj.* Alas! Also *Archaic* **wo.** [OE *wā* misery]

woe·be·gone (wō′bi·gôn′, -gon′) *adj.* Overcome with woe; mournful; sorrowful. Also **wo′be·gone′.**

woe·ful (wō′fəl) *adj.* 1. Accompanied by or causing woe; direful. 2. Expressive of sorrow; doleful. 3. Paltry; miserable; mean. — **woe′ful·ly** *adv.* — **woe′ful·ness** *n.*

wok (wok) *n.* A bowl-shaped pan used esp. in Chinese cooking. [< Cantonese]

woke (wōk) Past tense of WAKE¹.

wok·en (wō′kən) Dialectal and alternative British past participle of WAKE¹.

wold (wōld) *n.* An undulating tract of open upland; down or moor. [OE *wald* forest]

wolf (wōolf) *n. pl.* **wolves** (wōolvz) 1. Any of numerous carnivorous mammals related to the dog, especially the common European species or the timber wolf of North America. ◆ Collateral adjective: *lupine*. 2. Any ravenous, cruel, or rapacious person or thing. 3. *Slang* A man who habitually and aggressively flirts with women; a philanderer. — **to cry wolf** To give a false alarm. — **to keep the wolf from the door** To avert want or starvation. — *v.t.* To devour ravenously; gulp down: He *wolfed* his food. [OE *wulf*]

wolf·ber·ry (wōolf′ber′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A shrub of the honeysuckle family, with pinkish flowers and white berries.

wolf·hound (wōolf′hound′) *n.* Either of two breeds of large dogs, the Russian wolfhound (or borzoi) and the Irish wolfhound, originally trained to hunt and kill wolves.

wolf·ish (wōol′fish) *adj.* 1. Having the qualities of a wolf; rapacious; savage. 2. *Informal* Ravenously hungry. — **wolf′ish·ly** *adv.* — **wolf′ish·ness** *n.*

wolf·ram (wōol′frəm) *n.* 1. Wolframite. 2. Tungsten. [< G, prob. < *wolf* wolf + *rahm* cream, soot]

wolf·ram·ite (wŏŏl′frəm·it) *n.* A grayish black or brown mineral of iron and magnesium, an important source of tungsten. [< G < *wolfram* tungsten]

wolf's-bane (wŏŏlfs′bān′) *n.* **1.** Aconite. **2.** A species of European arnica, a perennial herb, used as a lotion for bruises. [Trans. of NL *lycoctonum* < Gk. < *lykos* wolf + *kteinein* to kill]

wolv·er (wŏŏl′vər) *n.* One who hunts wolves.

wol·ver·ine (wŏŏl′və·rēn′) *n.* A rapacious carnivore of northern forests, with stout body and limbs and bushy tail. Also **wol′ver·ene′**. [Dim. of WOLF]

WOLVERINE (To 3 feet long; tail to 1½ feet.)

Wolverine State Nickname of Michigan.

wolves (wŏŏlvz) Plural of WOLF.

wom·an (wŏŏm′ən) *n. pl.* **wom·en** (wim′·in) **1.** An adult human female. **2.** The female part of the human race; women collectively. **3.** Womanly character; femininity: usu. with *the*. **4.** As applied to a man, one who is effeminate, timid, or weak. **5.** A female attendant or servant. **6.** A paramour or kept mistress. **7.** *Informal* A wife. — **the little woman** *U.S. Informal* One's wife. — *adj.* **1.** Feminine; characteristic of women. **2.** Female: a *woman* doctor. **3.** Affecting or pertaining to women. [OE < *wīf* wife + *mann* human being]

wom·an·hood (wŏŏm′ən·hŏŏd) *n.* **1.** The state of a woman or of womankind. **2.** Women collectively.

wom·an·ish (wŏŏm′ən·ish) *adj.* **1.** Characteristic of a woman; womanly. **2.** Effeminate; unmanly. — **wom′an·ish·ly** *adv.* — **wom′an·ish·ness** *n.*

wom·an·ize (wŏŏm′ən·īz) *v.* **·ized, ·iz·ing** *v.t.* To make effeminate or womanish.

wom·an·kind (wŏŏm′ən·kīnd′) *n.* Women collectively.

wom·an·ly (wŏŏm′ən·lē) *adj.* Having the qualities natural, suited, or becoming to a woman; feminine. — *adv.* Like a woman. — **wom′an·li·ness** *n.*

womb (wōōm) *n.* **1.** The organ in which the young of higher mammals are developed; the uterus. **2.** The place where anything is engendered or brought into life. **3.** A cavity viewed as enclosing something. [OE *wamb* the belly]

wom·bat (wom′bat) *n.* An Australian nocturnal marsupial resembling a small bear. [< Australian]

wom·en (wim′in) Plural of WOMAN.

wom·en·folk (wim′in·fōk′) *n.pl.* Women collectively. Also **wom′en·folke′**.

won (wun) Past tense and past participle of WIN.

won·der (wun′dər) *n.* **1.** A feeling of mingled surprise and curiosity; astonishment. **2.** That which causes wonder; a strange thing; a miracle. — *v.t.* **1.** To have a feeling of doubt and strong curiosity in regard to. — *v.i.* **2.** To be affected or filled with wonder; marvel. **3.** To be doubtful; want to know. [OE *wundor*] — **won′der·er** *n.* — **won′der·ing** *adj.* — **won′der·ing·ly** *adv.*

won·der·ful (wun′dər·fəl) *adj.* Of a nature to excite wonder; marvelous. — **won′der·ful·ly** *adv.* — **won′der·ful·ness** *n.*

won·der·land (wun′dər·land′) *n.* A realm of fairy-tale romance or wonders.

won·der·ment (wun′dər·mənt) *n.* **1.** The emotion of wonder; surprise. **2.** Something wonderful; a marvel.

Wonder State Nickname for Arkansas.

won·der-strick·en (wun′dər·strik′ən) *adj.* Suddenly smitten with wonder or admiration. Also **won′der-struck′** (-struk′).

won·der-work (wun′dər·wûrk′) *n.* A work inspiring wonder. — **won′der-work′er** *n.* — **won′der-work′ing** *adj.*

won·drous (wun′drəs) *adj.* Wonderful; marvelous. — *adv.* Surprisingly. — **won′drous·ly** *adv.* — **won′drous·ness** *n.*

wont (wunt, wōnt) *adj.* Accustomed; used: He is *wont* to smoke after dinner. — *n.* Ordinary manner of doing or acting; habit. [OE pp. of *gewunian* to be accustomed]

won't (wōnt) Will not. [ME *woll not*]

wont·ed (wun′tid, wōn′-) *adj.* **1.** Commonly used or done; habitual. **2.** Habituated; accustomed. — **wont′ed·ness** *n.*

woo (wōō) *v.t.* **1.** To seek the love or affection of, esp. in order to marry; court. **2.** To entreat earnestly; beg. **3.** To invite; seek. — *v.i.* **4.** To pay court. [OE *wōgian*]

wood[1] (wŏŏd) *n.* **1.** The hard, fibrous material beneath the bark of a tree or shrub. **2.** Lumber; timber; firewood. **3.** *Often pl.* A large and compact collection of trees; a forest; grove. **4.** Something made of wood. **5.** *pl.* A rural district; backwoods. — **out of the woods** Clear of difficulties; safe after peril. — *adj.* **1.** Made of wood. **2.** Made for using or holding wood. **3.** Living or growing in woods. — *v.t.* **1.** To furnish with wood for fuel. **2.** To plant with trees. — *v.i.* **3.** To take on a supply of wood. [OE *wudu*] — **wood′ed** *adj.* — **wood′less** *adj.*

wood alcohol Methanol.

wood·bine (wŏŏd′bīn) *n.* **1.** The common honeysuckle of Europe. **2.** The Virginia creeper. Also called *bine*: also **wood′bind** (-bīnd). [OE < *wudu* wood + *bindan* to bind]

wood·block (wŏŏd′blok′) *n.* **1.** A block of wood prepared for engraving. **2.** A woodcut.

wood-chuck (wŏŏd′chuk′) *n.* A marmot of eastern North America, having a chunky body and a brown, bristly coat: also called *ground hog*. [By folk etymology < Ojibwa *wejack*]

wood·cock (wŏŏd′kok′) *n.* **1.** A small European game bird having the thighs entirely feathered. **2.** A related North American bird. [OE *wuducocc*]

wood·craft (wŏŏd′kraft′, -kräft′) *n.* **1.** Skill in things pertaining to woodland life, as hunting and trapping. **2.** Skill in woodwork or in constructing articles of wood. — **wood′·crafts′man** (-krafts′mən, -kräfts′-) *n.*

wood·cut (wŏŏd′kut′) *n.* **1.** An engraved block of wood. **2.** A print from such a block. Also called *woodblock*.

wood·cut·ter (wŏŏd′kut′ər) *n.* One who cuts or chops wood. — **wood′cut′ting** *n.*

wood·en (wŏŏd′n) *adj.* **1.** Made of wood. **2.** Like a block of wood; stupid; mechanical; stiff; awkward. **3.** Dull; spiritless. — **wood′en·ly** *adv.* — **wood′en·ness** *n.*

wood engraving **1.** The art of cutting designs on wood for printing. **2.** A woodcut. — **wood engraver**

wood·en·head (wŏŏd′n·hed′) *n. Informal* A stupid person; blockhead. — **wood′en-head′ed** *adj.*

wooden horse Trojan horse.

wood·en·ware (wŏŏd′n·wâr′) *n.* Dishes, vessels, bowls, etc., made of wood.

wood·house (wŏŏd′hous′) *n.* A house or shed for storing firewood: also called *woodshed*.

wood·land (wŏŏd′lənd; *for n., also* wŏŏd′land′) *n.* Land occupied by or covered with woods or trees. — *adj.* Belonging to or dwelling in the woods. — **wood′land·er** *n.*

wood louse Any of numerous small terrestrial flat-bodied crustaceans commonly found under old logs.

wood·man (wŏŏd′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A woodsman.

wood·note (wŏŏd′nōt′) *n.* A simple, artless, or natural song, as of a wild bird.

wood nymph A nymph of the forest; a dryad.

wood·peck·er (wŏŏd′pek′ər) *n.* Any of various birds having stiff tail feathers for climbing, strong claws, and a sharp, chisellike bill for drilling holes in the wood of trees, etc., in search of insects.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (To 9¼ inches long)

wood·pile (wŏŏd′pīl′) *n.* A pile of wood, esp. of wood cut for burning.

wood pulp Wood reduced to pulp, used for making paper.

woods·man (wŏŏdz′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) **1.** A woodcutter; lumberman. **2.** A forester; also, a dweller in forests. **3.** A man skilled in woodcraft. **4.** A hunter of forest game. Also called *woodman*.

wood sorrel A herb having purple, rose, or white flowers.

woods·y (wŏŏd′zē) *adj.* **woods·i·er, woods·i·est** *Informal* Of, like, or dwelling in the woods.

wood tar A tar produced by the dry distillation of wood and containing turpentine, resins, and other hydrocarbons.

wood thrush A large woodland thrush of North America, noted for the vigor and sweetness of its song.

wood·turn·ing (wŏŏd′tûr′ning) *n.* The process or art of shaping blocks of wood on a lathe. — **wood′turn′er** *n.*

wood·winds (wŏŏd′windz′) *n.pl. Music* Instruments in which a player's breath sets an air column into vibration by passing through a reed or striking a sharp edge, as oboes, bassoons, clarinets, flutes, etc. — **wood′wind′** *adj.*

wood·work (wŏŏd′wûrk′) *n.* **1.** The wooden parts of any structure, esp. interior wooden parts, as moldings or doors. **2.** Work made of wood. — **wood′work′er** *n.* — **wood′·work′ing** *n.*

wood·y (wŏŏd′ē) *adj.* **wood·i·er, wood·i·est** **1.** Of the nature of or containing wood. **2.** Of or like wood. **3.** Wooded; abounding with woods. — **wood′i·ness** *n.*

woof (wŏŏf) *n.* **1.** The weft; the threads carried back and forth across the fixed threads of the warp in a loom. **2.** The texture of a fabric. [OE < *on* on + *wefan* to weave]

woof·er (wŏŏf′ər) *n. Electronics* A loudspeaker used to reproduce low frequencies in high-fidelity sound equipment. [< WOOF, imit. of a dog's growl]

wool (wŏŏl) *n.* **1.** The soft, curly or crisped hair obtained from the fleece of sheep and some allied animals. **2.** The underfur of a furbearing animal. **3.** Material or garments made of wool. **4.** A substance resembling wool. — **all wool and a yard wide** One hundred percent genuine. — **to pull**

the wool over one's eyes To deceive one. — *adj.* Of or made of wool or woolen material. [OE *wull*]

wool·clip (wo͝ol′klip′) *n.* The amount of wool clipped from the sheep in one year.

wool·en (wo͝ol′ən) *adj.* **1.** Made of wool; like wool. **2.** Of wool or its manufacture. — *n.pl.* Woolen cloth or clothing. Also **wool′len**. [OE *wullen, wyllen*]

wool·gath·er·ing (wo͝ol′gath′ər·ing) *n.* Any trivial or purposeless employment; esp., idle reverie. — *adj.* Idly indulging in fancies. — **wool′gath′er·er** *n.*

wool·grow·er (wo͝ol′grō′ər) *n.* A person who raises sheep for the production of wool. — **wool′grow′ing** *adj.*

wool·ly (wo͝ol′ē) *adj.* ·**li·er**, ·**li·est** **1.** Made of, covered with, or resembling wool; wool-bearing. **2.** Soft and vaporous; lacking clearness; fuzzy; blurry. **3.** Having a growth of woollike hairs. **4.** Rough and exciting: usu. in the phrase **wild and woolly**. — *n.* *pl.* ·**lies** A garment made of wool; esp., underwear. Also *esp. U.S.* **wool′y**. — **wool′li·ness** *n.*

wool·sack (wo͝ol′sak′) *n.* **1.** A sack of wool. **2.** The chair of the lord chancellor in the English House of Lords, a cushion stuffed with wool. **3.** The office of lord high chancellor.

wooz·y (wo͞o′zē) *adj.* **wooz·i·er, wooz·i·est** *Slang* Befuddled, esp. with drink; dazed. [Prob. < *wooze*, var. of OOZE] — **wooz′i·ly** *adv.* — **wooz′i·ness** *n.*

Worces·ter·shire sauce (wo͝os′tər·shir) A piquant sauce made from vinegar and many other ingredients. Also **Worcestershire, Worcester sauce.** [after *Worcester*, England where originally made]

word (wûrd) *n.* **1.** A linguistic form that can meaningfully be spoken in isolation. **2.** The letters or characters that stand for such a linguistic form. **3.** A mere sequence of sounds or letters; vocable: *words* rather than ideas. **4.** *Usu. pl.* Conversation; talk: a man of few *words*. **5.** A brief remark. **6.** A short and pithy saying. **7.** A communication or message; information: Send him *word*. **8.** A command, signal, or direction: Give the *word* to start. **9.** A promise; avowed intention: a man of his *word*. **10.** A watchword. **11.** *pl.* Language used in anger, rebuke, or otherwise emotionally: They had *words*. — **by word of mouth** Orally. — **in a word** In short; briefly. — **the Word** The Scriptures. — **to be as good as one's word** To keep one's promise. — **to break one's word** To violate one's promise. — **to eat one's words** To retract something that one has said. — **to have a word with** To have a brief conversation with. — **to mince words** To be evasive; avoid coming to the point. — **to take one at his word** To understand or deal with one literally in accordance with his own statement. — **to take the words out of one's mouth** To say what one was just about to say. — *v.t.* To express in a word or words, esp. in selected words; phrase. [OE]

word·age (wûr′dij) *n.* Words collectively.

word·book (wûrd′bo͝ok′) *n.* **1.** A collection of words; vocabulary; lexicon; dictionary. **2.** An opera libretto.

word for word In the exact words; literally; verbatim.

word·i·ness (wûr′dē·nis) *n.* The use of excessive words.

word·ing (wûr′ding) *n.* The act or style of expressing in words; phraseology; also, words used; expression.

word·less (wûrd′lis) *adj.* Having no words; inarticulate; silent. — **word′less·ly** *adv.* — **word′less·ness** *n.*

word order The sequence or order of words in a phrase, clause, or sentence.

word play **1.** Fencing with words; repartee. **2.** Subtle discussion on words and their meaning. **3.** Play on words.

word square An arrangement of letters in rectangular form, so that they form the same words in either horizontal or vertical lines.

FRET
REAR
EASE
TREE

WORD SQUARE

word·y (wûr′dē) *adj.* **word·i·er, word·i·est** **1.** Of the nature of words; verbal. **2.** Expressed in many words. **3.** Given to the use of words; verbose; prolix. [OE *wordig*] — **word′i·ly** *adv.*

wore (wôr, wōr) Past tense of WEAR[1] and WEAR[3].

work (wûrk) *n.* **1.** Continued exertion or activity, whether physical or mental, directed to some purpose or end; labor. **2.** The acts, obligations, etc., that one does or undertakes in return for something of value, as money; esp., the activities by which one earns one's livelihood; occupation. **3.** A job or position; employment: to look for *work*. **4.** A place of employment: Is he at home or at *work*? **5.** That upon which labor is expended; task. **6.** Exhausting or unrewarding effort; toil. **7.** The matter at hand; the business that remains to be done: Get to *work*. **8.** That which is produced by or as by labor, as an engineering structure, a design produced by a needle, etc.; also, a product of mental labor, as a book or opera. **9.** A feat or deed. **10.** *pl.* (*usu. construed as sing.*) A manufacturing or other industrial establishment, including buildings and equipment: a gas *works*. **11.** *pl.* Running gear or machinery, as of a watch. **12.** Manner of working, or style of treatment; workmanship. **13.** *pl. Slang* The whole of anything: the whole *works*. **14.** *pl. Theol.* Moral duties considered as external acts, especially as meritorious. **15.** *Physics* A transference of energy from one body to another resulting in the motion or displacement of the body acted upon, expressed as the product of the force and the amount of displacement in the line of its action. — **in the works** *Informal* In progress or in preparation. — **to give (someone) the works** *Slang* **1.** To maul or kill. **2.** To be severe with. — **to shoot the works** *Slang* To make a supreme effort; risk one's all in a single attempt. — *v.* **worked** (*Archaic* **wrought**), **work·ing** *v.i.* **1.** To perform work; labor; toil. **2.** To be employed in some trade or business. **3.** To perform a function; operate: The machine *works* well. **4.** To prove effective; succeed: His stratagem *worked*. **5.** To move or progress gradually or with difficulty: He *worked* up in his profession. **6.** To become as specified, as by gradual motion: The bolts *worked* loose. **7.** To have some slight improper motion in functioning: The wheel *works* on the shaft. **8.** To move from nervousness or agitation: His features *worked* with passion. **9.** To undergo kneading, hammering, etc.; be shaped: Copper *works* easily. **10.** To ferment. **11.** *Naut.* To labor in a heavy sea so as to loosen seams and fastenings: said of a ship. — *v.t.* **12.** To cause or bring about; accomplish: to *work* a miracle. **13.** To direct the operation of: to *work* a machine. **14.** To make or shape by toil or skill. **15.** To prepare, as by manipulating, hammering, etc.: to *work* dough. **16.** To decorate, as with embroidery or inlaid work. **17.** To cause to be productive, as by toil: to *work* a mine. **18.** To cause to do work: He *works* his employees too hard. **19.** To cause to be as specified, usu. with effort: We *worked* the timber into position. **20.** To make or achieve by effort: He *worked* his way through the narrow tunnel. **21.** To carry on some activity in (an area, etc.); cover: to *work* a stream for trout. **22.** To solve, as a problem in arithmetic. **23.** To cause to move from nervousness or excitement: to *work* one's jaws. **24.** To excite; provoke: He *worked* himself into a passion. **25.** To influence or manage, as by insidious means; lead. **26.** *Informal* To make use of for one's own purposes; use. — **to work in** To put in; insert or be inserted. — **to work off** To get rid of, as extra flesh by exercise. — **to work on** (or **upon**) **1.** To try to influence or persuade. **2.** To influence or affect. — **to work out** **1.** To make its way out or through. **2.** To effect by work or effort; accomplish. **3.** To exhaust, as a mineral vein or a subject of inquiry. **4.** To discharge, as a debt, by labor rather than by payment of money. **5.** To develop; form, as a plan. **6.** To solve. **7.** To prove effective or successful. **8.** To result as specified: It *worked out* badly. — **to work over** **1.** To do again; repeat. **2.** *U.S. Slang* To beat up; maul. — **to work up** **1.** To excite; rouse. **2.** To form or shape by working; develop. [OE *weorc*]

-work *combining form* **1.** A product made from a (specified) material: *paperwork, brickwork*. **2.** Work of a (given) kind: *piecework*. **3.** Work performed in a (specified) place: *housework*. [< WORK]

work·a·ble (wûr′kə·bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being worked. **2.** Capable of being put into effect, as a plan; practicable. — **work′a·bil′i·ty, work′a·ble·ness** *n.*

work·a·day (wûrk′ə·dā′) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or suitable for working days; everyday. **2.** Commonplace; prosaic. [Alter. of ME *werkeday* < OE *weorca* work + DAY]

work basket A basket for holding sewing materials.

work·bench (wûrk′bench′) *n.* A bench for work, as that of a carpenter or machinist.

work·book (wûrk′bo͝ok′) *n.* **1.** A booklet based on a course of study and containing problems and exercises that a student works out directly on the pages. **2.** A manual containing operating instructions. **3.** A book for recording work performed or planned.

work·day (wûrk′dā′) *n.* **1.** Any day not a Sunday or holiday; a working day. **2.** The part of the day or number of hours of one day spent in work. — *adj.* Workaday.

work·er (wûr′kər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which does work; esp., a laborer. **2.** A female of an insect colony, as an ant, bee, or termite, with undeveloped sexual organs.

work force The total number of workers of a company, project, factory, region, etc.; staff. Also **working force.**

work·horse (wûrk′hôrs′) *n.* **1.** A horse used for pulling loads, as a cart or plow. **2.** A person who takes upon himself the hardest or most arduous part of an undertaking.

work·house (wûrk′hous′) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* A house for paupers able to work. **2.** An industrial prison for petty offenders.

work·ing (wûr′king) *adj.* **1.** Engaged actively in some employment. **2.** That works, or performs its function: This is a *working* model. **3.** Sufficient for use or action: a *working* knowledge of French. **4.** Relating to or occupied by work. **5.** Throbbing with pain; also, twitching: said esp. of the face muscles. **6.** Fermenting, as wine. — *n.* **1.** The act or operation of one who or that which works. **2.** *Usu. pl.* The part of a mine or quarry where excavation is going on or has gone on.

working capital **1.** That part of the finances of a business available for its operation. **2.** The amount of quick assets that exceed current liabilities.

working class The part of society consisting of working people paid in wages; esp., manual or industrial laborers. — **work·ing-class** (wûr′king·klas′, -kläs′) *adj.*

working day 1. A day on which work is normally done, as distinguished from a Sunday or holiday. 2. The number of hours constituting a day's work: a four-hour *working day*.

work·ing·man (wûr′king·man′) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-men′) A male worker; laborer.

working papers An age certificate and other official papers certifying that a minor may be legally employed.

work·ing·wom·an (wûr′king·wo͝om′ən) *n.* *pl.* **·wom·en** (-wim′in) A female worker; laborer.

work·less (wûrk′lis) *adj.* Jobless; unemployed.

work·load (wûrk′lōd′) *n.* The amount of work apportioned to a person, machine, or department over a given period.

work·man (wûrk′mən) *n.* *pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who earns his living by manual labor; an artisan; mechanic; workingman. — **work′man·ly** *adv.*

work·man·like (wûrk′mən·līk) *adj.* Like or befitting a skilled workman; skillfully done. — **work′man·ly** *adv.*

work·man·ship (wûrk′mən·ship) *n.* 1. The art or skill of a workman, or the quality of work. 2. The work or result produced by a worker.

workmen's compensation 1. Damages recoverable from an employer by an employee in case of accident. 2. Government insurance against illness, accident, or unemployment.

work of art 1. A product of the fine arts, esp. of the graphic arts and sculpture, but including literary and musical productions. 2. Anything likened to an artistic work, as because of great beauty, intricacy, etc.

work-out (wûrk′out′) *n.* *Informal* 1. A test, trial, practice performance, etc., to discover, maintain, or increase ability for some work or competition, as a practice boxing bout or race. 2. Any activity involving considerable effort or vigor.

work·room (wûrk′ro͝om′, -ro͝om′) *n.* A room where work is performed.

work·sheet (wûrk′shēt′) *n.* 1. A sheet of paper on which practice work or rough drafts of problems are written. 2. A sheet of paper used to record work schedules and operations.

work·shop (wûrk′shop′) *n.* A building or room where any work is carried on; workroom.

work stoppage A stopping of work, as in industry, because of a strike or layoff.

work·ta·ble (wûrk′tā′bəl) *n.* A table with drawers for use while working, esp. while sewing.

work·week (wûrk′wēk′) *n.* The number of hours worked in a week; also, the number of working hours in a week.

world (wûrld) *n.* 1. The earth. 2. A part of the earth: the Old *World*. 3. The universe. 4. A division of existing or created things belonging to the earth: the animal *world*. 5. The human inhabitants of the earth. 6. A definite class of people having certain interests or activities in common: the scientific *world*. 7. A sphere or domain: the *world* of letters. 8. Man regarded socially. 9. Public or social life and intercourse: to go out into the *world*. 10. The practices, usages, and ways of men: He knows the *world*. 11. A total of things as pertaining to or affecting an individual person: a child's private *world* of fantasy. 12. A great quantity, number, or size: a *world* of trouble. 13. A scene of existence or of affairs regarded from a moral or religious point of view; worldly aims, pleasures, or people collectively. 14. Earthly existence. — **for all the world** In every respect. — **on top of the world** *Informal* Elated. — **out of this world** *Informal* Very fine; extraordinarily good. — **to bring into the world** To give birth to. [OE *weorold, woruld*]

World Court 1. The Permanent Court of International Justice. 2. The International Court of Justice.

world·ling (wûrld′ling) *n.* One who lives merely for this world; a worldly-minded person.

world·ly (wûrld′lē) *adj.* **·li·er, ·li·est** 1. Pertaining to the world; mundane; earthly; not spiritual. 2. Devoted to temporal things; secular. 3. Sophisticated; worldly-wise. — *adv.* In a worldly manner. — **world′li·ness** *n.*

world-ly-mind·ed (wûrld′lē·mīn′did) *adj.* Absorbed in the things of this world. — **world′ly-min′ded·ly** *adv.* — **world′ly-mind′ed·ness** *n.*

world-ly-wise (wûrld′lē·wīz′) *adj.* Wise in the ways and affairs of the world; sophisticated.

world power A state or organization whose policy and action are of world-wide influence.

World Series In baseball, the games played at the finish of the regular schedule between the champion teams of the American and National Leagues, the first team to win four games being adjudged world champions. Also **world's series**.

world's fair An international exhibit of the folk crafts and arts, agricultural and industrial products, and scientific progress of various countries.

world-shak·ing (wûrld′shā′king) *adj.* Enormously significant or consequential; affecting the entire world.

World War See table for WAR.

world-wea·ry (wûrld′wir′ē) *adj.* **·ri·er, ·ri·est** Dissatisfied and weary with life and its conditions.

world-wide (wûrld′wīd′) *adj.* Extended or spread throughout the world.

worm (wûrm) *n.* 1. A small, limbless invertebrate with an elongated, soft, and usu. naked body, as a flatworm, roundworm, or annelid. ◆ Collateral adjective: *vermicular*. 2. Loosely, any small creeping animal having a slender body and short or undeveloped limbs, as an insect larva, a grub, etc. 3. That which suggests the action or habit of a worm as eating away or as an agent of decay, as remorse, death, etc. 4. A despicable, groveling, or abject person. 5. Something like a worm in appearance or movement. 6. *pl.* An intestinal disorder due to the presence of parasitic worms. — *v.t.* 1. To insinuate (oneself or itself) in a wormlike manner: with *in* or *into*. 2. To draw forth by artful means, as a secret: with *out*. 3. To free from intestinal worms. 4. *Naut.* To wind yarn, etc., along (a rope) so as to fill up the grooves between the strands. 5. To remove the worms from, as a dog. — *v.i.* 6. To move or progress slowly and stealthily. 7. To insinuate oneself by artful means: with *into*. [OE *wyrm*] — **worm′er** *n.*

worm-eat·en (wûrm′ēt′n) *adj.* 1. Eaten or bored through by worms. 2. Worn-out or decayed, as by time.

worm gear *Mech.* 1. A worm wheel. 2. The gear formed by a worm wheel together with a worm screw.

worm·hole (wûrm′hōl′) *n.* The hole made by a worm or termite, as in plants, timber, etc. — **worm′holed′** *adj.*

worm screw *Mech.* A short threaded portion of a shaft constituting an endless screw formed to mesh with a worm wheel.

worm wheel *Mech.* A toothed wheel gearing with a worm screw.

worm·wood (wûrm′wo͝od′) *n.* 1. Any of various European herbs or small shrubs related to the sagebrush; esp., a common species that is aromatic and bitter and is used in making absinthe. 2. That which embitters or makes bitter; bitterness. [Alter. of obs. *wermōd* < OE]

worm·y (wûr′mē) *adj.* **worm·i·er, worm·i·est** 1. Infested with or injured by worms. 2. Of or pertaining to worms. 3. Resembling a worm. 4. Mean; groveling. — **worm′i·ness** *n.*

worn (wôrn, wōrn) Past participle of WEAR. — *adj.* 1. Affected by use or any continuous action; as: a Threadbare: a *worn* suit. b Exhausted, as from worry, anxiety, etc.: a *worn* face. c Hackneyed: a *worn* phrase. 2. Used up; spent.

worn-out (wôrn′out′, wōrn′-) *adj.* 1. Used until without value or effectiveness. 2. Thoroughly tired; exhausted.

wor·ri·some (wûr′i·səm) *adj.* 1. Causing worry or anxiety. 2. Given to worry. — **wor′ri·some·ly** *adv.*

wor·ry (wûr′ē) *v.* **·ried, ·ry·ing** *v.i.* 1. To be uneasy in the mind; fret. 2. To pull or tear at something with the teeth: with *at*. 3. *Informal* To advance or manage despite difficulties: with *along* or *through*. — *v.t.* 4. To cause to feel uneasy in the mind; trouble. 5. To bother; pester. 6. To mangle or kill by biting, shaking, or tearing with the teeth. — *n.* *pl.* **·ries** 1. A state of anxiety or vexation. 2. Something that causes anxiety. 3. The act of worrying. [OE *wrygan* to strangle] — **wor′ri·er** *n.* — **wor′ri·ment** *n.*

worse (wûrs) Comparative of BAD and ILL. — *adj.* 1. Bad or ill in a greater degree; more evil, etc. 2. Physically ill in a greater degree. 3. Less favorably situated as to means and circumstances. — *n.* Something worse. — *adv.* In a manner more intense, severe, or evil. [OE *wiersa*]

wors·en (wûr′sən) *v.t.* & *v.i.* To make or become worse.

wor·ship (wûr′ship) *n.* 1. The adoration, homage, or veneration given to a deity. 2. The rites, ceremonial forms, prayers, etc., such adoration requires or assumes. 3. Excessive or ardent devotion or admiration. 4. The object of such devotion or admiration. 5. *Chiefly Brit.* A title of honor in addressing persons of rank or station: with *your, his*, etc. — *v.* **wor·shiped** or **·shipped, wor·ship·ing** or **·ship·ping** *v.t.* 1. To pay an act of worship to. 2. To have an intense or exaggerated admiration or devotion for. — *v.i.* 3. To perform acts or have sentiments of worship. [OE < *weorth* value] — **wor′ship·er, wor′ship·per** *n.*

wor·ship·ful (wûr′ship·fəl) *adj.* 1. Giving or feeling reverence or adoration. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* Worthy of or entitled to honor or respect: used as a title of respect for magistrates, etc. — **wor′ship·ful·ly** *adv.* — **wor′ship·ful·ness** *n.*

worst (wûrst) Superlative of BAD and ILL. — *adj.* Bad, ill, evil, harmful, etc., in the highest degree. — **in the worst way** *Slang* Very much. — *n.* That which is worst. — **at worst** By the most pessimistic estima . — **if (the) worst comes to (the) worst** If the worst imaginable thing comes to pass. — **to get the worst of it** To be defeated or put at

a disadvantage. — *adv.* In the worst or most extreme manner or degree. — *v.t.* To defeat; vanquish. [OE *wierrest*]

wors·ted (wo͝os′tid, wûr′stid) *n.* **1.** Woolen yarn spun from long staple, with fibers combed parallel and twisted hard. **2.** A fabric made from worsted yarns. — *adj.* Consisting of or made from this yarn. [after *Worsted*, former name of a parish in Norfolk, north of Norwich, England]

wort (wûrt) *n.* **1.** A plant or herb: usu. in combination: *liverwort*. **2.** The unfermented infusion of malt that becomes beer when fermented. [OE *wyrt* root, plant]

worth (wûrth) *n.* **1.** Value or excellence of any kind. **2.** The exchangeable or market value of anything. **3.** The quality or combination of qualities that makes one deserving of esteem. **4.** Wealth. **5.** The amount of something that can be had for a specific sum: three cents' *worth* of candy. — *adj.* **1.** Equal in value (to); exchangeable (for). **2.** Deserving of: to be *worth* seeing. **3.** Having possessions to the value of: He is *worth* a million. — **for all it is worth** To the utmost. — **for all one is worth** With every effort possible: to the utmost of one's capacity. [OE *weorth*]

— **Syn.** (noun) **1.** *Worth* and *value* relate to the merit or excellence of a person or thing. In pecuniary matters, the words are usually equivalent: to get one's money's *worth*, to receive good *value* in a purchase. *Worth* often implies some intangible merit or efficacy, while *value* has reference to a measurable or precisely definable quality: ideas of little *worth*, the *value* of a house and its lot.

-worth *combining form* Of the value of: *pennyworth*. [OE *weorth* worth]

worth·less (wûrth′lis) *adj.* Having no worth, value, dignity, virtue, etc. — **worth′less·ly** *adv.* — **worth′less·ness** *n.*

worth·while (wûrth′hwīl′) *adj.* Sufficiently important to occupy the time; of enough value to repay the effort. — **worth′while′ness** *n.*

wor·thy (wûr′thē) *adj.* **·thi·er, ·thi·est 1.** Possessing worth or value; deserving of respect or honor. **2.** Having such qualities as to be deserving of or adapted to some specified thing; suitable: followed by *of* (rarely *for*) or sometimes by an infinitive: He is *worthy* of our praise. — *n.* *pl.* **·thies 1.** A person of eminent worth. **2.** A person or character of local note: a humorous usage. [ME *wurthi*, *worthi*] — **wor′thi·ly** *adv.* — **wor′thi·ness** *n.*

-worthy *combining form* **1.** Meriting or deserving: *trustworthy*. **2.** Valuable as; having worth as: *newsworthy*. **3.** Fit for: *seaworthy*. [OE *wyrthe* worthy]

wot (wot) Present tense, first and third person singular, of WIT[2].

Wo·tan (vō′tän) In Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung*, Woden.

would (wo͝od) Past tense of WILL, but rarely a true past, rather chiefly used as a modal auxiliary expressing: **a** Desire or inclination: He *would* like to write. **b** Condition: He *would* give if he were able. **c** Futurity: He kept searching for something that *would* cure him. **d** Determination: He *would* not go. **e** Expectation or possibility: Letting him speak *would* have serious consequences. **f** Preference: We *would* have you succeed rather than fail. **g** Request: *Would* you give us a call? **h** Custom or habit: We *would* ride together each day. **i** Choice: He *would* never go if he could help it. **j** Uncertainty: It *would* seem to be wrong. ◆ See note under SHOULD. [OE *wolde*, pt. of *willan* to will]

would-be (wo͝od′bē′) *adj.* **1.** Desiring or professing to be: a *would-be* poet. **2.** Intended to be.

would·n't (wo͝od′nt) Would not.

wouldst (wo͝odst) Archaic or poetic second person singular of WOULD: used with *thou*.

wound[1] (wo͞ond, *Poetic* wound) *n.* **1.** A hurt or injury to the body, usu. one in which the skin is cut or torn, as a stab, cut, etc. **2.** A similar injury to a tree or plant. **3.** Any injury or cause of pain or grief, as to the feelings, honor, etc. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* To inflict a wound or wounds (upon); cause injury or grief (to). [OE *wund*] — **wound′less** *adj.*

wound[2] (wound) Past tense and past participle of WIND[3].

wove (wōv) Past tense and alternative past participle of WEAVE.

wo·ven (wō′vən) Past participle of WEAVE.

wow (wou) *interj.* *Informal* An exclamation of wonder, surprise, pleasure, pain, etc. — *n.* *Slang* Something that is extraordinarily successful, amusing, etc. — *v.t.* *Slang* To be extraordinarily successful with.

wrack[1] (rak) *n.* **1.** Ruin; destruction: chiefly in the phrase **wrack and ruin. 2.** A wrecked ship; wreckage. **3.** Marine vegetation and floating material cast ashore by the sea, as seaweed or eelgrass. — *v.t.* & *v.i.* To wreck or be wrecked. [Fusion of OE *wræc* revenge and MDu. *wrak* wreck]

wrack[2] (rak) *n.* See RACK[3].

wraith (rāth) *n.* **1.** An apparition of a person thought to be alive, seen shortly before or shortly after his death. **2.** Any specter, ghost, or apparition. [Origin unknown]

wran·gle (rang′gəl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.i.* **1.** To argue or dispute noisily; brawl. — *v.t.* **2.** To argue; debate. **3.** *U.S.* To herd or round up (livestock). — *n.* An angry dispute. [Cf. LG *wrangeln* to quarrel] — **wran′gler** *n.*

wrap (rap) *v.* **wrapped** or **wrapt, wrap·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To surround and cover by something folded or wound about; swathe; enwrap. **2.** To cover with paper, etc., folded about and secured. **3.** To wind or fold (a covering) about something. **4.** To surround so as to obscure; blot out or conceal; envelop. **5.** To fold, wind, or draw together. — *v.i.* **6.** To be or become twined or coiled: with *about*, *around*, etc. — **to be wrapped up in 1.** To be clothed in or enveloped by (something). **2.** To be totally absorbed, involved, or interested in (something). — **to keep under wraps** To keep secret. — *n.* **1.** An article of dress drawn or folded about a person; a wrapper. **2.** *pl.* Outer garments collectively, as cloaks, scarfs, etc. **3.** A blanket. [ME *wrappen*]

wrap·a·round (rap′ə·round′) *adj.* **1.** Designating a garment, as a skirt, dress, coat, etc., open down to the hem and made to fit by being wrapped around the body. **2.** Encircling or overlapping: a *wraparound* windshield.

wrap·per (rap′ər) *n.* **1.** A paper enclosing a newspaper, magazine, or similar packet for mailing or otherwise. **2.** A woman's dressing gown. **3.** One who or that which wraps.

wrap·ping (rap′ing) *n.* *Often pl.* A covering; something in which an object is wrapped.

wrath (rath, räth; *Brit.* rôth) *n.* **1.** Extreme or violent rage or fury; vehement indignation. **2.** An act done in violent rage, esp. in vengeance or punishment. [OE < *wrath* wroth]

wrath·ful (rath′fəl, räth′-) *adj.* **1.** Full of wrath; extremely angry. **2.** Springing from or expressing wrath. — **wrath′ful·ly** *adv.* — **wrath′ful·ness** *n.*

wrath·y (rath′ē, räth′ē) *adj.* **wrath·i·er, wrath·i·est** *Informal* Wrathful. — **wrath′i·ly** *adv.* — **wrath′i·ness** *n.*

wreak (rēk) *v.t.* **1.** To inflict or exact, as vengeance. **2.** To give free expression to (anger, hatred, etc.); vent. [OE *wrecan* to drive, avenge]

wreath (rēth) *n.* *pl.* **wreaths** (rēthz) **1.** A band or circle of flowers or greenery, often worn on the head as a crown or placed on a grave or at a door, window, etc. **2.** Any curled band of circular or spiral shape, as of smoke. [OE < *writhan* to bind, tie] — **wreath′y** *n.*

wreathe (rēth) *v.* **wreathed, wreath·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To form into a wreath, as by twisting or twining. **2.** To adorn or encircle with or as with wreaths. **3.** To envelop; cover: His face was *wreathed* in smiles. — *v.i.* **4.** To take the form of a wreath. **5.** To twist, turn, or coil, as masses of cloud. [< ME *writhen* to writhe]

wreck (rek) *v.t.* **1.** To cause the destruction or wreck of, as a vessel. **2.** To bring ruin, damage, or destruction upon. **3.** To tear down, as a building; dismantle. — *v.i.* **4.** To suffer wreck; be ruined. — *n.* **1.** That which has been ruined or destroyed. **2.** Property cast upon land by the sea, either broken portions of a wrecked vessel or cargo from it. **3.** The accidental destruction or ruin of a ship; also, the ship so destroyed. **4.** One who is physically, mentally, or morally unsound or ruined. **5.** The act of wrecking, or the state of being wrecked. [< AF < OF < ON *wrekan* to drive]

wreck·age (rek′ij) *n.* **1.** The act of wrecking, or the state of being wrecked. **2.** Broken or disordered remnants or fragments from a wreck.

wreck·er (rek′ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which causes wreck, destruction, or frustration of any sort. **2.** One employed in tearing down and removing old buildings. **3.** A person, train, car, or machine that clears away wrecks. **4.** One employed to recover disabled vessels or wrecked cargoes for the owners; also, a vessel employed in this service.

wreck·ing (rek′ing) *n.* The work or art of a wrecker. — *adj.* Of, engaged in, or used in pulling down buildings or in salvaging and clearing away wrecks.

wren (ren) *n.* **1.** Any of numerous small birds having short, rounded wings and a short tail, including the common house wren. **2.** Any of numerous similar birds. [OE *wrenna*]

wrench (rench) *n.* **1.** A violent twist. **2.** A sharp or violent twist or pull, as in the ankle, back, etc.; a sprain. **3.** Any sudden and violent emotion or grief. **4.** Any perversion or distortion of an original meaning. **5.** Any of various tools for twisting or turning bolts, nuts, pipe, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To twist violently; turn suddenly by force; wrest. **2.** To twist forcibly so as to cause strain or injury; sprain. **3.** To twist from the proper meaning, intent, or use. **4.** To strain or force the feelings, thoughts, etc., of: to *wrench* oneself away from pleasure. — *v.i.* **5.** To give a twist or wrench. [OE *wrenc* trick]

wrest (rest) *v.t.* **1.** To pull or force away by violent twisting or wringing; wrench. **2.** To turn from the true meaning, character, intent, or application; distort. **3.** To seize forcibly by violence, extortion, or usurpation. **4.** To extract by toil and effort: to *wrest* a living from barren soil. — *n.* **1.** An act of wresting. **2.** A misapplication or perversion. **3.** A crooked act. **4.** A key for tuning a stringed instrument, as a harp. [OE *wrǽstan*] — **wrest′er** *n.*

wres·tle (res′əl) *v.* **·tled, ·tling** *v.i.* **1.** To engage in wrestling. **2.** To struggle, as for mastery; contend. — *v.t.* **3.** To engage in (a wrestling match), or wrestle with. **4.** To

throw (a calf) and hold it down for branding. — *n.* **1.** A wrestling match. **2.** Any hard struggle. [OE *wrǣstlian*, freq. of *wrǣstan* to wrest] — **wres'tler** *n.*

wres·tling (res'ling) *n.* A sport or exercise in which each of two unarmed contestants endeavors to throw the other to the ground or force him into a certain fallen position.

wretch (rech) *n.* **1.** A base, vile, or contemptible person. **2.** A miserable or pitiable person. [OE *wrecca* outcast < *wrecan* to drive]

wretch·ed (rech'id) *adj.* **1.** Sunk in dejection; profoundly unhappy. **2.** Causing misery or grief. **3.** Unsatisfactory or worthless in ability or quality. **4.** Despicable; contemptible. — **wretch'ed·ly** *adv.* — **wretch'ed·ness** *n.*

wrig·gle (rig'əl) *v.* **·gled, ·gling** *v.i.* **1.** To twist in a sinuous manner; squirm; writhe. **2.** To proceed as by twisting or crawling. **3.** To make one's way by evasive or indirect means. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to wriggle. — *n.* The motion of one who or that which wriggles; a squirm. [< MLG *wriggeln*, freq. of *wriggen* to twist] — **wrig'gly** *adj.*

wrig·gler (rig'lər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which wriggles. **2.** A mosquito larva.

wright (rīt) *n.* One who constructs, contrives, or creates: used chiefly in compounds: *playwright*. [OE *wyrhta*]

wring (ring) *v.* **wrung** (*Rare* **wringed**), **wring·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To squeeze or compress by twisting. **2.** To squeeze or press out, as water, by twisting. **3.** To extort; acquire by extortion. **4.** To distress; torment. **5.** To twist or wrest violently out of shape or place: to *wring* his neck. — *v.i.* **6.** To writhe or squirm, as with anguish. — *n.* The act of wringing. [OE *wringan*]

wring·er (ring'ər) *n.* **1.** One who or that which wrings. **2.** A contrivance used to press water out of fabrics after washing; also, the operator of such a machine.

wrin·kle[1] (ring'kəl) *n.* **1.** A small ridge, crease, or fold, as on a smooth surface. **2.** A small fold or crease in the skin, usu. produced by age or by excessive exposure to the elements. — *v.* **·kled, ·kling** *v.t.* **1.** To make a wrinkle or wrinkles in, as by creasing, folding, crumpling, etc. — *v.i.* **2.** To be or become contracted into wrinkles or ridges. [OE *gewrinclod*, pp. of *gewrinclian* to wind] — **wrin'kly** *adj.*

wrin·kle[2] (ring'kəl) *n. Informal* A curious or ingenious method, idea, device, etc. [Prob. dim. of OE *wrenc* trick]

wrist (rist) *n.* **1.** The part or joint of the arm that lies between the hand and the forearm. ◆ Collateral adjective: *carpal*. **2.** The part of a glove or garment that covers the wrist. **3.** A wrist pin. [OE, prob. < *wrīthan* to writhe]

wrist·band (rist'band, -bənd, riz'-) *n.* The band of a sleeve that covers the wrist or ends a shirt sleeve; a cuff.

wrist·let (rist'lit) *n.* **1.** A flexible band worn on the wrist for warmth. **2.** A bracelet. **3.** *Slang* A handcuff.

wrist pin *Mech.* **1.** A pin holding together the piston and connecting rod of a steam engine. **2.** A similar pin in the cross-head of an internal-combustion engine.

wrist watch A watch set in a band or strap and worn at the wrist.

writ[1] (rit) *n.* **1.** *Law* A mandatory precept, under seal, issued by a court, and commanding the person to whom it is addressed to do or not to do some act. **2.** That which is written: now chiefly in the phrase *Holy Writ*, meaning the Bible. [OE, a writing < *writan* to write]

writ[2] (rit) Archaic or dialectal past tense and past participle of WRITE.

write (rīt) *v.* **wrote** (*Archaic* or *Dial.* **writ**), **writ·ten** (*Archaic* or *Dial.* **writ**), **writ·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To trace or inscribe (letters, words, numbers, symbols, etc.) on a surface with pen or pencil, or by other means. **2.** To describe in writing. **3.** To communicate by letter. **4.** *Informal* To communicate with by letter: He *writes* her every day. **5.** To produce by writing; be the author or composer of. **6.** To draw up; draft: to *write* a check. **7.** To cover or fill with writing: to *write* two full pages. **8.** To leave marks or evidence of: Anxiety is *written* on his face. **9.** To spell or inscribe as specified: He *writes* his name with two *n*'s. **10.** To entitle or designate in writing: He *writes* himself "General." **11.** To underwrite: to *write* an insurance policy. — *v.i.* **12.** To trace or inscribe letters, etc., on a surface, as of paper. **13.** To communicate in writing. **14.** To be engaged in the occupation of a writer or author. **15.** To produce a specified quality of writing. — **to write down** **1.** To put into writing. **2.** To injure or depreciate in writing. — **to write off** **1.** To cancel or remove (claims, debts, etc.) from an open account. **2.** To acknowledge the loss or failure of. — **to write in** **1.** To insert in writing, as in a document. **2.** To cast (a vote) for one not listed on a ballot by inserting his name in writing. — **to write out** **1.** To put into writing. **2.** To write in full or complete form. — **to write up** **1.** To describe fully in writing. **2.** To praise fully or too fully in writing. [OE *wrītan*]

write-in (rīt'in') *adj. Informal* Designating a method of voting whereby a name not formally on the ballot is written in by the voter. — *n.* In voting, a name thus written.

write-off (rīt'ôf', -of') *n.* **1.** A cancellation. **2.** An amount canceled or noted as a loss.

writ·er (rī'tər) *n.* **1.** One who writes. **2.** One who engages in literary composition.

writer's cramp *Pathol.* Spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the fingers and hand, caused by excessive writing. Also **writer's palsy** or **spasm.**

write-up (rīt'up') *n. Informal* A written description, record, or account, usu. laudatory, as of a town, manufacturing enterprise, or public institution.

writhe (rīth) *v.* **writhed, writhed, writh·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To cause to twist or bend; distort. — *v.i.* **2.** To twist or distort the body, face, etc., as in pain. **3.** To suffer acutely, as from embarrassment, anguish, etc. — *n.* An act of writhing. [OE *wrīthan*] — **writh'er** *n.*

writ·ing (rī'ting) *n.* **1.** The act of one who writes. **2.** The characters so made; handwriting. **3.** Anything written or expressed in letters; esp., a literary production. **4.** The profession or occupation of a writer. **5.** The practice, art, form, or style of literary composition.

writing paper Paper prepared to receive ink in writing.

writ·ten (rit'n) Past participle of WRITE.

wrong (rông, rong) *adj.* **1.** Not correct; mistaken; erroneous: a *wrong* estimate. **2.** Not suitable; inappropriate; improper: the *wrong* clothes; the *wrong* job. **3.** Not according to the right, proper, or correct method, standard, intention, etc.: the *wrong* way to do it. **4.** Not working or acting properly or satisfactorily: Something is *wrong* with the lock. **5.** Intended or made to be turned under, inward, or so as not to be seen: the *wrong* side of the cloth. **6.** Not desired or intended: the *wrong* road. **7.** Not favored by conventional social standards: the *wrong* side of town. **8.** Not morally right, proper, or just. **9.** Unsatisfactory: the *wrong* reply. — **to go wrong** **1.** To lapse from the strict path of rectitude. **2.** To turn out badly; go astray. — *adv.* In a wrong direction, place, or manner; erroneously. — *n.* **1.** That which is wrong, as an evil or unjust action. **2.** The state or condition of being wrong: to be in the *wrong*. **3.** *Law* An invasion or violation of one's legal rights. — *v.t.* **1.** To violate the rights of; inflict injury or injustice upon. **2.** To impute evil to unjustly; malign: If you think so, you *wrong* him. **3.** To seduce or dishonor (a woman). [OE < ON *rangr* awry, unjust] — **wrong'er** *n.* — **wrong'ly** *adv.* — **wrong'ness** *n.*

wrong-do·er (rông'dōō'ər, rong'-) *n.* One who does wrong. — **wrong'do'ing** *n.*

wrong·ful (rông'fəl, rong'-) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by wrong or injustice; injurious; unjust. **2.** Unlawful; illegal. — **wrong'ful·ly** *adv.* — **wrong'ful·ness** *n.*

wrong-head·ed (rông'hed'id, rong'-) *adj.* Stubbornly or perversely erring in judgment, action, etc. — **wrong'-head'ed·ly** *adv.* — **wrong'-head'ed·ness** *n.*

wrote (rōt) Past tense of WRITE.

wroth (rôth) *adj. Archaic* Filled with anger; furious; incensed. Also **wroth'ful** (-fəl). [OE *wrāth*]

wrought (rôt) Archaic past tense and past participle of WORK. — *adj.* **1.** Beaten or hammered into shape by tools: *wrought* gold. **2.** Worked; molded. **3.** Made with delicacy; elaborated carefully. **4.** Made; fashioned; formed: often in combination: *well-wrought*. — **wrought up** Excited; agitated. [ME < OE *geworht*, pp. of *wrycan* to work]

wrought iron Commercially pure iron, prepared from pig iron and easily forged and welded into various shapes.

wrung (rung) Past tense and past participle of WRING.

wry (rī) *adj.* **wri·er** or **wry·er, wri·est** or **wry·est** **1.** Bent to one side or out of position; contorted; askew: a *wry* smile. **2.** Deviating from that which is right or proper; warped. **3.** Perverse, ironic, or bitter: *wry* humor. — *v.t.* **wried, wry·ing** To twist; contort. [ME < OE *wrigian* to move, tend] — **wry'ly** *adv.* — **wry'ness** *n.*

wry·neck (rī'nek') *n.* **1.** A bird allied to the woodpeckers, with the habit of twisting its head and neck. **2.** *Pathol.* A spasmodic affliction that twists the neck muscles. — **wry·necked** (rī'nekt') *adj.*

Wy·an·dot (wī'ən·dot) *n.* *pl.* **·dot** or **·dots** **1.** One of a tribe of North American Indians of Iroquoian stock and descendants of Hurons, presently settled in Oklahoma. **2.** An Iroquoian language. Also spelled *Wyandotte*.

Wy·an·dotte (wī'ən·dot) *n.* **1.** One of an American breed of domestic fowls. **2.** *pl.* **·dotte** or **·dottes** A Wyandot. **3.** The Wyandot language. [after the *Wyandot* Indians]

wych-elm (wich'elm') *n.* A widespreading elm, common in the British Isles: also called *wich*, *witch*: also spelled *wich-elm*, *witch-elm*. Also **wych.** [< *wych*, var. of WITCH[2] + ELM]

wych-ha·zel (wich'hā'zəl) *n.* Witch hazel.

X

x, X (eks) *n.* *pl.* **x's** or **xs, X's** or **Xs, ex·es** (ek′siz) **1.** The twenty-fourth letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sounds represented by the letter *x*, in English variously sounded as (ks), as in *axle, box, next*; (gz), as in *executive, exert*; (ksh), as in *noxious*; (gzh), as in *luxurious*; and initially, always (z), as in *xenophobe, xylophone*. **3.** Anything shaped like an X. **4.** An unknown quantity, factor, result, etc. — *symbol* **1.** The Roman numeral ten. **2.** A mark shaped like an X, representing the signature of one who cannot write. **3.** A mark used in diagrams, maps, etc., to place some event or substance, or to point out something to be emphasized. **4.** A symbol used to indicate a kiss. **5.** Christ: an abbreviation used in combination: *Xmas*.

xan·the·in (zan′thē·in) *n.* *Biochem.* The water-soluble portion of the yellow coloring matter found in the cell sap of some plants. [< F < Gk. *xanthos* yellow]

xan·thic (zan′thik) *adj.* Having a yellow or yellowish color. [< F < Gk. *xanthos* yellow]

xan·thine (zan′thēn, -thin) *n.* *Biochem.* A crystalline nitrogenous compound, $C_5H_4N_4O_2$, contained in blood, urine, and other animal secretions, and in some plants.

xantho- *combining form* Yellow. Also, before vowels, **xanth-**. [< Gk. *xanthos* yellow]

xan·thous (zan′thəs) *adj.* **1.** Yellow. **2.** *Anthropol.* Of or pertaining to the yellow-skinned, or Mongoloid, ethnic division of mankind.

X-ax·is (eks′ak′sis) *n.* *pl.* **-ax·es** (-ak′sēz) The more nearly horizontal axis in a graph; the abscissa.

X-chro·mo·some (eks′krō′mə·sōm) *n.* *Genetics* One of the two types of chromosomes that determine the sex of an offspring.

xe·bec (zē′bek) *n.* A small, three-masted Mediterranean vessel, with both square and lateen sails, formerly used by Algerian pirates: also spelled *zebec*. [Earlier *chebec* < F < Sp. < Arabic *shabbāk*]

xeno- *combining form* Strange; foreign; different. Also, before vowels, **xen-**. [< Gk. *xenos* stranger]

xe·non (zē′non) *n.* A heavy, gaseous element (symbol Xe) occurring in extremely small quantities in the atmosphere and freezing at a very low temperature. See ELEMENT. [< Gk., neut. of *xenos* strange]

xen·o·phobe (zen′ə·fōb) *n.* One who hates or distrusts strangers or foreigners.

xen·o·pho·bi·a (zen′ə·fō′bē·ə) *n.* Hatred or distrust of foreigners or strangers. — **xen′o·pho′bic** (-fō′bik) *adj.*

xero- *combining form* Dry; dryness. Also, before vowels, **xer-**. [< Gk. *xēros* dry]

xe·rog·ra·phy (zi·rog′rə·fē) *n.* A method of printing in which a negatively charged ink powder is sprayed upon a positively charged metal plate, from which it is transferred to the printing surface by electrostatic attraction. — **xe·ro·graph·ic** (zir′ō·graf′ik) *adj.* — **xe·rog′raph·er** *n.*

xe·roph·i·lous (zi·rof′ə·ləs) *adj.* *Biol.* Growing in or adapted to dry, hot climates.

xe·ro·phyte (zir′ə·fīt) *n.* *Bot.* A plant adapted to dry conditions of air and soil. — **xe′ro·phyt′ic** (-fit′ik) *adj.*

xe·ro·print·ing (zir′ō·prin′ting) *n.* A simplified variation of xerography, using a suitably prepared plate on a rotating cylinder.

Xer·ox (zir′oks) *n.* A xerographic process for reproducing printed or pictorial matter: a trade name. — *v.t.* To make or reproduce by Xerox: to *Xerox* 10 copies; to *Xerox* a document. Also **xer′ox**.

Xho·sa (kō′sä) *n.* The Bantu language of the Kaffirs, closely related to Zulu: also called *Kaffir*: also **Xosa**.

xi (zī, sī; *Gk.* ksē) *n.* The fourteenth letter in the Greek alphabet (Ξ, ξ), equivalent to the English *x*. See ALPHABET.

-xion Var. of **-TION**.

xiphi- *combining form* Sword. Also, before vowels, **xiph-**. [< Gk. *xiphos* sword]

xiph·oid (zif′oid) *adj.* Shaped like a sword.

Xmas Christmas: popular abbreviation. ◆ *Xmas*, though best avoided in formal contexts, has been used in written English since the sixteenth century and cannot be condemned as a modern commercialism. [< *X*, abbr. for *Christ* < Gk. *X*, chi, the first letter of *Christos* Christ + **-MAS**]

X-rat·ed (eks′rā′tid) *adj.* Of a motion picture, characterized by explicit sex.

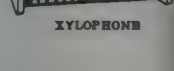
X-ray (eks′rā′) *v.t.* To examine, photograph, diagnose, or treat with X-rays. — *n.* A picture made with X-rays; roentgenogram: also **X-ray photograph**.

X-rays (eks′rāz′) *n.pl.* Electromagnetic radiations of extremely short wavelength, emitted from a substance when it is bombarded by a stream of electrons moving in a vacuum at a sufficiently high velocity, as in an electron tube. Their ability to penetrate solids, to ionize gases, and to act on photographic plates has many useful applications, especially in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of certain organic disorders, chiefly internal. Also called *Roentgen rays*. [Trans. of G *X-strahlen*, name coined by Roentgen, their discoverer, because their nature was unknown]

xy·lem (zī′ləm) *n.* *Bot.* The portion of a vascular bundle in higher plants that is made up of woody tissue, parenchyma, and associated cells, etc. [< G < Gk. *xylon* wood]

xylo- *combining form* Wood; woody. Also, before vowels, **xyl-**. [< Gk. *xylon* wood]

xy·lo·phone (zī′lə·fōn) *n.* A musical instrument consisting of a row of wooden bars graduated in length to form a chromatic scale, and sounded by being struck with mallets. — **xy·lo·phon·ist** (zī′lə·fō′nist, zī·lof′ə·nist) *n.*



XYLOPHONE

Y

y, Y (wī) *n.* *pl.* **y's** or **ys, Y's** or **Ys, wyes** (wīz) **1.** The twenty-fifth letter of the English alphabet. **2.** The sounds represented by the letter *y*. Initial *y* (introducing either a vowel or a syllable) represents a voiced palatal semivowel, as in *yet, you, yonder, beyond*. Final *y* represents either a vowel, pronounced (ē), as in *honey, pretty, steady*; a diphthong, pronounced (ī), as in *fly, my*; or the final glide of a diphthong, as in *gray, obey, annoy*. Internal *y* represents a vowel (i), as in *lyric, myth, syllable*; a diphthong (ī), as in *lyre, type, psychic*; an *r*-colored central vowel (ûr) or (ər), as in *myrtle, martyr*. **3.** Anything shaped like a Y, as: **a** A pipe coupling, connection, etc. **b** A forked piece serving as a rest or support, as for some part of a sighting instrument. — *symbol Chem.* Yttrium (symbol Y).

y- *prefix* Used in Middle English as a sign of the past participle, as an intensive, or without perceptible force: *yclad, yclept*. It survives (as *a-*) in such words as *alike, aware*, etc. Also spelled *i-*. [OE *ge-*]

-y¹ *suffix of adjectives* Being, possessing, or resembling what is expressed in the root: *stony, rainy*. Also *-ey*, when added to words ending in *y*, as in *clayey, skyey*. [OE *-ig*]

-y² *suffix* Th equality or state of being: *victory*: often used in abstract nouns formed from adjectives in *-ous* and *-ic*. [< F *-ie* < L *-ia*; also < Gk. *-ia, -eia*]

-y³ *suffix* Little; small: *kitty*: often used in nicknames or to express endearment, as in *Tommy*. [Prob. < dial. E (Scottish)]

yacht (yot) *n.* A vessel specially built or fitted for racing or

for private pleasure excursions. — *v.i.* To cruise, race, or sail in a yacht. [< Du. *jaghte*, short for *jaghtschip* pursuit ship < *jaght* hunting + *schip* ship]

yacht·ing (yot′ing) *n.* The act, practice, or pastime of sailing a yacht.

yachts·man (yots′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) One who owns or sails a yacht. Also **yacht′er, yacht′man.** — **yachts′wom′an** (-wo͝om′ən) *n.fem.*

yachts·man·ship (yots′mən·ship) *n.* The art or skill of yachting. Also **yacht′man·ship.**

yah[1] (yä, ya) *interj.* An exclamation of disgust or contempt.

yah[2] (yä, yâ) *interj. Informal* Yes. [Alter. of YES]

ya·hoo (yä′ho͞o, yä′-, yä·ho͞o′) *n.* **1.** Any low, vicious person. **2.** An awkward fellow; a bumpkin. [< YAHOO]

Ya·hoo (yä′ho͞o, yä′-, yä·ho͞o′) *n.* In Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, one of a race of brutish beings in human form.

Yah·weh (yä′we) In the Old Testament, the national god of Israel; God. See JEHOVAH. Also **Yah·ve** (yä′ve), **Yah·veh.** [< Hebrew *YHWH*]

yak[1] (yak) *n.* A large bovine ruminant of the higher regions of central Asia, having long hair fringing the shoulders, sides, and tail, and often domesticated. [< Tibetan *gyag*]

yak[2] (yak) *v.i.* **yakked, yak·king** *U.S. Slang* **1.** To chatter noisily or constantly. **2.** To laugh, esp. boisterously. [Imit.]

yam (yam) *n.* **1.** The fleshy, edible, tuberous root of any of various climbing tropical plants typical of a family of herbaceous or somewhat woody vines. **2.** Any of the plants growing this root. **3.** A large variety of the sweet potato. [< Pg. < Senegal *nyami* to eat]

yam·mer (yam′ər) *v.i. Informal* **1.** To complain peevishly; whimper. **2.** To howl; shout. — *v.t.* **3.** To utter peevishly; complain. — *n.* The act of yammering. [OE *ġeomrian* to lament < *ġeomor* sorrowful] — **yam′mer·er** *n.*

yang (yang) *n.* In Chinese philosophy and art, the male element, source of life and heat. Compare YIN. Also **Yang.** [< Chinese]

yank (yangk) *v.t.* **1.** To jerk or pull suddenly. — *v.i.* **2.** To give a pull or jerk. **3.** *Brit.* To be vigorously active. **4.** *Brit.* To jabber; scold. — *n. Informal* A sudden sharp pull. [? < dial. E (Scottish) *yank* a sharp sudden blow]

Yank (yangk) *n. & adj. Informal* Yankee.

Yan·kee (yang′kē) *n.* **1.** Originally, a native or inhabitant of New England. **2.** A Northerner; esp., a Union soldier during the Civil War; so called in the South. **3.** Any citizen of the U.S.: a chiefly foreign usage. — *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Yankees. **2.** American. [? Back formation < *Jan Kees* (taken as a plural), John Cheese, orig. a nickname for a Hollander; later applied by Dutch colonists in New York to English settlers in Connecticut] — **Yan′kee·dom** *n.*

Yankee Doodle A song popular in pre-Revolutionary times and one of the national airs of the United States.

yap (yap) *n.* **1.** *Slang* Talk; jabber. **2.** A bark or yelp. **3.** *Slang* The mouth. — *v.i.* **yapped, yap·ping** **1.** *Slang* To talk idly or emptily; jabber. **2.** *Informal* To bark or yelp, as a cur. [Imit. of a dog's bark]

Ya·qui (yä′kē) *n.* One of a tribe of North American Indians belonging to the Piman branch of the Uto-Aztecan stock, now living in southern Sonora, Mexico.

yard[1] (yärd) *n.* **1.** A standard English and American measure of length; 3 feet, or 36 inches, or 0.914 meter. See table front of book. **2.** A yardstick. **3.** *Naut.* A long, slender, tapering spar set crosswise on a mast and used to support sails. [OE *gierd* rod, measure of length]

yard[2] (yärd) *n.* **1.** A tract of ground, often enclosed, adjacent to a residence, church, school, or other building. **2.** An enclosure used for some specific work: often in combination: *brickyard*; *shipyard*. **3.** An enclosure or piece of ground adjacent to a railroad station, used for making up trains and for storing the rolling stock. **4.** The winter pasturing ground of deer and moose. **5.** An enclosure for animals, poultry, etc. — *v.t.* **1.** To put or collect into or as into a yard. — *v.i.* **2.** To gather into an enclosure or yard. [OE *geard* enclosure]

yard·age (yär′dij) *n.* **1.** The amount or length of something expressed in yards. **2.** Yard goods. [< YARD[1]]

yard·arm (yärd′ärm′) *n. Naut.* Either end of a yard of a square sail.

yard goods Cloth that is sold by the yard.

yard·man[1] (yärd′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) *Naut.* A sailor who works on the yards.

yard·man[2] (yärd′mən) *n. pl.* **·men** (-mən) A man employed in a yard, esp. on a railroad.

yard·mas·ter (yärd′mas′tər, -mäs′-) *n.* A railroad official having charge of a yard.

yard·stick (yärd′stik′) *n.* **1.** A graduated measuring stick a yard in length. **2.** Any measure or standard of comparison. Also *Archaic* **yard′wand′** (-wond′).

yarn (yärn) *n.* **1.** Any spun, threadlike material, natural or synthetic, prepared for use in weaving, knitting, etc. **2.** Continuous strands of spun fiber, as wool, cotton, linen, silk, etc. **3.** A quantity of such material. **4.** *Informal* A long, exciting story of adventure, often of doubtful truth. — *v.i. Informal* To tell a yarn or yarns. [OE *gearn*]

yarn-dyed (yärn′did′) *adj.* Made of yarn dyed before being woven into material.

yar·row (yar′ō) *n.* Any of various perennial herbs of Europe and North America having finely dissected leaves, small white flowers, and a pungent odor. [OE *gearwe*]

yat·a·ghan (yat′ə·gan, -gən; *Turkish* yä′tä·gän′) *n.* A Turkish sword or scimitar with a double-curved blade and a handle without a guard. Also **yat′a·gan.** [< Turkish]

yaw (yô) *v.i.* **1.** *Naut.* To steer wildly, or out of its course, as a ship when struck by a heavy sea. **2.** To move unsteadily or irregularly. **3.** *Aeron.* To deviate from the flight path by angular displacement about the vertical axis; fishtail. — *v.t.* **4.** To cause to yaw. — *n.* **1.** A movement of a ship by which it temporarily alters its course. **2.** *Aeron.* The angular movement of an aircraft, projectile, etc., about its vertical axis. **3.** Any irregular, unsteady, or deviating motion. [Cf. ON *jaga* to move to and fro]

yawl[1] (yôl) See YOWL.

yawl[2] (yôl) *n.* **1.** A fore-and-aft rigged, two-masted vessel having the mizzenmast or jiggermast abaft the rudder post. **2.** A ship's small boat. **3.** A small fishing boat. [Appar. < Du. *jol*, orig. a boat used in Jutland]

yawn (yôn) *v.i.* **1.** To open the mouth wide, usu. involuntarily and with a long, full inspiration of the breath, often the result of drowsiness, fatigue, or boredom. **2.** To be or stand wide open, esp. as ready to engulf or receive something: A chasm *yawned* below. — *v.t.* **3.** To express or utter with a yawn. — *n.* **1.** The act of yawning. **2.** The act of opening wide. [Prob. fusion of OE *geonian* to yawn and *gānian* to gape] — **yawn′er** *n.*

yawp (yôp) *v.i.* **1.** To bark or yelp. **2.** *Informal* To gape; yawn audibly. **3.** *Brit. Informal* To shout; bawl; talk loudly. — *n.* **1.** A bark or yelp. **2.** A shout; noise; noisy talking; also, a loud, uncouth outcry. Also **yaup.** [ME *golpen*, pp. of *gelpen* to boast] — **yawp′er** *n.*

yaws (yôz) *n.pl. Pathol.* A contagious skin disease occurring in tropical and subtropical countries, caused by a spirochete and resembling syphilis. [< Carib *yáya*]

Y-ax·is (wī′ak′sis) *n. pl.* **-ax·es** (-ak′sēz) The more nearly vertical axis in a graph or coordinate system; the ordinate.

yay (yā) *U.S. Dial. adj.* **1.** This many; this much. **2.** Ever so many: for *yay* years. — *adv.* **1.** To this extent. **2.** Ever so: *yay* big. [Cf. G *je* ever]

Y-chro·mo·some (wī′krō′mə·sōm) *n. Genetics* One of the two types of chromosome that determine the sex of an offspring.

y·clept (i·klept′) *adj. Archaic* Called; named. Also **y·cleped′.** [OE *geclypod*, pp. of *clypian* to call]

ye[1] (thē) The: a mistaken form resulting from the substitution of the character *y* for the thorn (þ) of the Old and Middle English alphabet.

ye[2] (yē) *pron. Archaic* A pronoun of the second person, originally nominative plural: "Blessed are *ye* when men shall revile you"; later, also nominative singular and objective singular and plural. [ME *ye*, *ȝe*, nominative pl. < OE *gē*]

yea (yā) *adv.* **1.** *Archaic* A term of affirmation or assent, now superseded by *yes*. **2.** *Archaic* Not only so, but more so: used to intensify or amplify: There were fifty, *yea*, a hundred archers. **3.** In reality; indeed; verily: used to introduce a sentence, etc. — *n.* **1.** An affirmative vote or voter: opposed to *nay*. **2.** An affirmation. [OE *gēa*]

yeah (yâ, ye′ə) *adv. Informal* Yes. [< YES]

yean (yēn) *v.t. & v.i.* To bear (young), as a goat or sheep. [OE (assumed) *geēanian*]

yean·ling (yēn′ling) *n.* The young of a goat or sheep. — *adj.* Young or newly born.

year (yir) *n.* **1.** The period of time in which the earth completes one revolution around the sun, consisting of 365 or 366 days divided into 12 months and now reckoned as beginning January 1 and ending December 31; also, a similar period in other calendars. **2.** Any period of 12 months, usu. reckoned from a specific date or time: a *year* from now. **3.** The period of time during which a planet revolves once around the sun. **4.** A specific period of time, usu. less than a year, given over to some special work or activity: the school *year*. **5.** *pl.* Age, esp. old age: active for his *years*. **6.** *pl.* Time: in *years* gone by and *years* to come. — **year after year** Every year. — **year by year** Each year; with each succeeding year. — **year in, year out** From one year to the next; without cessation. [OE *gēar*]

year·book (yir′bo͝ok′) *n.* A book published annually, presenting information about the previous year.

year·ling (yir′ling) *n.* A young animal past its first year

and not yet two years old; esp., a colt or filly a year old dating from January 1 of the year of foaling. — *adj.* Being a year old.

year·long (yir′lông′, -long′) *adj.* Continuing through a year.

year·ly (yir′lē) *adj.* **1.** Occurring, done, payable, seen, etc., once a year; annual. **2.** Continuing or lasting for a year: a *yearly* subscription. — *adv.* Once a year; annually.

yearn (yûrn) *v.i.* **1.** To desire something earnestly; long; hanker; pine: with *for*. **2.** To be deeply moved; feel sympathy. [OE *giernan, geornan*]

yearn·ing (yûr′ning) *n.* A strong emotion of longing or desire, esp. with tenderness. — **yearn′ing·ly** *adv.*

year-round (yir′round′) *adj.* Open, operating, or continuing for the entire year: a *year-round* health resort.

yeast (yēst) *n.* **1.** A substance consisting of minute cells of fungi that clump together in a yellow, frothy, viscous growth promoting fermentation in saccharine liquids, with the production of alcohol and carbon dioxide, as in the brewing of beer and the raising of bread. **2.** Such a substance mixed with flour or meal, and sold commercially. **3.** Froth or spume. **4.** Mental or moral ferment or agitation. — *v.i.* To foam; froth. [OE *gist*]

yeast cake A mixture of living yeast cells and starch in compressed form, suitable for use in baking or brewing.

yeast plant Any of a group of fungi that form yeast.

yeast·y (yēs′tē) *adj.* **yeast·i·er, yeast·i·est** **1.** Of, resembling, or containing yeast. **2.** Causing or characterized by fermentation. **3.** Restless; unsettled; frivolous. **4.** Covered with or consisting mainly of froth or foam. **5.** Light or unsubstantial. — **yeast′i·ness** *n.*

yegg (yeg) *n. Slang* A burglar or safe-cracker. Also **yegg′man** (-mən) [Origin unknown]

yell (yel) *v.t. & v.i.* To shout; scream; roar; also, to cheer. — *n.* **1.** A sharp, loud, inarticulate cry, as of pain, terror, anger, etc. **2.** A rhythmic cheer composed of a series of words or nonsense syllables and shouted by a group in unison. [OE *giellan, gellan*] — **yell′er** *n.*

yel·low (yel′ō) *adj.* **1.** Having the color of ripe lemons, or sunflowers. **2.** Changed to a sallow color by age, sickness, or the like: a paper *yellow* with age. **3.** Having a yellowish complexion, as a member of the Mongoloid ethnic group. **4.** Melancholy or jealous. **5.** Sensational, esp. offensively so: said of newspapers: *yellow* journalism. **6.** *Informal* Cowardly; mean; dishonorable. — *n.* **1.** The color of the spectrum between green and orange. **2.** Any pigment or dyestuff having or producing such a color. **3.** The yolk of an egg. **4.** *pl. Bot.* Any of various unrelated plant diseases in which there is stunting of growth and yellowing of the foliage. **5.** *pl.* Jaundice, esp. a variety that affects domestic animals. — *v.t. & v.i.* To make or become yellow. [OE *geolu*] — **yel′low·ly** *adv.* — **yel′low·ness** *n.*

yel·low-bel·lied (yel′ō-bel′ēd) *adj.* **1.** *Slang* Cowardly; yellow. **2.** Having a yellow underside, as a bird.

yel·low-bird (yel′ō-bûrd′) *n.* Any of several yellow birds, as the American goldfinch or the yellow warbler.

yellow cake *Canadian Informal* Uranium ore; concentrated uranium oxide.

yel·low-dog contract (yel′ō-dôg′, -dog′) A contract with an employer, no longer legal, in which an employee agrees not to join a labor union during his term of employment.

yellow fever *Pathol.* An acute, infectious intestinal disease of tropical and semitropical regions, caused by a filterable virus transmitted by the bite of a mosquito and characterized by jaundice, vomiting, and fatty degeneration of the liver: also called *black vomit, vomito, yellow jack.*

yel·low-ham·mer (yel′ō-ham′ər) *n.* **1.** An Old World bunting having in the male bright yellow plumage and blackish head and tail feathers. **2.** The flicker, a bird. [prob. < OE *geolo* yellow + *amore*, a kind of bird]

yel·low·ish (yel′ō-ish) *adj.* Somewhat yellow. — **yel′low·ish·ness** *n.*

yellow jack **1.** A fish of the West Indies and Florida. **2.** The flag of the quarantine service. **3.** Yellow fever.

yellow jacket Any of various social wasps having bright yellow markings.

yellow metal **1.** A brass consisting of 60 parts copper and 40 parts zinc. **2.** Gold.

yellow peril The alleged power, both political and numerical, of the Oriental peoples of Asia, conceived of as threatening white or Western supremacy.

yellow pine **1.** Any of various American pines, as the loblolly pine. **2.** Their tough, yellowish wood.

yellow race The Mongoloid ethnic division of mankind.

yellow streak A tendency to be cowardly, mean, etc.

yellow warbler A warbler of the southern U.S., bright yellow with brown streaks underneath.

yel·low-wood (yel′ō-wo͝od′) *n.* **1.** The yellow or yellowish wood of a medium-sized tree of the southern U.S., having a smooth bark, showy white flowers, and yielding a yellow dye. **2.** The tree. **3.** Any of several other trees with yellowish wood, as the Osage orange, buckthorn, smoketree, etc.

yel·low·y (yel′ō-ē) *adj.* Yellowish.

yelp (yelp) *v.i.* **1.** To utter a sharp, shrill cry or bark, as a dog. — *v.t.* **2.** To express by a yelp or yelps. — *n.* A sharp, shrill cry or bark. [OE *gielpan* to boast] — **yelp′er** *n.*

yen[1] (yen) *Informal n.* An ardent longing or desire; intense want; infatuation. — *v.i.* **yenned, yen·ning** To yearn; long. [< Chinese, opium, smoke]

yen[2] (yen) *n. pl.* **yen** The standard monetary unit of Japan, equal to 100 sen: in 1960 worth about ⅛ U.S. cent. [< Japanese < Chinese *yüan* round, dollar]

yeo·man (yō′mən) *n. pl.* **-men** (-mən) **1.** A petty officer in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard who performs clerical duties. **2.** *Brit.* One who cultivates his own farm. **3.** *Brit.* A yeoman of the guard. **4.** Formerly, an attendant or servant in the service of a nobleman or of royalty. **5.** Formerly, a freeholder next below the gentry who owned a small landed estate or farm. [ME *yeman, yoman*, prob. contr. of *yengman* young man < OE *geong* young + *mann* man]

yeo·man·ly (yō′mən·lē) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resembling a yeoman. **2.** Brave; rugged; staunch. — *adv.* Like a yeoman; bravely; staunchly.

yeoman of the (royal) guard A member of the special bodyguard of the English royal household, consisting of one hundred yeomen wearing medieval uniforms and first appointed by Henry VII: also called *beefeater.*

yeo·man·ry (yō′mən·rē) *n.* **1.** The collective body of yeomen; freemen; farmers. **2.** *Brit.* A home guard of volunteer cavalry, created in 1761. In 1907 it became a part of the Territorial Army.

yeoman's service Faithful and useful support or service; loyal assistance in need. Also **yeoman service.**

yep (yep) *adv. Informal* Yes. [Alter. of YES]

-yer Var. of -IER.

yes (yes) *adv.* As you say; truly; just so: a reply of affirmation or consent: opposed to *no*, and sometimes used to enforce by repetition or addition something that precedes. — *n. pl.* **yes·es** or **yes·ses** **1.** A reply in the affirmative. **2.** An affirmative vote or voter: often *aye.* — *v.t. & v.i.* **yessed, yes·sing** To say "yes" (to). [OE *gēse*, prob. < *gēa* yea + *sī*, third person sing. present subj. of *bēon* to be]

yes man *Informal* One who agrees without criticism; a servile, acquiescent assistant or subordinate; toady.

yester- *prefix* Pertaining to the day before the present; by extension of the preceding, used of longer periods than a day: *yesteryear.* [< YESTER(DAY)]

yes·ter·day (yes′tər·dē, -dā′) *n.* **1.** The day preceding today. **2.** The near past. — *adv.* **1.** On the day before today. **2.** At a recent time. [OE < *giestran* yesterday + *dæg* day]

yes·ter·year (yes′tər·yir′) *n.* Last year; yore. [Trans. of F *antan*; coined by D. G. Rossetti]

yet (yet) *adv.* **1.** In addition; besides; further: often with a comparative: They had twenty miles *yet* to go. **2.** Before or at some future time; eventually: He will *yet* succeed. **3.** In continuance of a previous state or condition; still: I can hear him *yet.* **4.** At the present time; now: Don't go *yet.* **5.** After all the time that has or had elapsed: Are you not ready *yet*? **6.** Up to the present time; before: commonly with a negative: He has never *yet* lied to me. **7.** Than that which has been previously affirmed: with a comparative: It was hot yesterday; today it is hotter *yet.* **8.** Nevertheless: It was hot, *yet* not unpleasant. **9.** As much as; even: He did not believe the reports, nor *yet* the evidence. — **as yet** Up to now. — *conj.* **1.** Nevertheless; notwithstanding: I speak to you peaceably, *yet* you will not listen. **2.** But: He is willing, *yet* unable. **3.** Although: active, *yet* ill. — **Syn.** See BUT[1]. [OE *giet, gieta*]

yew (yo͞o) *n.* **1.** Any of several evergreen trees or shrubs, with flat, lanceolate leaves and a red berrylike fruit. **2.** The hard, fine-grained, durable wood of the common yew. **3.** A bow made from the wood of the yew tree. [OE *ēow, īw*]

Yid·dish (yid′ish) *n.* A Germanic language derived from the Middle High German spoken in the Rhineland in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, now spoken primarily by Jews in eastern Europe, and by Jewish immigrants from that region in other parts of the world. It contains elements of Hebrew and the Slavic languages, and is written in Hebrew characters. — *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Yiddish; written or spoken in Yiddish. **2.** *Slang* Jewish. [< G *jüdisch* Jewish < *Jude* Jew]

yield (yēld) *v.t.* **1.** To give forth by a natural process, or as a result of labor or cultivation. **2.** To give in return, as for investment; furnish: The bonds *yield* five percent interest. **3.** To give up, as to superior power; relinquish: often with *up*: to *yield* a fortress. **4.** To concede or grant: to *yield* precedence. — *v.i.* **5.** To provide a return; produce; bear. **6.** To give up; surrender. **7.** To give way, as to pressure or force; bend, collapse, etc. **8.** To assent or comply, as under compulsion; consent: We *yielded* to their persuasion. **9.** To give place, as through inferiority or weakness: with *to*: We will *yield* to them in nothing. — *n.* **1.** The amount yielded; product, as of cultivation or mining. **2.** The profit derived

from invested capital. **3.** *Mil.* The explosive force of a nuclear bomb as expressed in kilotons or megatons of TNT. [OE *gieldan, geldan* to pay] — **yield′er** *n.*

yield·ing (yēl′ding) *adj.* Disposed to yield; flexible; obedient. — **yield′ing·ly** *adv.* — **yield′ing·ness** *n.*

yin (yin) *n.* In Chinese philosophy and art, the female element, that stands for darkness, cold, and death. Compare YANG. Also **Yin.** [< Chinese]

yip (yip) *n.* A yelp, as of a dog. — *v.i.* **yipped, yip·ping** To yelp. [Imit.]

yipe (yīp) *interj. Often pl.* An exclamation of fear, surprise, horror, etc.

-yl *suffix Chem.* Used to denote a radical: *ethyl, butyl.* [< Gk. *hylē* wood, matter]

yo·del (yōd′l) *n.* A melody or refrain sung to meaningless syllables, with abrupt changes from chest to falsetto tones, common among Swiss and Tyrolese mountaineers. — *v.t. & v.i.* **yo·deled** or **·delled, yo·del·ing** or **·del·ling** To sing with a yodel, changing the voice quickly from its natural tone to a falsetto and back. Also **yo′dle.** [< G *jodeln*, lit., to utter the syllable *jo*] — **yo′del·er, yo′del·ler, yo′dler** *n.*

yo·ga (yō′gə) *n.* **1.** A Hindu system of mystical and ascetic philosophy that involves certain physical and mental disciplines together with a withdrawal from the world and abstract meditation upon some spiritual principle or object. **2.** A related system of exercises, the purpose of which is to achieve both physical and spiritual well-being. [< Hind. < Skt., lit., union] — **yo·gic** (yō′gik) *adj.*

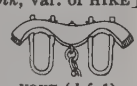
yogh (yōkh) *n.* The Middle English letter, ȝ, ȝ, that represented a voiced or voiceless palatal fricative, or a voiced velar fricative. It has been replaced in Modern English by *y*, as in *lay, w*, as in *law*, and *gh*, as in *daughter* and *enough.*

yo·gi (yō′gē) *n. pl.* **·gis** **1.** One who practices yoga. **2.** Yoga. Also **yo′gee, yo′gin** (-gin). [< Hind. *yogī* < Skt.]

yo·gurt (yō′gōōrt) *n.* A thick, curdled milk treated with bacteria, regarded as beneficial to the intestines. Also **yo′·ghurt, yo′ghourt.** [< Turkish *yōghurt*]

yoicks (yoiks) *interj.* Hoicks. [Earlier *hoik*, var. of HIKE]

yoke (yōk) *n. pl.* **yokes**; *for def. 3, often* **yoke** **1.** A curved timber with attachments used for coupling draft animals, as oxen, usu. having a bow at each end to receive the neck of the animal. **2.** Any of various similar contrivances, as a frame fitted for a person's shoulders and designed to carry a burden at either end, as a pail. **3.** A pair of draft animals coupled with a yoke (def. 1). **4.** An oppressive force or influence: under the *yoke* of tyranny. **5.** That which binds or connects; a bond: the *yoke* of love. **6.** Servitude, or some visible sign of it; bondage. **7.** A part of a garment designed to support a plaited or gathered part, as at the hips or shoulders. **8.** *Naut.* A crosspiece on a rudderhead, carrying cables for steering. — *v.* **yoked, yok·ing** *v.t.* **1.** To put a yoke upon. **2.** To join with or as with a yoke; couple or link. **3.** To secure (a draft animal) to a plow, etc.; also, to secure a draft animal to (a plow, etc.). — *v.i.* **4.** To be joined or linked. [OE *geoc*]


YOKE (*def.* 1)

yoke·fel·low (yōk′fel′ō) *n.* A mate or companion in labor. Also **yoke′mate′** (-māt′).

yo·kel (yō′kəl) *n.* A countryman; country bumpkin: a contemptuous term. [? < dial. E, green woodpecker, yellowhammer] — **yo′kel·ish** *adj.*

yolk (yōk, yōlk) *n.* **1.** The yellow portion of an egg, as distinguished from the white portion, used for the formation and nourishment of the embyro. **2.** A fine yellow soapy exudation in sheep's wool. [OE *geol(o)ca*, lit., (the) yellow part < *geolu* yellow]

yolk·y (yō′kē, yōl′kē) *adj.* **yolk·i·er, yolk·i·est** **1.** Of, like, or pertaining to yolk. **2.** Containing yolk: *yolky* wool.

Yom Kip·pur (yom kip′ər, *Hebrew* yōm ki·pōōr′) The Jewish Day of Atonement, the 10th of Tishri (September–October), marked by continuous prayer and fasting for 24 hours from sundown on the evening previous. [< Hebrew *yōm kipūr* day of atonement]

yon (yon) *adj. & adv. Archaic, Dial. & Poetic* Yonder; that or those over there: *yon* fine house. [OE *geon*]

yon·der (yon′dər) *adj.* Being at a distance indicated. — *adv.* In that place; there. [ME, prob. extension of *yone*, OE *geon* yon]

yore (yôr, yōr) *n.* Old time; time long past: in days of *yore.* [OE *gēara* formerly, prob. orig. genitive pl. of *gēar* year]

York boat *Canadian* A type of heavy cargo canoe used by the Hudson's Bay Company. [after *York* Factory on Hudson Bay]

York·shire pudding (yôrk′shir, -shər) A batter pudding baked under roasting meat to catch the drippings.

Yorkshire terrier A toy breed of terrier having a long, silky coat.

you (yōō) *pron., possessive* **your** or **yours** **1.** The nominative and objective singular and plural pronoun of the second person, used in addressing one or more persons, animals, or things, and always taking a plural verb. **2.** An indefinite pronoun equivalent to *one*: *You* learn by trying. [OE *ēow*, dative and accusative pl. of *gē* ye]

you'd (yōōd, *unstressed* yōōd, yəd) **1.** You had. **2.** You would.

you'll (yōōl, *unstressed* yōōl, yəl) You will.

young (yung) *adj.* **young·er** (yung′gər), **young·est** (yung′gist) **1.** Being in the early period of life or growth; not old. **2.** Not having progressed far; newly formed: The day was *young.* **3.** Pertaining to youth or early life. **4.** Full of vigor or freshness. **5.** Being without experience; immature. **6.** Denoting the younger of two persons having the same name or title; junior. **7.** Radical or progressive in social or political aims: used with proper names: the *Young* Turks. — **Syn.** See YOUTHFUL. — *n.* **1.** Young persons as a group; youth. **2.** Offspring, esp. of animals. — **with young** With child; pregnant. [OE *geong*] — **young′ish** *adj.*

young·ber·ry (yung′ber′ē) *n. pl.* **·ries** A large dark red berry, hybridized from a trailing blackberry and a dewberry, of the western U.S. [after B. M. *Young*, U.S. horticulturist]

young blood Youth; young people.

young-eyed (yung′īd′) *adj.* Having youthful eyes or fresh vision; bright-eyed.

young·ling (yung′ling) *n.* **1.** A young person, animal, or plant. **2.** An inexperienced person. — *adj.* Young.

young·ster (yung′stər) *n.* **1.** A young person; a child or youth. **2.** A young animal, as a colt.

your (yôr, yōōr) *pronominal adj.* The possessive case of the pronoun *you*, used attributively: *your* fate. [OE *ēower*, genitive of *gē* ye]

you're (yōōr, yôr, *unstressed* yər) You are.

yours (yôrz, yōōrz) *pron.* **1.** The possessive case of the pronoun *you*, used predicatively: This room is *yours.* **2.** The one or ones belonging or relating to you: a home as quiet as *yours*; God bless you and *yours.* — **of yours** Belonging or relating to you: a double possessive. [ME *youres*]

your·self (yôr·self′, yōōr-) *pron. pl.* **·selves** (-selvz′) A form of the second person pronoun, used: **1.** As a reflexive or as object of a preposition in a reflexive sense: Did you hurt *yourself*? Look at *yourself* in the mirror. **2.** As an emphatic or intensive form of *you*: You said so *yourself.* **3.** As a designation of a normal, proper, or usual state: Why can't you be *yourself* instead of putting on airs?

yours truly **1.** A formal phrase used to close a letter, before the signature. **2.** *Informal* I; me.

youth (yōōth) *n. pl.* **youths** (yōōthz, yōōths) **1.** The state or condition of being young. **2.** The period when one is young; the part of life between childhood and manhood; adolescence. **3.** The early period of being or development, as of a movement. **4.** A young person, esp. a young man; also, young persons collectively. [OE *geoguth*]

youth·ful (yōōth′fəl) *adj.* **1.** Having youth; being still young. **2.** Characteristic of youth; fresh; vigorous. **3.** Of or pertaining to youth. **4.** Not far advanced; early; new. **5.** *Geol.* Young. — **youth′ful·ly** *adv.* — **youth′ful·ness** *n.*

— **Syn. 1.** *Youthful* describes character, manner, outlook, interests, appearance, and the like, while *young* refers merely to chronological age. A mature or old person may properly be described as *youthful*, though he is no longer *young. Juvenile* emphasizes immaturity and is therefore often disparaging; *puerile* is much the same, and is always uncomplimentary. *Adolescent* refers to the age close to maturity, and may be disparaging or not: *adolescent* pranks, *adolescent* energy and enthusiasm.

youth hostel A hostel.

you've (yōōv, *unstressed* yōōv, yəv) You have.

yowl (youl) *v.i.* To utter a yowl; howl; yell. — *n.* A loud, prolonged, wailing cry; a howl. Also spelled *yawl*: also **yow.** [Cf. ON *gaula* to howl, yell]

yo-yo (yō′yō′) *n. pl.* **·yos** A wheellike toy with a string wound about it in a deep groove, commonly attached to the operator's finger and spun up and down by manipulating the string. [Origin unknown]

Y-quem (ē·kem′) *n.* A highly esteemed Sauterne wine. [after Château *Yquem*, an estate in SW France]

yt·ter·bi·um (i·tûr′bē·əm) *n.* A rare metallic element (symbol Yb) of the lanthanide series, occurring in minute amounts in gadolinite and certain other minerals. See ELEMENT. [< NL, from *Ytterby*, a town in Sweden where gadolinite was first found] — **yt·ter′bic** *adj.*

yt·tri·um (it′rē·əm) *n.* A rare element (symbol Y) of the lanthanide series, found in gadolinite, samarskite, and other minerals. See ELEMENT. Abbr. *Yt* [< NL < YTTRIA]

yuc·ca (yuk′ə) *n.* **1.** Any of various liliaceous plants of the southern U.S., Mexico, and Central America, having a woody stem that bears a large panicle of white, bell-shaped,

drooping flowers emerging from a crown of leaves. **2.** The flower of this plant, the State flower of New Mexico. [< NL < Sp. *yuca* < Taino]

Yu·go·slav (yōō′gō·slăv′, -slav′) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Yugoslavia or its people. — *n.* A citizen or native of Yugoslavia. Also **Yu′go·sla′vi·an.**

yuk (yuk) *U.S. Slang n.* A loud, hearty laugh. — *v.i. & v.t.* **yukked, yuk·king** To laugh or cause to laugh loud and heartily.

Yule (yōōl) *n.* Christmas time, or the feast celebrating it. [OE *gēol* Christmas day, Christmastide]

yule log A large log or block of wood, brought in with much ceremony, and made the foundation of the Christmas Eve fire. Also **yule block, yule clog.**

Yule·tide (yōōl′tīd′) *n.* Christmas time.

Yu·ma (yōō′mə) *n.* One of a tribe of North American Indians of Yuman stock, formerly living in northern Mexico and Arizona and in SE California.

Yu·man (yōō′mən) *n.* A North American Indian stock of the SW U.S. and NW Mexico, including the Mohave and Yuma tribes.

yum·my (yum′ē) *Slang adj.* **·mi·er, ·mi·est** Gratifying to the senses, esp. to the taste; delicious. — *n.* Something very gratifying; a delight. [from *yum-yum*, an exclamation expressing delight at an agreeable taste]

yurt (yûrt) *n.* A portable tent made of felt laid on a framework of branches, used by nomadic Mongols in central Asia. [< Russian *yurta* < Turkic]

Z

z, Z (zē, *Brit.* zed) *n.* *pl.* **z's** or **zs, Z's** or **Zs, zees** (zēz) **1.** The twenty-sixth letter of the English alphabet. Also, *Brit., zed.* **2.** The sound represented by the letter *z*, a voiced alveolar fricative corresponding to the voiceless *s*. — *symbol* **1.** *Physics* Atomic number. **2.** *Math.* An unknown quantity.

Zach·a·ri·ah (zak′ə·rī′ə) The last king of Israel of Jehu's race. II *Kings* xiv 29.

Zach·a·ri·as (zak′ə·rī′əs) **1.** The father of John the Baptist. *Luke* i 5. **2.** The Douai Bible name for ZECHARIAH.

zai·bat·su (zī·bät·sōō) *n.* *Japanese* The wealthy clique of Japan, representing four or five dominant families.

za·mar·ra (zə·mär′ə, -mar′ə) *n.* A sheepskin coat worn by Spanish shepherds. Also **za·mar′ro** (-mär′ō). [< Sp.]

za·ny (zā′nē) *adj.* **·ni·er, ·ni·est** Odd and comical; outlandish; ludicrous. — *n.* *pl.* **·nies** **1.** A simpleton; buffoon; fool. **2.** In old comic plays, one who imitated the other performers, esp. the clown, with ludicrous failure. [< F < Ital. *zanni* servants who act as clowns in early Italian comedy]

zap·ti·ah (zup·tē′ä) *n.* A Turkish policeman. Also **zap·ti′e, zap·ti′eh.** [< Turkish *dabtiyeh* < Arabic *dabt* administration, regulation]

za·ra·pe (sä·rä′pā) See SERAPE.

za·re·ba (zə·rē′bə) *n.* **1.** In the Sudan, a stockade or other palisaded enclosure for protecting a village or camp. **2.** A village or camp so protected; also, any village. Also **za·ree′·ba.** [< Arabic *zarībah* pen for cattle < *zarb* sheepfold]

zarf (zärf) *n.* A metal cup-shaped holder, of open or ornamental filigree, for a hot coffee cup, used in the Levant. [< Arabic *zarf* vessel, sheath]

zar·zue·la (thär·thwā′lä) *n.* *Spanish* A form of lyrical theater in which song is intermingled with spoken dialogue.

za·yin (zä′yin) *n.* The seventh letter in the Hebrew alphabet. See ALPHABET.

zeal (zēl) *n.* Enthusiastic devotion; ardor, esp. for a cause. [< OF < L < Gk. *zēlos* < *zēein* to boil]

zeal·ot (zel′ət) *n.* **1.** An immoderate partisan; a fanatic. **2.** One who is zealous. [< LL < Gk. < *zēloein* to be zealous < *zēlos* zeal] — **zeal′ot·ry** *n.*

zeal·ous (zel′əs) *adj.* Filled with or incited by zeal; enthusiastic. — **zeal′ous·ly** *adv.* — **zeal′ous·ness** *n.*

ze·bec (zē′bek), **ze·beck** See XEBEC.

Zeb·e·dee (zeb′ə·dē) The father of James and John, disciples of Christ. *Matt.* iv 21.

ze·bra (zē′brə) *n.* Any of various African equine mammals resembling the ass, having a white or yellowish brown body fully marked with variously patterned, dark brown or blackish bands. [< Pg. < Bantu (Congo)] — **ze′brine** (-brēn, -brin), **ze′broid** (-broid) *adj.*

ze·bu (zē′byōō) *n.* The domesticated ox of India, China, and East Africa, having a hump on the withers, a large dewlap, and short horns. [< F *zébu* < Tibetan]

Zeb·u·lon (zeb′yə·lən) In the Old Testament, a son of Jacob and Leah. *Gen.* xxx 20. — *n.* The tribe of Israel descended from him. Also **Zeb′u·lun.**

Zech·a·ri·ah (zek′ə·rī′ə) Sixth-century B.C. Hebrew prophet who promoted the rebuilding of the Temple. — *n.* A book of the Old Testament bearing his name. Also, in the Douai Bible, *Zacharias.*

zed (zed) *n.* *Brit.* The letter Z. [< F < L < Gk. *zēta*]

zee (zē, *Du.* zā) *n.* *Dutch* Sea: used in geographic names: Zuider *Zee*, Tappen *Zee.*

Zeit·geist (tsīt′gist) *n.* *German* The spirit of the time; the intellectual and moral tendencies that characterize any age or epoch. [< G < *zeit* time + *geist* spirit]

zemst·vo (zem′stvō, *Russ.* zyem′stvô) *n.* Prior to 1917, a Russian elective district. [< Russian *semlya* land]

ze·na·na (zə·nä′nə) *n.* In India, the women's apartments; the East Indian harem: also spelled *zanana.* [< Hind. *zenāna* belonging to women < Persian *zanāna* < *zan* woman]

Zen Buddhism (zen) A form of contemplative Buddhism whose adherents believe in and work toward abrupt enlightenment. It originated in China, and later spread to Japan, where it greatly influenced Japanese culture. Also **Zen.** [< Japanese *zen* meditation < Chinese < Skt. *dhyana*]

Zend (zend) *n.* **1.** The ancient translation and commentary, in a literary form of Middle Persian (Pahlavi), of the Avesta, the sacred writings of the Zoroastrian religion. **2.** Erroneously, the language of the Avesta; Avestan. [< F < Persian, interpretation] — **Zend′ic** *adj.*

Zend-A·ves·ta (zend′ə·ves′tə) *n.* The Avesta, including the later translation and commentary called the Zend. — **Zend′-A·ves·ta′ic** (-ə·ves·tā′ik) *adj.*

ze·nith (zē′nith) *n.* **1.** The point of the celestial sphere that is exactly overhead, and opposite to the nadir. **2.** The highest or culminating point; peak: the *zenith* of one's career: opposed to *nadir.* [< OF *cenit*, ult. < Arabic *samt* (*ar-ras*) the path (over the head)]

ze·o·lite (zē′ə·līt) *n.* Any of a large class of secondary minerals found in cavities and veins in eruptive rocks, usu. a hydrous silicate of aluminum and sodium. [< Sw. < Gk. *zēein* to boil + *lithos* stone] — **ze′o·lit′ic** (-lit′ik) *adj.*

Zeph·a·ni·ah (zef′ə·nī′ə) Seventh-century B.C. Hebrew prophet. — *n.* A book of the Old Testament bearing his name. Also, in the Douai Bible, *Sophonias.*

zeph·yr (zef′ər) *n.* **1.** The west wind. **2.** Any soft, gentle wind. **3.** Worsted or woolen yarn of very light weight used for embroidery, shawls, etc.: also **zephyr worsted.** **4.** Anything very light and airy. [< L < Gk. *zephyros*]

zephyr cloth Fine cassimere used for women's clothing.

zep·pe·lin (zep′ə·lin, *Ger.* tsep′ə·lēn′) *n.* *Often cap.* A large dirigible having a rigid, cigar-shaped body. [after Count Ferdinand von *Zeppelin*, 1838–1917, German general and aviator who designed it]

ze·ro (zir′ō, zē′rō) *n.* *pl.* **ze·ros** or **ze·roes** **1.** The numeral or symbol 0; a cipher. ◆ In nontechnical speech, this symbol is often pronounced (ō). **2.** *Math.* **a** A cardinal number indicating the absence of quantity. **b** The point where a continuous function changes its sign from plus to minus, or vice versa. **3.** The point on a scale, as of a thermometer, from which measures are counted; also, a temperature that registers zero on a thermometer. **4.** *Mil.* A setting for a gunsight that adjusts both for elevation and wind. **5.** The lowest point. **6.** Nothing. — *v.t.* **ze·roed, ze·ro·ing** To adjust (instruments) to an arbitrary zero point for synchronized readings. — **to zero in** **1.** To adjust the sight of (a gun) by calibrated results of firings. **2.** To direct firepower exactly on target. **3.** To approach or give one's attention to as though directed to a target. — *adj.* Without value or appreciable change. [< F < Ital. < Arabic *sifr*]

zero gravity *Aerospace* A condition in which the gravitational attraction of the earth or other celestial body is nullified by inertial forces; weightlessness.

zero hour **1.** H-hour. **2.** *Informal* The moment of undertaking something; any critical moment.

zest (zest) *n.* **1.** Invigorating excitement; keen enjoyment

gusto: often with *for*: a *zest* for reading. **2.** That which imparts such excitement and relish. **3.** An agreeable and piquant flavor in anything tasted, esp. if added to the usual flavor. — *v.t.* To give zest or relish to; make piquant. [< F *zeste* lemon peel (for flavoring)]

zest·ful (zest′fəl) *adj.* Full of or marked by zest. Also **zest′y.** — **zest′ful·ly** *adv.* — **zest′ful·ness** *n.*

ze·ta (zā′tə, zē′-) *n.* The sixth letter (Z, ζ) in the Greek alphabet, corresponding to English *z*. See ALPHABET. [< Gk. *zēta*]

zeug·ma (zōōg′mə) *n.* A rhetorical figure in which an adjective is made to modify, or a verb to govern, two nouns, while applying properly only to one, as in *She was remembered but they forgotten.* [< NL < Gk. < *zeugnymi* to yoke]

Zeus (zōōs) In Greek mythology, the supreme deity, ruler of the celestial realm, son of Kronos and Rhea and husband of Hera: identified with the Roman *Jupiter*.

zib·et (zib′it) *n.* The Asian or Indian civet. Also **zib′eth.** [< Med.L < Arabic *zabād* civet]

zig·zag (zig′zag) *n.* **1.** A series of short, sharp turns or angles from one side to the other in succession. **2.** Something characterized by such angles, as a path or pattern. — *adj.* Having or proceeding in a zigzag. — *adv.* In a zigzag manner. — *v.t. & v.i.* **·zagged, ·zag·ging** To form or move in zigzags. [< F < G *zickzack*, prob. reduplication of *zacke* sharp point] — **zig′zag·ger** *n.*

zinc (zingk) *n.* A bluish white, metallic element (symbol Zn) occurring mostly in combination, widely used in industry, medicine, the arts, for roofing, and as the negative electrode in electric batteries. See ELEMENT. — *v.t.* **zincked** or **zinced, zinck·ing** or **zinc·ing** To coat or cover with zinc; galvanize. [< G *zink*; ult. origin unknown] — **zinc′ic** *adj.* — **zinck′y, zinc′y, zink′y** *adj.*

zinc blende Sphalerite.

zinc ointment A medicated ointment for skin affections, containing zinc oxide mixed with petrolatum.

zinc·ous (zingk′əs) *adj. Chem.* Pertaining to or derived from zinc.

zinc oxide *Chem.* A white pulverulent compound ZnO, used as a pigment, and in medicine as a mild antiseptic and astringent.

zinc white Zinc oxide used as a pigment in paints.

zin·fan·del (zin′fän·del) *n.* A dry, red or white claret-type wine made in California. [? after a European place name]

zing (zing) *Informal* *n.* **1.** A high-pitched buzzing or humming sound. **2.** Energy; vitality; vigor. — *v.i.* To make a shrill, humming sound. [Imit.]

zin·ga·ro (tsēng′gä·rō) *n. pl.* **·ri** (-rē) *Italian* A gypsy. Also **zin′ga·no** (-nō). — **zin′ga·ra** (-rä) *n.fem.*

zin·ni·a (zin′ē·ə) *n.* Any of various American herbs, having showy flowers; esp., the common zinnia, the State flower of Indiana. [< NL, after J. G. *Zinn*, 1727–59, German professor of medicine]

Zi·on (zī′ən) **1.** A hill in Jerusalem, the site of the temple and the royal residence of David and his successors, regarded by the Jews as a symbol for the center of Jewish national culture, government, and religion. **2.** The Jewish people. **3.** Any place or community considered to be especially under God's rule. **4.** The heavenly Jerusalem; heaven. Also *Sion*. [OE < LL < Gk. < Hebrew *tsiyōn* hill]

Zi·on·ism (zī′ən·iz′əm) *n.* A movement for a resettlement of the Jews in Palestine. Also **Zion movement.** — **Zi′on·ist** *adj. & n.* — **Zi′on·is′tic** *adj.*

zip (zip) *n.* **1.** A sharp, hissing sound, as of a bullet passing through the air. **2.** *Informal* Energy; vitality; vim. — *v.* **zipped, zip·ping** *v.t.* **1.** To fasten with a zipper. — *v.i.* **2.** *Informal* To be very energetic. **3.** To move or fly with a zip. [Imit.]

ZIP Code (zip) A numerical code devised by the U.S. Post Office to aid in the distribution of domestic mail. Also **Zip Code.** [< Z(ONE) I(MPROVEMENT) P(LAN)]

zip gun *U.S. Slang* A homemade pistol consisting of a small pipe or other tube fastened to a block of wood and equipped with a firing pin actuated by a spring or rubber band.

zip·per (zip′ər) *n.* A fastener having two rows of interlocking teeth that may be closed or separated by a sliding device, used on clothing, boots, etc.: also called *slide fastener*.

zip·py (zip′ē) *adj.* **·pi·er, ·pi·est** *Informal* Brisk; energetic.

zir·con (zûr′kon) *n.* A crystalline, variously colored, zirconium silicate, $ZrSiO_4$; some translucent varieties of which are used as gems. [< G *zirken* or F *zircone* < Arabic *zarqūn* cinnabar < Persian < *zar* gold + *gūn* color]

zir·co·ni·um (zûr·kō′nē·əm) *n.* A metallic element (symbol Zr) chemically resembling titanium, used in alloys, as an opacifier of lacquers, and as an abrasive. See ELEMENT. [< NL < ZIRCON] — **zir·con′ic** (-kon′ik) *adj.*

zith·er (zith′ər) *n.* A simple form of stringed instrument, having a flat sounding board and from thirty to forty strings that are played by plucking with a plectrum. Also **zith′ern** (-ərn). [< G < L < Gk. *kithara*]

zlo·ty (zlô′tē) *n. pl.* **·tys** or **·ty** The standard monetary unit of Poland, equal to 100 groszy: in 1960 worth about 25 U.S. cents. [< Polish, lit., golden]

zo- Var. of ZOO-.

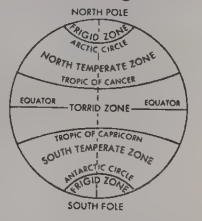
zo·di·ac (zō′dē·ak) *n.* **1.** An imaginary belt encircling the heavens and extending about 8° on each side of the ecliptic within which are the apparent orbits of the moon, sun, and larger planets. It is divided into twelve parts, called **signs of the zodiac**, that formerly corresponded to twelve constellations bearing the same names. **2.** A figure or diagram representing this belt and its signs, used in astrology. **3.** A complete circuit. [< OF < L < Gk. (*kyklos*) *zōdiakos* (circle) of animals < *zōion* animal] — **zo·di·a·cal** (zō·dī′ə·kəl) *adj.*

SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC
A Vernal equinox: Aries, Taurus, Gemini. *B* Summer solstice: Cancer, Leo, Virgo. *C* Autumnal equinox: Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius. *D* Winter solstice: Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces.

zom·bie (zom′bē) *n.* **1.** The supernatural power by which a dead body is believed to be reanimated. **2.** A corpse reactivated by sorcery, but still dead. **3.** Loosely, a ghost. **4.** A large, strong cocktail made from several kinds of rum, fruit juices, and liqueur. **5.** *Slang* An unattractive person. Also **zom′bi.** [< West African] — **zom′bi·ism** *n.*

zo·nal (zō′nəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, exhibiting, or marked by a zone or zones; like a zone. Also **zo′na·ry** (-nər·ē).

zone (zōn) *n.* **1.** An area, tract, or section distinguished from other or adjacent areas by some special quality, purpose, or condition: a mountainous *zone*; a *zone* of disagreement. **2.** *Usu. cap.* Any of five divisions of the earth's surface, enclosed between two parallels of latitude and named for the prevailing climate: the **Torrid Zone,** extending on each side of the equator 23° 27′; the **Temperate Zones,** included between the parallels 23° 27′ and 66° 33′ on both sides of the equator, and the **Frigid Zones,** within the parallels 66° 33′ and the poles. **3.** An area of land designated as distinct from other areas because of its particular use or location: combat *zone*; school *zone*. **4.** *Ecol.* A belt or area delimited from others by the character of its plant or animal life, its climate, geological formations, etc. **5.** A concentric area or band; esp., any of a number of concentric areas used to determine the rate of charge for transporting something a specified distance, as in the U.S. parcel post system. **6.** A section of a city or town where only certain uses of the land or certain types of buildings are permitted by law: a residential *zone*. **7.** A section of a city designated with a number as an aid in the distribution of mail. **8.** A belt, band, stripe, etc., having a color or other characteristic that distinguishes it from the object it encircles. **9.** *Geom.* A portion of the surface of a sphere enclosed between two parallel planes. **10.** *Archaic* or *Poetic* A belt or girdle. — *v.t.* **zoned, zon·ing** **1.** To divide into zones; esp., to divide (a city, etc.) into zones that are restricted as to types of construction and use, as residential or industrial. **2.** To designate (an area, etc.) as a zone or part of a zone: to *zone* the waterfront district as commercial. **3.** To mark with or as with zones or stripes. **4.** To encircle with a zone or belt. [< L < Gk. *zōnē* girdle]



TERRESTRIAL ZONES

zoo (zōō) *n.* A park or garden in which wild animals are kept for exhibition. Also **zoological garden, zoological park.**

zoo- *combining form* Animal; of or related to animals, or to animal forms. Also, before vowels, *zo-*. [< Gk. *zōion* animal]

zo·o·ge·og·ra·phy (zō′ə·jē·og′rə·fē) *n.* The systematic study of the distribution of animals and of the relations between animal groups and the land or aquatic areas in which

they predominate. — **zo/o·ge·og/ra·pher** *n.* — **zo/o·ge/o·graph/ic** (-jē/ə·graf/ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **zo/o·ge/o·graph/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

zo·oid (zō/oid) *n.* **1.** *Biol.* Any animal or vegetable organism, usu. very small, capable of spontaneous movement and independent existence, as a spermatozoon, spermatozoid, etc. **2.** *Zool.* One of the distinct members of a compound or colonial organism. — *adj.* Having the nature of an animal: also **zo·oi·dal** (zō·oid/l).

zo·o·log·i·cal (zō/ə·loj/i·kəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to zoology. **2.** Relating to or characteristic of animals. Also **zo/o·log/ic.** — **zo/o·log/i·cal·ly** *adv.*

zo·ol·o·gy (zō·ol/ə·jē) *n.* **1.** The science that treats of animals with reference to their structure, functions, development, evolution, and classification. **2.** The animal kingdom, or local examples of it, regarded biologically. [< NL < Gk. *zōion* animal + *logos* word, discourse] — **zo·ol/o·gist** *n.*

zoom (zōōm) *v.i.* **1.** To make a low-pitched but loud humming sound; also, to move with such a sound. **2.** To climb sharply in an airplane. — *v.t.* **3.** To cause to zoom. — *n.* The act of zooming. [Imit.]

zoom lens *Photog.* A lens, used chiefly on television and motion picture cameras, that permits the size of the image to be varied continuously without loss of focus.

zo·o·mor·phism (zō/ə·môr/fiz·əm) *n.* **1.** The conception, symbolization, or representation of a man or a god in the form of an animal; also, the attribution of divine or human qualities to animals. **2.** The representation of animals or animal forms in art or symbolism. **3.** Transformation into animals. Also **zo/o·mor/phy.** — **zo/o·mor/phic** *adj.*

zo·o·phyte (zō/ə·fīt) *n.* An invertebrate animal resembling a plant, as a coral or sea anemone. — **zo/o·phyt/ic** (-fit/ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.*

zo·o·spore (zō/ə·spôr, -spōr) *n.* **1.** *Bot.* A spore, produced among some algae and fungi, that is provided with cilia by means of which it can move about. **2.** *Zool.* A flagellate or ameboid motile body in certain protozoa. — **zo/o·spor/ic** (-spôr/ik, -spor/ik), **zo·os·po·rous** (zō·os/pər·əs) *adj.*

Zo·ro·as·tri·an (zō/rō·as/trē·ən) *n.* A follower of Zoroaster; an adherent of Zoroastrianism. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Zoroaster or to the religion he founded.

Zo·ro·as·tri·an·ism (zō/rō·as/trē·ən·iz/əm) *n.* The religious system founded by Zoroaster and taught in the Zend-Avesta. It recognizes two creative powers, one good and the other evil, includes the belief in life after death, and teaches the final triumph of good over evil. Also **Zo/ro·as/trism.**

Zou·ave (zōō·äv/, swäv) *n.* **1.** A light-armed French infantryman wearing a brilliant Oriental uniform, originally an Algerian recruit. **2.** In the Civil War, a member of a volunteer regiment assuming the name and part of the dress of the French Zouaves. **3.** A woman's short, gaily embroidered jacket: also **Zouave jacket.** [< F < Arabic *Zouāoua*, a Kabyle tribe]

zounds (zoundz, zōōndz) *interj. Archaic* A mild oath used to express surprise or anger. [Short for *God's wounds*]

zuc·chet·to (tsōōk·ket/tō) *n.* A skullcap worn by ecclesiastics in the Roman Catholic Church, black for a priest, purple for a bishop, red for a cardinal, and white for the pope. Also **zuc·chet/ta** (-tä). [Var. of Ital. *zucchetta*, < LL *cucutia* a kind of wood]

zuc·chi·ni (zōō·kē/nē, *Ital.* dzōōk·kē/nē) *n.* A type of green summer squash of cylindrical shape. [< Ital., pl. of *zucchino*, dim. of *zucca* gourd, squash]

Zu·lu (zōō/lōō) *n. pl.* **Zu·lus** or **Zu·lu** **1.** One of a Bantu nation of Natal, South Africa, sometimes included with the Kaffirs. **2.** The Bantu language of the Zulus. — *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Zulus or their language.

Zu·ñi (zōō/nyē) *n.* **1.** One of a tribe of North American Indians of pueblo culture but comprising a distinct, ethnic stock, living in New Mexico. **2.** The language of this tribe. — **Zu/ñi·an** *adj. & n.*

zwie·back (zwī/bak, zwē/-, swī/, swē/-, -bäk; *Ger.* tsvē/bäk) *n.* A biscuit of wheaten breat or rusk baked yellow in the loaf and later sliced and toasted. [< G, twice baked < *zwie-* twice (< *zwei* two) + *backen* to bake]

zygo- *combining form* Yoke; pair; resembling a yoke, esp. in shape. Also, before vowels, **zyg-.** [< Gk. *zygon* yoke]

zy·gote (zī/gōt, zig/ōt) *n. Biol.* **1.** The product of the union of two gametes. **2.** A new organism developed from such a union. [< Gk. < *zygon* yoke] — **zy·got·ic** (zī·got/·ik) *adj.*

zy·mase (zī/māz) *n. Biochem.* An enzyme, obtained principally from yeast, that induces fermentation by breaking down glucose and related carbohydrates into alcohol and carbon dioxide. [< F < Gk. *zymē* leaven]

zyme (zīm) *n.* A disease germ or virus supposed to be the specific cause of a zymotic disease. [< Gk. *zymē* leaven]

zymo- *combining form* Fermentation; of or related to fermentation. Also, before vowels, **zym-.** [< Gk. *zymē* leaven]

zy·mol·o·gy (zī·mol/ə·jē) *n.* The study of fermentation and the action of enzymes. — **zy·mo·log·ic** (zī/mə·loj/ik) or **·i·cal** *adj.* — **zy·mol/o·gist** *n.*

zy·mol·y·sis (zī·mol/ə·sis) *n.* Fermentation or the action of enzymes. — **zy·mo·lyt·ic** (zī/mə·lit/ik) *adj.*

zy·mo·sis (zī·mō/sis) *n. pl.* **·ses** **1.** Any form of fermentation. **2.** *Med.* A process resembling fermentation formerly supposed to give rise to a diseased condition. [< NL < Gk. < *zymoein* to leaven, ferment < *zymē* leaven] — **zy·mot/ic** (-mot/ik) *adj.*

zy·mur·gy (zī/mûr·jē) *n.* A branch of chemistry treating of processes in which fermentation takes place, as brewing, winemaking, etc.

SUPPLEMENT

A World Gazetteer 803

Abbreviations and Acronyms 816

A WORLD GAZETTEER

This gazetteer lists states of the United States, its capital cities and other large cities; countries and other major political divisions of the world; world capitals; world cities; and Canadian provinces and their capitals. Included here also are the more important geographical features of the world. The population figures given for the United States are from the 1990 U.S. Census, those given for Canada are from the 1991 Canadian Census, and those for the rest of the world are from latest available census or estimate provided by the United Nations and other sources.

The following abbreviations are used in this section:

ab.	about	km	kilometer
adm.	administrative	legis.	legislative
betw.	between	met.	metropolitan
boro(s).	borough(s)	m	meter
Brit.	British	mi	mile
cap.	capital	mt(s).	mountain(s)
cen.	central	N	north(ern)
col.	colony	penin.	peninsula
con.	constitutional	pop.	population
dist.	district	prov.	province
E	east(ern)	S	south(ern)
Fr.	French	terr.	territory
ft	feet	U.S.	United States
isl(s).	island(s)	W	west(ern)

Aarhus city, E Denmark; pop. 195,152 (met.).
Abidjan city, S Côte d'Ivoire; de facto cap.; pop. 2,168,000.
Abu Dhabi city, NE United Arab Emirates; cap.; pop. 242,975. Also **Abu Zaby**.
Accra city, S Ghana; cap.; pop. 1,101,000.
Aconcagua extinct volcano, W cen. Argentina; highest point in South America; 6959 m (22,831 ft).
Addis Ababa city, cen. Ethiopia; cap.; pop. 1,891,000.
Adelaide city, S Australia; pop. 917,000.
Aden city, S Yemen; pop. 668,000.
Adirondack Mountains mt. range, NE New York. Also **Adirondacks**.
Adriatic Sea inlet of the Mediterranean Sea, E of Italy.
Aegean Sea inlet of the Mediterranean Sea, betw. Greece and Asia Minor.
Afghanistan country, S cen. Asia; pop. 16,121,000; cap. Kabul.
Africa second largest continent, S of Europe and W of Asia.
Agana town, W Guam; cap.; pop. 1139.
Ahmadabad city, W India; pop. 3,646,000. Also **Ahmedabad**.
Akron city, NE Ohio; pop. 223,019.
Alabama state, SE U.S.; pop. 4,040,587; cap. Montgomery.
Alaska state of U.S.; NW North America; pop. 550,043; cap. Juneau.
Alaska Peninsula penin. of SW Alaska.
Albania country, SE Europe, on the W Balkan penin.; pop. 3,250,000; cap. Tiranë.
Albany city, E New York; cap.; pop. 101,082.
Alberta prov., W Canada; pop. 2,545,553; cap. Edmonton.
Albuquerque city, NW New Mexico; pop. 384,736.
Aleutian Islands isl. group, SW of Alaska.
Alexandria 1. city, NE Virginia; pop. 111,183. **2.** city, N Egypt; pop. 3,684,000.
Algeria country, NW Africa; pop. 25,012,000; cap. Algiers.
Algiers city, N Algeria; cap.; pop. 3,033,000.
Allegheny Mountains mt. range of Appalachian system; extends from Pennsylvania through Virginia. Also **Alleghanies**.
Allentown city, E Pennsylvania; pop. 105,090.
Alma-Ata city, SE Kazakhstan; cap.; pop. 1,143,000.
Alps mt. system, S Europe; extends in an arc from S coast of France to W coast of the Balkan penin.
Altai Mountains mt. system, cen. Asia.
Amarillo city, NW Texas; pop. 157,615.
Amazon river, N South America; carries the largest volume of water of all rivers; ab. 6275 km (ab. 3900 mi) long.
America 1. *an alternate name*: See THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. **2.** either North, Central, or South America; the Western Hemisphere. **3.** the lands of the Western Hemisphere, including North, Central, and South America and the West Indies. Also **the Americas**.
American Samoa U.S. terr. consisting of 7 isls. in S Pacific; pop. 46,773; cap. Pago Pago.
Amman city, N Jordan; cap.; pop. 1,025,000.
Amsterdam city, W Netherlands; con. cap.; pop. 1,062,000.
Amur river, E Asia; ab. 4345 km (ab. 2700 mi) long.
Anaheim city, SW California; pop. 266,406.
Anatolia 1. *an alternate name*: See ASIA MINOR. **2.** Turkey, Asia Minor, or the penin. of extreme W Asia, comprising most of Turkey. Also **Anatolian Peninsula**.
Anchorage city, S Alaska; pop. 226,338.
Andes mt. range, W South America; connects with the Rockies.
Andorra country, SW Europe, betw. France and Spain; pop. 52,000; cap. Andorra la Vella.
Andorra la Vella city, W Andorra; cap.; pop. 16,151.
Angola country, SW Africa; pop. 10,020,000; cap. Luanda.
Ankara city, cen. Turkey; cap.; pop. 2,600,000. Formerly *Angora*.
Annapolis city, cen. Maryland; cap.; pop. 33,187.
Ann Arbor city, SE Michigan; pop. 109,592.
Antananarivo city, E cen. Madagascar; cap.; pop. 675,000. Formerly *Tananarive*.
Antarctic, the the regions around the South Pole.
Antarctic Circle parallel of latitude at 66°30′S; the boundary of the South Frigid Zone.
Antarctic Ocean S parts of Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans surrounding Antarctica.
Antarctica continent surrounding the South Pole. Also **Antarctic Continent**.
Antigua and Barbuda country, isls. West Indies; pop. 77,000; cap. St. John's.
Antilles isls. of the West Indies excluding the Bahamas; comprises *Greater Antilles*: Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, and *Lesser Antilles*: Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the Virgin Islands, and other small islands.
Antwerp city, N Belgium; pop. 470,349.
Apia city, N Upolu isl., Western Samoa; cap.; pop. 37,000.
Appalachian Mountains mt. system, E North America. Also **Appalachians**.
Arabia penin., SW Asia, betw. the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.
Arabian Desert desert, E Egypt, betw. Nile and Red Sea. Also **Eastern Desert**.
Arabian Sea part of the Indian Ocean betw. Arabia and India.
Aral Sea salt inland sea, betw. SW Kazakhstan and NW Uzbekistan.
Arctic, the the regions around the North Pole.
Arctic Circle parallel of latitude at 66°30′ N; the boundary of the North Frigid Zone.
Arctic Ocean sea, N of Arctic Circle, surrounding North Pole.
Argentina country, S South America; pop. 32,322,000; cap. Buenos Aires.
Arizona state, SW U.S.; pop. 3,665,228; cap. Phoenix.
Arkansas 1. river, cen. U.S.; 2334 km (1450 mi) long. **2.** state, S cen. U.S.; pop. 2,350,725; cap. Little Rock.
Arlington city, N Texas; pop. 261,721.
Armenia country, SE Europe; pop. 3,324,000; cap. Yerevan. Formerly *Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Aruba isl., in Lesser Antilles; pop. 60,000. Granted home rule in 1986, will achieve full independence in 1996. Formerly part of the *Netherlands Antilles*.
Ashkhabad city, S Turkmenistan; cap.; pop. 407,000.

Asia largest of the continents; in the Eastern Hemisphere; part of a landmass with Europe and separated from Europe by Ural Mts.
Asia Minor penin. of extreme W Asia, comprising most of Turkey.
Asunción city, SW Paraguay; cap.; pop. 967,000. Also **Nuestra Señora de la Asunción**.
Athens city, SE Greece; cap.; pop. 3,441,000 (met.).
Atlanta city, NW cen. Georgia; cap.; pop. 394,017.
Atlantic Ocean ocean, extending from the Arctic to the Antarctic betw. the Americas and Europe and Africa.
Atlas Mountains mt. range, NW Africa.
Auckland city, N North Island, New Zealand; pop. 150,000.
Augusta city, S Maine; cap.; pop. 21,325.
Aurora city, N cen. Colorado; pop. 222,103.
Austin city, cen. Texas; cap.; pop. 465,622.
Australasia isls. of the South Pacific, including Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea.
Australia 1. isl. continent, South Pacific, SE of Asia. **2.** country comprising this continent and nearby isl. of Tasmania; pop. 17,086,000; cap. Canberra.
Austria country, cen. Europe; pop. 7,712,000; cap. Vienna.
Azerbaijan country, SE Europe; pop. 7,153,000; cap. Baku. Formerly *Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Azores three isl. groups of Portugal, E Atlantic.

Babylon city, SE New York; pop. 202,889.
Baghdad city, cen. Iraq; cap.; pop. 4,004,000 (met). Also **Bagdad**.
Bahamas country, isl. group, West Indies, SE of Florida; pop. 253,000; cap. Nassau. Also **Bahama Islands**.
Bahrain country, isl. group in Persian Gulf off Saudi Arabia; pop. 503,000; cap. Manama. Also **Bahrein**.
Baikal *an alternate name*: See BAYKAL.
Baja California penin., NW Mexico; betw. the Gulf of California and the Pacific. Also **Lower California**.
Bakersfield city, S cen. California; pop. 174,820.
Baku city, Azerbaijan; cap.; pop. 1,769,000.
Balearic Islands isl. group, prov. of Spain; W Mediterranean; comprising islands of Majorca, Minorca, Ibiza, and others.
Balkan 1. mt. range, cen. Bulgaria; extends from the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Black Sea. **2.** penin. of SE Europe, betw. Adriatic and Ionian Seas on W and Black Sea and Aegean Sea on E. Also **Balkans**.
Baltimore city, N Maryland; pop. 736,014.
Bamako city, S cen. Mali; cap.; pop. 661,000.
Bandar Seri Begawan city, N Brunei; cap.; pop. 65,000.
Bandung city, W Java, Indonesia; pop. 2,535,000.
Bangalore city, S India; pop. 4,993,000.
Bangkok city, SW Thailand; cap.; pop. 7,156,000 (met.).
Bangladesh country, S Asia; pop. 115,594,000; cap. Dhaka. Formerly *East Pakistan*.
Bangui city, SW Central African Republic; cap.; pop. 725,000.
Banjul city, W Gambia; cap.; pop. 200,000. Formerly *Bathurst*.
Barbados country, isl. in E Caribbean; pop. 255,000; cap. Bridgetown.
Barcelona city, NE Spain; pop. 3,425,000.
Basel city, N Switzerland; pop. 229,400. Also **Basle**.
Basse-Terre town, SW Basse-Terre isl., Guadeloupe; cap.; pop. 135,341.
Basseterre city, cen. St. Kitts isl., St. Kitts; cap.; pop. 21,000.
Basutoland See LESOTHO.
Baton Rouge city, SE cen. Louisiana; cap.; pop. 219,513.
Baykal freshwater lake, S Russia. Also **Baikal**.
Beaumont city, SE Texas; pop. 114,323.
Beijing city, N China; cap.; pop. 10,787,000. Also **Peking**.
Beirut city, W Lebanon; cap.; pop. 474,870. Also **Bayrut**.
Belarus country, E Europe; pop. 10,278,000; cap. Minsk. Formerly *Belorussia Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Belfast city, E Northern Ireland; cap.; pop. 296,900.
Belgium country, NW Europe; pop. 9,845,000; cap. Brussels.
Belgrade city, E Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; cap.; pop. 1,575,000.
Belize 1. country, E cen. Central America; pop. 188,000; cap. Belmopan. Formerly *British Honduras*. **2.** city, E Belize; pop. 50,801.
Belmopan city, cen. Belize; cap.; pop. 2907.
Belo Horizonte city, E Brazil; pop. 3,598,000.
Benghazi city, NE Libya; pop. 808,000. Also **Bengasi** or **Banghazi**.
Benin country, W Africa; pop. 4,736,000; cap. Porto-Novo. Formerly *Dahomey*.
Bergen city, SW Norway; pop. 211,461.
Bering Sea part of the North Pacific betw. Alaska and NE Russia, joined to the Arctic by the Bering Strait.
Berkeley city, W California; pop. 102,724.
Berlin city, E cen. Germany; cap. prior to 1945 when divided into the British, French, Soviet, and U.S. sectors. In 1949 the Soviet sector, *East Berlin*, was designated capital of East Germany. The remaining sectors formed *West Berlin*, associated with West Germany. In October 1990, with the reunification of Germany, Berlin was reunited; Berlin again became the cap.; pop. 3,140,000.
Bermuda Brit. isl. group, E of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in N Atlantic consisting of over 150 small islands, islets, and rocks.
Bern city, W cen. Switzerland; cap.; pop. 292,000. Also **Berne**.
Bhutan country, S cen. Asia; pop. 1,517,000; cap. Thimphu.
Birmingham city, N cen. Alabama; pop. 265,968.
Bismarck city, S cen. North Dakota; cap.; pop. 49,256.
Bissau city, W Guinea-Bissau; cap.; pop. 71,000 (met.). Also **Bissão**.
Bishkek city, N Kyrgyzstan; cap.; pop. 625,000. Former names: *Frunze*, *Bishbek*, and *Pishpek*.
Bitterroot Range a range of Rocky Mts. along the Idaho-Montana border.
Black Forest wooded mt. reg., SW Germany.
Black Sea inland sea betw. SE Europe and Asia Minor, connects with the Aegean via the Bosporus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles.
Blue Ridge Mountains mt. range in SW part of the Appalachians.
Bogotá city, E cen. Colombia; cap.; pop. 4,851,000.
Boise city, SW Idaho; cap.; pop. 125,738.
Bolivia country, W cen. South America; pop. 7,400,000; con. cap. Sucre, adm. cap. La Paz.
Bologna city, N cen. Italy; pop. 445,139.
Bombay city, W India; pop. 11,169,000 (met.).
Bonaire isl. in Netherlands Antilles.
Bonn city, W Germany; cap. of West Germany 1949-1990; pop. 647,000 (met.).
Bordeaux city, SW France; pop. 205,960.
Borneo isl. in Malay Archipelago, SW of the Philippines.
Bosnia and Hercegovina country, SE Europe; pop. 4,124,256; cap. Sarajevo. Formerly part of *Yugoslavia*.
Bosporus strait, betw. the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara.
Boston city, E Massachusetts; cap.; pop. 574,283.
Botswana country, S Africa; pop. 1,291,000; cap. Gaborone.
Brasília city, S cen. Brazil; cap.; pop. 2,362,000.
Brazil country, NE South America; pop. 150,368,000; cap. Brasília.
Brazzaville city, SE Congo; cap.; pop. 630,000 (met.).
Bremen city, NW Germany; pop. 544,327.
Bridgeport city, SW Connecticut; pop. 141,686.
Bridgetown city, SW Barbados; cap.; pop. 114,000.
Brisbane city, E Australia; pop. 1,227,000.
Bristol city, SW England; pop. 372,600.
Bristol Channel inlet of the Atlantic betw. S Wales and SW England.
British Columbia prov., SW Canada; pop. 3,282,061; cap. Victoria.
British Guiana See GUYANA.

British Honduras See BELIZE.
British Isles isl. group in the Atlantic, W of Europe comprising Great Britain, Ireland, the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands, the Hebrides, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Wight, and the Isle of Man.
British Virgin Islands Brit. col., easternmost of the Virgin Islands; pop. 13,000.
British West Indies isl. group in the Caribbean including Jamaica, the Bahamas, Caymans, British Virgin Islands, British Leeward, and Windward Islands and others.
Brno city, cen. Czechoslovakia; pop. 392,285.
Brunei country, SE Asia; pop. 266,000; cap. Bandar Seri Begawan. Officially **Brunei Darussalam**.
Brussels city, cen. Belgium; cap.; pop. 954,000.
Bucharest city, S Romania; cap.; pop. 2,194,000 (met.).
Budapest city, N cen. Hungary; cap.; pop. 2,115,000.
Buenos Aires city, E Argentina; cap.; pop. 11,509,000.
Buffalo city, W New York; pop. 328,123.
Bujumbura city, W cen. Burundi; cap.; pop. 246,000. Formerly *Usumbura*.
Bulgaria country, SE Europe; pop. 8,980,000; cap. Sofia.
Burkina Faso country, W Africa; pop. 9,001,000; cap. Ougadougou. Formerly *Upper Volta*.
Burma *an alternate name*: See MYANMAR, UNION OF.
Burundi country, E cen. Africa; pop. 5,458,000; cap. Bujumbura.

Cairo city, NE Egypt; cap.; pop. 9,040,000.
Calcutta city, NE India; pop. 11,835,000.
Calgary city, S Alberta, Canada; pop. 701,677 (met.).
California state, W U.S.; pop. 29,760,021; cap. Sacramento.
California, Gulf of inlet of the Pacific, W Mexico, betw. Baja California and rest of Mexico.
Cambodia country, SW Indochina penin.; pop. 8,246,000; cap. Phnom Penh. Also **Kampuchea**.
Cameroon country, W cen. Africa; pop. 11,834,000; cap. Yaoundé.
Canada country, N North America; pop. 27,296,859; cap. Ottawa.
Canary Islands isl. group of Spain near NW coast of Africa. Also **Canaries**.
Canaveral, Cape cape, E Florida; site of the John F. Kennedy Space Center, a space research and missile installation.
Canberra city, SE Australia; cap.; pop. 248,000.
Cape Town city, S South Africa; legis. cap.; pop. 2,310,000.
Cape Verde country, isl. group off NW Africa; pop. 370,000; cap. Praia.
Caracas city, N Venezuela; cap.; pop. 4,092,000 (met).
Cardiff city, SE Wales; cap.; pop. 284,900.
Caribbean Sea arm of the Atlantic betw. the West Indies and Central and South America.
Caroline Islands isl. group in the Pacific, E of the Philippines; part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
Carpathian Mountains mt. range, cen. and E Europe.
Carson City city, W Nevada; cap.; pop. 40,443.
Casablanca city, NW Morocco; pop. 3,213,000 (met.).
Cascade Range mt. range in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.
Caspian Sea large saltwater lake, on boundary of Europe and Asia.
Castries city, St. Lucia; cap.; pop. 70,000.
Catania city, E Sicily isl., Italy; pop. 379,039.
Catskill Mountains range of the Appalachians in SE New York. Also **Catskills**.
Caucasus mt. range SE Europe, betw. the Black and Caspian seas.
Cayenne city, N French Guiana; cap.; pop. 66,000.
Cayman Islands Brit. dependency, three isls. in Caribbean, S of Cuba; chief island *Grand Cayman*; pop. 27,000; cap. George Town.
Cedar Rapids city, E Iowa; pop. 108,751.
Celebes isl. of Indonesia, E of Borneo. Also **Sulawesi**.
Central African Republic country, cen. Africa; pop. 3,039,000; cap. Bangui. Formerly *Central African Empire*.
Central America S part of North America, betw. Mexico and Colombia.
Ceylon See SRI LANKA.
Chad country, cen. Africa; pop. 5,679,000; cap. N'Djamena.
Chagos Archipelago isl. group, cen. Indian Ocean, forms British Indian Ocean Territory; pop. 3000. Also **Oil Islands**.
Channel Islands Brit. isl. group, English Channel; includes Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark; pop. 139,000.
Charleston city, cen. West Virginia; cap.; pop. 57,287.
Charlotte city, S cen. North Carolina; pop. 395,934.
Charlottetown city, NE Canada; cap. of Prince Edward Island; pop. 15,396.
Chattanooga city, SE Tennessee; pop. 152,466.
Chesapeake city, SE Virginia; pop. 151,976.
Chesapeake Bay inlet of the Atlantic in Virginia and Maryland.
Cheyenne city, SE Wyoming; cap.; pop. 50,008.
Chicago city, NE Illinois; pop. 2,783,726.
Chile country, W South America; pop. 13,173,000; cap. Santiago.
China, People's Republic of country, E Asia; pop. 1,139,060,000; cap. Beijing.
China, Republic of country, on Taiwan and several smaller islands; pop. 20,300,000; con. cap. Taipei, adm. cap. Taiwan.
China Sea part of the Pacific bordering on China.
Chongquing city, SW China; cap. during World War II; pop. 3,151,000. Also **Chungking**.
Christmas Island Australian dependency, isl. SW of Java; pop. 1600.
Cincinnati city, SW Ohio; pop. 364,040.
Ciudad Juárez city, N Mexico; pop. 544,496.
Ciudad Trujillo See SANTO DOMINGO.
Cleveland city, N Ohio; pop. 505,616.
Cocos Islands isl. group of Australia, E Indian Ocean; pop. 622. Also **Keeling Islands**.
Cologne city, W Germany; pop. 946,280.
Colombia country, NW South America; pop. 32,987,000; cap. Bogotá.
Colombo city, W Sri Lanka; cap.; pop. 616,000.
Colón city, N Panama, on Caribbean at entrance to Panama Canal; pop. 202,007 (met.).
Colorado state, W cen. U.S.; pop. 3,294,394; cap. Denver.
Colorado River river, SW U.S. and NW Mexico, flowing from Colorado into Gulf of California; 2334 km (1450 mi) long.
Colorado Springs city, E cen. Colorado; pop. 281,140.
Columbia city, cen. South Carolina; cap.; pop. 98,052.
Columbia River river, SW Canada and NW U.S.; 2005 km (1245 mi) long.
Columbus 1. city, W Georgia; pop. 179,278. **2.** city, cen. Ohio; cap.; pop. 632,910.
Commonwealth of Independent States voluntary association of 11 republics of the former Soviet Union, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
Comoros country, isls. off SW Africa; pop. 551,000; cap. Moroni.
Conakry city, W Guinea; cap.; pop. 1,296,000.
Concord 1. city, W California; pop. 111,348. **2.** city, S cen. New Hampshire; cap.; pop. 36,006.
Congo country, W cen. Africa; pop. 2,271,000; cap. Brazzaville.
Congo River river, cen. Africa; 4375 km (2720 mi) long.
Connecticut state, NE U.S.; pop. 3,287,116; cap. Hartford.
Constantinople See ISTANBUL.
Continental Divide ridge of the Rockies separating W flowing and E flowing streams in North America.
Cook Island terr. of New Zealand, two groups of widely scattered isls. in the S Pacific; pop. 18,000.
Copenhagen city, E Denmark; cap.; pop. 1,385,000.

Córdoba city, cen. Argentina; pop. 1,136,000.
Cork city, SW Ireland; pop. 133,271.
Corpus Christi city, S Texas; pop. 257,453.
Corsica isl., N Mediterranean; a dept. of France.
Costa Rica country, S Central America; pop. 2,994,000; cap. San José.
Côte D'Ivoire country, W Africa; pop. 11,998,000; de facto cap. Abidjan, adm. cap. Yamoussoukro (since 1983). Formerly *Ivory Coast*.
Cracow *an alternate name*: See KRAKOW.
Crete isl., E Mediterranean; adm. division of Greece; cap. Khaniá.
Croatia country, SE Europe; pop. 4,601,469; cap. Zagreb. Formerly part of *Yugoslavia*.
Cuba country, isl. in W Caribbean; pop. 10,609,000; cap. Havana.
Cumberland Gap passage through Cumberland Mts. betw. Tennessee and Virginia.
Curaçao largest isl. of the Netherlands Antilles.
Curitiba city, SE Brazil; pop. 2,031,000.
Cyprus country, isl. E Mediterranean; pop. 702,000; cap. Nicosia.
Czechoslovakia country, E cen. Europe; pop. 15,662,000; cap. Prague.

Dacca See DHAKA.
Dahomey See BENIN.
Dakar city, W Senegal; cap.; pop. 1,492,000.
Dalian city, NE China; pop. 2,543,000. Formerly *Lüda* (Also **Lüta**).
Dallas city, NE Texas; pop. 1,006,877.
Damascus city, SW Syria; cap.; pop. 2,049,000.
Da Nang city, cen. Vietnam; pop. 318,653. Also **Danang**.
Danube river, cen. and E Europe; ab. 2850 km (ab. 1770 mi) long.
Danzig *an alternate name*: See GDAŃSK.
Dardanelles strait, NW Turkey; connects Sea of Marmara with the Aegean; ab. 64 km (ab. 40 mi).
Dar es-Salaam city, E cen. Tanzania; cap.; pop. 1,657,000.
Davenport city, E Iowa; pop. 95,333.
Dayton city, SW Ohio; pop. 182,044.
Dead Sea large salt lake on Israel-Jordan border; 395 m (1296 ft) below sea level.
Death Valley desert basin, SE California; maximum depth 86 m (282 ft) below sea level; lowest point in the western hemisphere.
Delaware state, E U.S.; pop. 666,168; cap. Dover.
Delhi city, NE cen. India; pop. 8,766,000.
Denmark country, NW Europe; pop. 5,140,000; cap. Copenhagen.
Denver city, cen. Colorado; cap.; pop. 467,610.
Des Moines city, S cen. Iowa; cap.; pop. 193,187.
Detroit city, SE Michigan; pop. 1,027,974.
Devil's Island rocky isl. off the coast of French Guiana. Formerly a penal colony.
Dhaka city, E cen. Bangladesh; cap.; pop. 6,646,000. Formerly *Dacca*.
District of Columbia federal dist., E U.S.; has same boundaries as Washington, cap. of U.S.; pop. 606,900.
Djakarta *an alternate name*: See JAKARTA.
Djibouti 1. country, NE Africa; pop. 409,000; cap. Djibouti. Formerly *French Territory of the Afars and the Issas*; before 1967 known as *French Somaliland*. **2.** city, E Djibouti; cap.; pop. 330,000 (met.).
Dnepr river, E Europe; 2285 km (ab. 1420 mi) long. Also **Dnieper**.
Dnestr river, SE Europe; 1370 km (ab. 850 mi) long. Also **Dniester**.
Doha city, Qatar; cap.; pop. 329,000.
Dominica country, West Indies; pop. 74,625; cap. Roseau.
Dominican Republic country, West Indies, on E Hispaniola isl.; pop. 7,170,000; cap. Santo Domingo.
Don river, SE Russia; ab. 1963 km (ab. 1220 mi) long.
Douglas borough, E Isle of Man; cap.; pop. 21,000.
Dover city, cen. Delaware; cap.; pop. 27,630.
Dresden city, E cen. Germany; pop. 501,417.
Dublin city, E Republic of Ireland; cap.; pop. 926,000.
Durban city, E South Africa; pop. 1,057,000.
Durham city, N cen. North Carolina; pop. 136,611.
Dushanbe city, E Tajikstan; cap.; pop. 602,000.
Düsseldorf city, W cen. Germany; pop. 574,022.
Dutch Guiana See SURINAME.
Dutch West Indies See NETHERLANDS ANTILLES.

East Berlin See BERLIN.
East China Sea NE part of the China Sea.
Easter Island isl. of Chile, SE Pacific.
East Germany *an alternate name*: See GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.
East Pakistan See BANGLADESH.
Ecuador country, NW South America; pop. 10,782,000; cap. Quito.
Edinburgh city, S Scotland; cap.; pop. 433,200.
Edmonton city, W Canada; cap. of Alberta; pop. 616,741.
Egypt country, NE Africa; pop. 53,153,000; cap. Cairo. Formerly *United Arab Republic*.
Elbe river, cen. Europe; 1136 km (706 mi) long.
Elbrus, Mount mt. of the Caucasus range, in Georgia; highest peak in Europe; 5642 m (18,510 ft).
Elizabeth city, NE New Jersey; pop. 110,002.
Ellis Island isl., upper New York Bay; former site of U.S. immigration station.
El Paso city, W Texas; pop. 515,342.
El Salvador country, W Central America; pop. 5,252,000; cap. San Salvador.
England principal adm. division of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, S Great Britain, W Europe; pop. 46,362,836; cap. London.
English Channel strait, betw. England and France.
Equatorial Guinea country, W Africa; pop. 348,000; cap. Malabo. Formerly *Spanish Guinea*.
Erie city, NW Pennsylvania; pop. 108,718.
Erie, Lake southernmost of the Great Lakes.
Erie Canal artificial inland waterway, betw. Albany and Buffalo, New York.
Essen city, W cen. Germany; pop. 624,445.
Estonia country, E Europe; pop. 1,583,000; cap. Tallinn. Formerly *Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Ethiopia country, E Africa; pop. 50,974,000; cap. Addis Ababa.
Eugene city, W Oregon; pop. 112,669.
Euphrates river, SW Asia; 2735 km (1700 mi) long.
Europe continent, W part of landmass with Asia, bounded by Asia and Atlantic Ocean.
Evansville city, SW Indiana; pop. 126,272.
Everest, Mount peak of the Himalaya, on the Nepal-Tibet border; highest point of the earth's surface; 8848 m (29,028 ft).
Everglades large swampy reg., S Florida.
Eyre, Lake salt lake, S Australia.

Faeroe Islands isl. group of Denmark, NE Atlantic; pop. 48,000.
Falkland Islands Brit. col., SW Atlantic.
Fez city, NE Morocco; pop. 562,000 (met.). Also **Fès**.
Fiji country, isl. group in South Pacific; pop. 765,000; cap. Suva.
Finland country, N Europe; pop. 4,986,000; cap. Helsinki.
Finland, Gulf of part of the Baltic Sea with Finland to the N, Russia to the E, and Estonia on the S.
Flint city, E cen. Michigan; pop. 140,761.
Florence city, cen. Italy; pop. 438,304.
Florida state, SE U.S.; pop. 12,937,926; cap. Tallahassee.
Florida Keys isl. group SW of Florida.
Formosa See TAIWAN.
Fortaleza city, NE Brazil; pop. 2,088,000.
Fort-de-France city, W Martinique; cap.; pop. 27,000.
Fort-Lamy See N'DJAMENA.
Fort Lauderdale city, SE Florida; pop. 149,377.
Fort Wayne city, NE Indiana; pop. 173,072.

Fort Worth city, N Texas; pop. 447,619.
France country, W Europe; pop. 56,440,000; cap. Paris.
Frankfort city, N cen. Kentucky; cap.; pop. 25,968.
Frankfurt city, W cen. Germany; pop. 1,301,000. Also **Frankfurt am Main**.
Fredericton city, E Canada; cap. of New Brunswick; pop. 46,466.
Freetown city, W Sierra Leone; cap.; pop. 690,000.
Fremont city, N California; pop. 173,339.
French Guiana Fr. Overseas dept.; NE South America; pop. 99,000; cap. Cayenne.
French Indochina See INDOCHINA.
French Polynesia Fr. Overseas terr., E South Pacific; comprises the Society, Marquesas, Gambier, and other islands; pop. 206,000; cap. Papeete.
French Somaliland See DJIBOUTI.
French Territory of the Afars and the Issas See DJIBOUTI.
French West Indies isls. in the West Indies comprising Guadaloupe, Martinique, and other islands.
Fresno city, cen. California; pop. 354,202.
Frisian Islands isl. group, NW Europe in North Sea comprising **West**, **East**, and **North Frisian** isls. The West group belongs to Netherlands. The East and North (with the exception of two Danish isls.) belong to Germany.
Front Range a range of Rocky Mts. in N cen. Colorado.
Fullerton city, SW California; pop. 114,144.

Gabon country, W cen. Africa; pop. 1,172,000; cap. Libreville. Officially **Gabonese Republic**.
Gaborone city, SE Botswana; cap.; pop. 130,000.
Galilee, Sea of *an alternate name*: See TIBERIAS, LAKE.
Gambia country, W Africa; pop. 861,000; cap. Banjul.
Ganges river, N India and E Pakistan; 2510 km (1560 mi) long.
Garden Grove city, SW California; pop. 143,050.
Garland city, N Texas; pop. 180,650.
Gdańsk city, N Poland; pop. 469,726. Also **Danzig**.
Geneva city, W Switzerland; pop. 162,735.
Geneva, Lake of lake, on border betw. SW Switzerland and E France; traversed by Rhône. Also **Lake Léman** or **Lake Leman**.
Genoa city, NW Italy; pop. 1,017,000.
George Town city, Cayman isl., Cayman Islands; cap.; pop. 13,000.
Georgetown city, N Guyana; cap.; pop. 210,000.
Georgia 1. country, SE Europe; pop. 5,464,000; cap. Tbilisi. Formerly *Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic*. **2.** state, SE U.S.; pop. 6,478,216; cap. Atlanta.
German Democratic Republic or **East Germany**. See GERMANY.
Germany country, cen. Europe; pop. 79,479,000; cap. Berlin. In 1945, this country was split into two parts: the *German Democratic Republic (East Germany)* and the *Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)*, but was reunited in October 1990.
Germany, Federal Republic of See GERMANY.
Ghana country, W Africa; pop. 15,028,000; cap. Accra.
Gibraltar Brit. col. on the Rock of Gibraltar; pop. 31,000.
Gibraltar, Rock of promontory forming the southernmost point of the Iberian Peninsula.
Gibraltar, Strait of strait, betw. Spain and Africa, W Mediterranean.
Giza city, N Egypt; pop. 1,857,508. Also **Al-Jizah**.
Glendale city, SW California; pop. 180,038.
Gobi Desert desert, cen. Asia, mainly in Mongolia.
Golden Gate strait betw. San Francisco Bay and the Pacific.
Good Hope, Cape of penin. SW South Africa.
Gorkiy Also **Gorky** or **Gorki**. See NIZHNY NOVGOROD.
Göteborg city, SW Sweden; pop. 430,763.
Granada city, S Spain; pop. 261,914.
Grand Canyon gorge of the Colorado River, NW Arizona; ab. 349 km (ab. 217 mi) long.
Grand Cayman See CAYMAN ISLANDS.
Grand Rapids city, W Michigan; pop. 189,126.
Great Barrier Reef chain of coral reef off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
Great Bear Lake lake, Northwest Territories, Canada.
Great Britain 1. isl. of the British Isles comprising England, Scotland, and Wales. **2.** *an alternate name*: See UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.
Greater Antilles See ANTILLES.
Great Lakes chain of five lakes, cen. North America; on Canada-U.S. border; comprises Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Ontario, and Erie.
Great Plains plateau, W North America; E of the Rockies.
Great Salt Lake salt lake, NW Utah.
Great Smokey Mountains mt. range, North Carolina and Tennessee.
Greece country, SE Europe; pop. 10,123,000; cap. Athens.
Greenland isl. of Denmark in N Atlantic, near NE North America; cap. Nûk; pop. 57,000. Also **Kalâtdlit-Nunât.**
Green Mountains mt. range, cen. Vermont.
Greensboro city, N cen. North Carolina; pop. 183,521.
Grenada country, isl. West Indies; pop. 85,000; cap. St. George's.
Guadalajara city, W cen. Mexico; pop. 3,161,000 (met.).
Guadalcanal isl. in Solomon Islands in W Pacific.
Guadeloupe Fr. Overseas dept., isl. group in Lesser Antilles; pop. 344,000; cap. Basse-Terre.
Guam isl. in the Marianas in W Pacific; U.S. possession; pop. 129,000; cap. Agana.
Guangzhou city, S China; pop. 3,671,000. Also **Canton**.
Guatemala country, N Central America; pop. 9,197,000; cap. Guatemala City.
Guatemala City city, cen. Guatemala; cap.; pop. 842,000.
Guayaquil city, W Ecuador; pop. 1,674,000.
Guinea country, W Africa; pop. 5,756,000; cap. Conakry.
Guinea-Bissau country, W Africa; pop. 965,000; cap. Bissau. Formerly *Portuguese Guinea*.
Guyana country, N South America; pop. 796,000; cap. Georgetown. Formerly *British Guiana*.

Hague, The city, W Netherlands; adm. cap.; pop. 442,676.
Haifa city, NW Israel; pop. 223,100.
Haiti country, West Indies, W Hispaniola; pop. 6,486,000; cap. Port-au-Prince.
Halifax city, SE Canada; cap. of Nova Scotia; pop. 114,455 (met.).
Hamburg city, N cen. Germany; pop. 1,825,000.
Hamilton 1. city, cen. Bermuda; cap.; pop. 2,000. **2.** city, S Ontario, Canada; pop. 318,499 (met.).
Hampton city, SE Virginia; pop. 133,793.
Hannover city, NW Germany; pop. 505,872.
Hanoi city, N Vietnam; cap.; pop. 1,117,000 (met.).
Harare city, NE Zimbabwe; cap.; pop. 851,000 (met.). Formerly *Salisbury*.
Harbin city, NE China; pop. 2,966,000. Also **Ha-erh-pin**.
Harrisburg city, S cen. Pennsylvania; cap.; pop. 52,376.
Hartford city, cen. Connecticut; cap.; pop. 139,739.
Havana city, W Cuba; cap.; pop. 2,099,000 (met.).
Hawaii state of U.S., North Pacific; pop. 1,108,229; cap. Honolulu.
Hawaiian Islands chain of volcanic and coral isls. in N cen. Pacific Ocean. Formerly *Sandwich Islands*.
Hayward city, W California; pop. 111,498.
Hebrides isl. group off W coast of Scotland. Also **Western Islands**.
Helena city, W cen. Montana; cap.; pop. 24,569.
Helsinki city, S Finland; cap.; pop. 1,009,000.
Hialeah city, SE Florida; pop. 188,004.
Himalaya mt. chain of S cen. Asia; extends in an arc from the Indus River in N Pakistan, through India, Nepal, and Bhutan; includes *Mount Everest*, the world's highest point. Also **Himalayas**.
Hiroshima city, SW Honshu isl., Japan; pop. 1,079,619.
Hispaniola isl., West Indies; divided into Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
Hobart city, SE Tasmania; cap.; pop. 181,279.

Ho Chi Minh City city, S Vietnam; pop. 3,237,000. Formerly *Saigon*.
Hokkaido isl. of N Japan.
Holland *an alternate name*: See NETHERLANDS.
Hollywood city, SE Florida; pop. 121,697.
Honduras country, cen. Central America; pop. 5,105,000; cap. Tegucigalpa.
Hong Kong Brit. dependency, SE China; includes Hong Kong Island and some coastal terr.; pop. 5,801,000; cap. Victoria.
Honiara town, N Guadalcanal isl., Solomon Islands; cap.; pop. 30,000.
Honolulu port city, SE Oahu isl., Hawaii; cap.; pop. 365,272.
Honshu isl. of cen. Japan. Also **Hondo**.
Horn, Cape S extremity of South America.
Houston city, SE Texas; pop. 1,630,553.
Huang He river, N China; ab. 4667 km (ab. 2900 mi) long. Also **Yellow River** and **Hwang Ho**.
Hudson Bay inland sea; N cen. Canada; connected with the Atlantic by Hudson Strait.
Hungary country, cen. Europe; pop. 10,553,000; cap. Budapest.
Huntington city, SE New York; pop. 191,474.
Huntington Beach city, SW California; pop. 181,519.
Huntsville city, N Alabama; pop. 159,789.
Huron, Lake one of the Great Lakes; betw. Michigan and Ontario.
Hyderabad 1. city, S cen. India; pop. 3,535,000. **2.** city, SE Pakistan; pop. 1,048,000 (met.).

Ibadan city, SW Nigeria; pop. 1,326,000.
Iberia penin. of SW Europe containing Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar.
Iceland country, isl., North Atlantic; pop. 255,000; cap. Reykjavík.
Idaho state, NW U.S.; pop. 1,006,749; cap. Boise.
Illinois state, NE cen. U.S.; pop. 11,430,602; cap. Springfield.
Inch'ŏn city, NW South Korea; pop. 1,386,911. Formerly *Chemulp'o*.
Independence city, W Missouri; pop. 112,301.
India country, S Asia; pop. 827,057,000; cap. New Delhi.
Indiana state, NE cen. U.S.; pop. 5,544,159; cap. Indianapolis.
Indianapolis city, cen. Indiana; cap.; pop. 731,327.
Indian Ocean ocean betw. Africa, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica.
Indochina 1. penin. of SE Asia, S of China, including the Union of Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and the Malay penin. **2.** part of this penin. consisting of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Formerly *French Indochina (1893-1954)*.
Indonesia country, SE Asia in Malay Archipelago; consisting of Java, Sumatra, most of Borneo, and other islands; pop. 179,300,000; cap. Jakarta.
Indus river, S Asia, flowing from Tibet through Pakistan into Arabian Sea; ab. 2736 km (ab. 1700 mi) long.
Ionian Sea part of the Mediterranean betw. Greece and Italy.
Iowa state, N cen. U.S.; pop. 2,776,755; cap. Des Moines.
Iran country, SW Asia; pop. 54,608,000; cap. Tehran. Formerly *Persia*.
Iraq country, SW Asia; pop. 18,920,000; cap. Baghdad.
Ireland, Republic of country, westernmost of the British Isles; pop. 3,503,000; cap. Dublin.
Irish Sea part of the Atlantic betw. Great Britain and Ireland.
Irrawaddy river, Tibet and the Union of Myanmar; ab. 2010 km (ab. 1250 mi) long. Also **Irawadi**.
Irving city, N Texas; pop. 155,037.
Islamabad city, NE Pakistan; cap.; pop. 537,000.
Israel country, SW Asia; pop. 4,659,000; cap. Jerusalem.
Istanbul city, NW Turkey; pop. 6,655,000. Formerly *Constantinople*.
Italy country, S Europe; pop. 57,662,000; cap. Rome.
Ivory Coast See CÔTE D'IVOIRE.
İzmir city, W Turkey; pop. 1,788,000. Formerly *Smyrna*.

Jackson city, S cen. Mississippi; cap.; pop. 196,637.
Jacksonville city, NE Florida; pop. 672,971.
Jaipur city, N India; pop. 1,575,000.
Jakarta city, NW Java, Indonesia; cap.; pop. 9,253,000. Also **Djakarta**. Formerly *Batavia*.
Jamaica country, isl. West Indies; pop. 2,420,000; cap. Kingston.
Jamestown town, St. Helena; cap.; pop. 1,000.
Jan Mayen isl., E of Greenland.
Japan country, off the E coast of Asia; isl. chain; pop. 123,537,000; cap. Tokyo.
Japan, Sea of part of the Pacific betw. Japan and the Asian mainland.
Java isl. of Indonesia; SE of Sumatra.
Jefferson City city, cen. Missouri; cap.; pop. 35,481.
Jersey City city, NE New Jersey; pop. 228,537.
Jerusalem city, cen. Israel; cap.; pop. 508,000.
Jiddah city, W Saudi Arabia; pop. 1,216,000. Also **Jeddah**.
Johannesburg city, NE South Africa; pop. 1,714,000 (met.).
Jordan River river, SW Asia, rising in the mts. on the Syria-Lebanon border, it flows through Lake Tiberias into Dead Sea; over 322 km (200 mi) long.
Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of country, SW Asia; pop. 4,010,000; cap. Amman.
Juneau city, SE Alaska; cap.; pop. 26,751.
Jutland penin., NW Europe; comprises continental Denmark and part of NW Germany.

Kabul city, E cen. Afghanistan; cap.; pop. 1,565,000.
Kampala city, S Uganda; cap.; pop. 689,000.
Kampuchea *an alternate name*: See CAMBODIA.
Kanpur city, N India; pop. 2,076,000. Formerly *Cawnpore*.
Kansas state, cen. U.S.; pop. 2,477,574; cap. Topeka.
Kansas City 1. city, NE Kansas; pop. 149,767. **2.** city, W Missouri; pop. 435,146.
Karachi city, S Pakistan; pop. 5,180,562 (met.).
Katmandu city, cen. Nepal; cap.; pop. 361,000.
Katowice city, S Poland; pop. 3,449,000 (met.).
Kattegat strait of the North Sea betw. Sweden and Jutland.
Kauai one of the Hawaiian Islands.
Kazakhstan country, Central Asia; cap. Alma-Ata; pop. 16,742,000. Formerly *Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Kennedy, Cape See CAPE CANAVERAL.
Kentucky state, E cen. U.S.; pop. 3,685,296; cap. Frankfort.
Kenya country, E Africa; pop. 24,032,000; cap. Nairobi.
Key West southwesternmost of the Florida Keys.
Kharkov city, NE Ukraine, pop. 1,654,000.
Khartoum city, cen. Sudan; cap.; pop. 1,947,000. Also **Khartum**.
Khartoum North city, N cen. Sudan; pop. 340,857.
Kiev city, N cen. Ukraine; cap.; pop. 2,618,000.
Kigali town, cen. Rwanda; cap.; pop. 298,000 (met.).
Kilimanjaro, Mount mt., NE Tanzania; highest point in Africa; 5895 m (19,340 ft).
Kingston city, SE Jamaica; cap.; pop. 640,000 (met.).
Kingstown city, St. Vincent; cap.; pop. 16,532.
Kinshasa city, W Zaire; cap.; pop. 3,505,000. Formerly *Léopoldville*.
Kiribati isl. group, W cen. Pacific; pop. 66,000.
Kishinev city, cen. Moldova; cap.; pop. 676,000.
Kitakyushu city, N Yushu isl., Japan; pop. 2,279,000.
Knoxville city, E Tennessee; pop. 165,121.
Kobe city, S Honshu isl., Japan; pop. 1,462,106.
Kolonia city, N Ponape (Pohnpei), Federated States of Micronesia; cap.; pop. 5500.
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of country, E Asia; pop. 21,773,000; cap. P'yŏngyang. Also **North Korea**.
Korea, Republic of country, E Asia; pop. 42,793,000; cap. Seoul. Also **South Korea**.
Korea Strait strait, betw. the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea.

Kosciusko, Mount mt., SE Australia; highest peak in Australia; 2228 m (7,310 ft).
Kraków city, S Poland; pop. 750,842. Also **Cracow**.
Kuala Lumpur city, W Malayasia; cap.; pop. 1,711,000.
Kuwait 1. country, NE Arabia; pop. 2,143,000; cap. Kuwait. **2.** city, E Kuwait; cap.; pop. 1,079,000.
Kyoto city, SW Honshu isl., Japan; pop. 1,390,000.
Kyrgyzstan country, W Asia; cap. Bishkek; pop. 4,394,000. Formerly *Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Kyushu isl., S Japan. Also **Kiushu**.

Ladoga, Lake lake, NW Russia.
Lagos city, SW Nigeria; cap.; pop. 7,706,000 (met.).
Lahore city, E Pakistan; pop. 4,092,000 (met.).
Lakewood city, cen. Colorado; pop. 126,481.
Lanai isl. of the Hawaiian Islands.
Lansing city, S cen. Michigan; cap.; pop. 127,321.
Laos country, NW Indochina; pop. 4,139,000; adm. cap. Vientiane. Officially **Lao People's Democratic Republic**.
La Paz city, W Bolivia; adm. cap.; pop. 1,234,000.
La Plata city, E Argentina; pop. 630,760.
Laredo city, S Texas; pop. 122,899.
Las Vegas city, SE Nevada; pop. 258,295.
Latvia country, NE Europe; pop. 2,686,000; cap. Riga. Formerly *Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Lausanne city, W Switzerland; pop. 123,744.
Lebanon country, SW Asia; pop. 2,701,000; cap. Beirut.
Leeward Islands isl. group, of N Lesser Antilles.
Leipzig city, E cen. Germany; pop. 530,010.
Leningrad See ST. PETERSBURG.
Léopoldville See KINSHASA.
Lesotho country, S Africa; pop. 1,774,000; cap. Maseru. Formerly *Basutoland*.
Lesser Antilles See ANTILLES.
Lexington city, N cen. Kentucky; pop. 225,366.
Lhasa city, SE Tibet; cap.; pop. 343,240. Also **Lasa**.
Liberia country, W Africa; pop. 2,607,000; cap. Monrovia.
Libreville city, W Gabon; cap.; pop. 296,000.
Libya country, N Africa; pop. 4,545,000; cap. Tripoli.
Libyan Desert desert, N Africa.
Liechtenstein country, cen. Europe; pop. 29,000; cap. Vaduz.
Liège city, E Belgium; pop. 196,825.
Lille city, N France; pop. 164,900.
Lilongwe city; S Malawi; cap.; pop. 310,000.
Lima city, W Peru; cap.; pop. 6,247,000 (met.).
Limerick city, SW Ireland; pop. 108,290.
Lincoln city, SE Nebraska; cap.; pop. 191,972.
Lisbon city, W Portugal; cap.; pop. 1,603,000.
Lithuania country, NE Europe; pop. 3,731,000; cap. Vilnius. Formerly *Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic*. **Little Rock** city, cen. Arkansas; cap.; pop. 175,795.
Livonia city, SE Michigan; pop. 100,850.
Ljubljana city, cen. Slovenia; cap.; pop. 224,817.
Łódź city, cen. Poland; pop. 1,042,000.
Loire river, SE France; 1006 km (625 mi) long.
Lomé city, S Togo; cap.; pop. 514,000.
London 1. city, Ontario, Canada; pop. 303,165. **2.** city, SE England, United Kingdom; cap.; pop. 7,355,000.
Long Beach city, SW California; pop. 429,433.
Long Island isl., SE New York.
Long Island Sound inlet of the Atlantic betw. Long Island and Connecticut.
Los Angeles city, SW California; pop. 3,485,398.
Louisiana state, S U.S.; pop. 4,219,973; cap. Baton Rouge.
Louisville city, N Kentucky; pop. 269,063.
Lower California *an alternate name*: See BAJA CALIFORNIA.
Luanda city, NW Angola; cap.; pop. 1,717,000.
Luang Prabang city, N Laos; site of former royal residence; pop. 8000.
Lubbock city, NW Texas; pop. 186,206.
Lucknow city, N cen. India; pop. 1,232,000.
Lüda See DALIAN.
Lusaka city, cen. Zambia; cap.; pop. 985,000 (met.).
Luxembourg 1. country, W Europe; pop. 381,000; cap. Luxembourg. **2.** city, S cen. Luxembourg; cap.; pop. 81,000.
Luzon isl. N Philippines; largest of the Philippine Islands.
Lyon city, E cen. France; pop. 1,166,000. Also *Lyons*.

Macau 1. isl., Canton river delta, China. Also **Macao**. **2.** Portuguese Overseas prov. comprising a penin. of Macau isl. and two small isls.; pop. 479,000; cap. Macau. Also **Macao**. **3.** city, S Macau; cap.; pop. 473,000. Also **Macao**.
Macedonia, country, SE Europe; cap. Skopje; pop. 1,909,136. Formerly part of *Yugoslavia*.
Mackenzie river, NW Canada; 1705 km (1060 mi) long.
McKinley, Mount mt., S cen. Alaska; highest peak in North America; 6194 m (20,320 ft). Also **Denali**.
Macon city, cen. Georgia; pop. 106,612.
Madagascar country, isl., W Indian Ocean, off SE Africa; pop. 11,197,000; cap. Antananarivo. Formerly *Malagasy Republic*.
Madeira Portuguese isl. group in N Atlantic, W of Morocco.
Madison city, S cen. Wisconsin; cap.; pop. 191,262.
Madras city, SE India; pop. 5,702,000.
Madrid city, cen. Spain; cap.; pop. 5,243,000.
Madura isl. of Indonesia E of Java.
Magellan, Strait of channel betw. the Atlantic and Pacific, separating the South American mainland from Tierra del Fuego.
Maine state, NE U.S.; pop. 1,227,928; cap. Augusta.
Majorca largest of the Balearic Islands. Also **Mallorca**.
Malabo city, N Bioko isl., Equatorial Guinea; cap.; pop. 644,000.
Malacca, Strait of strait betw. Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.
Málaga city, S Spain; pop. 718,750.
Malawi country, SE Africa; pop. 8,289,000; cap. Lilongwe.
Malawi, Lake lake, SE Africa. Also **Lake Nyasa**.
Malay Archipelago isl. group situated off SE Asia and N and NW of Australia, betw. the Indian and Pacific Oceans; including New Guinea, Celebes, Borneo, the Philippines Islands, the Sunda Islands, and many smaller isls.
Malay Peninsula penin. of SE Asia; includes part of Malaysia, part of Thailand, and part of the Union of Myanmar.
Malaysia country, SE Asia; pop. 17,861,000; cap. Kuala Lumpur.
Maldives country, atolls in Indian Ocean; pop. 215,000; cap. Male. Formerly *Maldive Islands*.
Male chief isl. and cap. of Maldives; pop. 63,000.
Mali country, W Africa; pop. 8,156,000; cap. Bamako.
Malta country, isl. in Mediterranean, SE of Sicily; pop. 354,000; cap. Valletta.
Man, Isle of one of the British Isles, cen. Irish Sea; pop. 64,000; cap. Douglas.
Managua city, SW Nicaragua; cap.; pop. 1,012,000.
Manama city, Bahrain; cap.; pop. 134,000. Also **al-Manamah**.
Mandalay city, cen. Myanmar; pop. 532,949.
Manhattan isl., SE New York; boro. New York City; pop. 1,487,536.
Manila city, SW Luzon isl., Philippines; cap.; pop. 8,475,000 (met.).
Manitoba prov., cen. Canada; pop. 1,091,942; cap. Winnipeg.
Maputo city, S Mozambique; cap.; pop. 1,588,000. Formerly *Lourenço Marques*.
Maracaibo city, NW Venezuela; pop. 1,146,000.
Maracaibo, Lake lake, NW Venezuela.
Marianas Islands isl. group, W Pacific; including Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; formerly part of the *U.S. Trust Terr. of the Pacific Islands*, but now form the *Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands* (excluding Guam).
Marmara, Sea of sea betw. Europe and Asia, connecting the Bosporus and the Dardanelles. Also **Marmora**.

Marne river, NE France; 523 km (325 mi) long.
Marquesas Islands isl. group S Pacific in French Polynesia.
Marrakech city, W Morocco; pop. 548,700 (met.). Also **Marrakesh**.
Marseille city, SE France; pop. 1,086,000. Also **Marseilles**.
Marshall Islands isl. group republic in N cen. Pacific; pop. 45,600; cap. Majuro. Formerly part of the *U.S. Trust Terr. of the Pacific Islands*.
Martinique isl., Fr. Overseas dept.; Lesser Antilles; pop. 361,000; cap. Fort-de-France.
Maryland state, E U.S.; pop. 4,781,468; cap. Annapolis.
Maseru city, NW Lesotho; cap.; pop. 62,000.
Masqat city, E Oman; cap.; pop. 67,000. Also **Muscat**.
Massachusetts state, NE U.S.; pop. 6,016,425; cap. Boston.
Matterhorn mt. in the Alps on the Swiss-Italian border; 4505 m (14,780 ft).
Maui isl. of the Hawaiian Islands.
Mauritania country, W Africa; pop. 2,025,000; cap. Nouakchott.
Mauritius country, isl. in Indian Ocean, E of Madagascar; pop. 1,075,000; cap. Port Louis.
Mbabane town, NW Swaziland; adm. cap.; pop. 52,000.
Mecca city, W Saudi Arabia; pop. 366,801. Also **Makkah**.
Medan city, N Sumatra isl., Indonesia; pop. 1,850,000.
Medina city, W Saudi Arabia; pop. 198,186.
Mediterranean Sea sea betw. Europe, Asia, and Africa.
Mekong river, SE Asia; ab. 4184 km (ab. 2600 mi) long.
Melanesia isls. of the W Pacific S of the Equator; including Bismarck Archipelago, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, the Fijis, and the Admiralty Islands.
Melbourne city, S Australia; pop. 2,841,000 (met.).
Memphis city, SW Tennessee; pop. 610,337.
Mesa city, S cen. Arizona; pop. 288,091.
Meuse river, W Europe; ab. 900 km (ab. 560 mi) long.
Mexico country, S North America; pop. 86,154,000; cap. Mexico City.
Mexico, Gulf of inlet of the Atlantic, betw. the United States, Mexico, and Cuba.
Mexico City city, S cen. Mexico; cap.; pop. 20,192,000.
Miami city, SE Florida; pop. 358,548.
Michigan state, N U.S.; pop. 9,295,297; cap. Lansing.
Michigan, Lake one of the Great Lakes; betw. Michigan and Wisconsin.
Micronesia, Federated States of isl. country composed of the states of Kosrae, Ponape (Pohnpei), Truk, and Yap; W Pacific; cap. Kolonia. Formerly part of the *U.S. Trust Terr. of the Pacific Isls.*; pop. 108,000.
Middle East the countries of SW Asia and N Africa, usually considered as including the countries extending from Libya on the W to Afghanistan on the E. Also **Mideast**.
Midway Islands isls. in cen. Pacific, NW of Honolulu; in Hawaiian group, but not part of state of Hawaii; U.S. terr.; pop. 291.
Milan city, N Italy; pop. 1,548,500.
Milwaukee city, SE Wisconsin; pop. 628,088.
Minneapolis city, E Minnesota; pop. 368,383.
Minnesota state, N U.S.; pop. 4,375,099; cap. St. Paul.
Minsk city, cen. Belarus; cap.; pop. 1,641,000.
Mississippi state, S U.S.; pop. 2,573,216; cap. Jackson.
Mississippi River river, cen. U.S.; 3750 km (2330 mi) long.
Missouri state, W cen. U.S.; pop. 5,117,073; cap. Jefferson City.
Missouri River river, NW cen. U.S.; 3969 km (2466 mi) long.
Mobile city, SW Alabama; pop. 196,278.
Modesto city, cen. California; pop. 164,730.
Mogadisho city, E Somalia; cap.; pop. 718,000. Also **Mugdisho**.
Mojave Desert desert, S California.
Moldova country; E Europe; cap. Kishinev; pop. 4,368,000. Formerly *Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Molokai isl. cen. Hawaiian Islands.
Moluccas Islands isl. group of Indonesia. betw. Celebes and New Guinea. Formerly *Spice Islands*.
Monaco 1. country, S Europe; pop. 29,000; cap. Monaco. **2.** city, Monaco; cap.; pop. 28,000.
Mongolia, Republic of country, E Asia; pop. 2,190,000; cap. Ulan Bator. Formerly *Outer Mongolia* and *Mongolian People's Republic*.
Monrovia city, E Liberia; cap.; pop. 668,000.
Montana state, NW U.S.; pop. 799,065; cap. Helena.
Mont Blanc highest mountain of the Alps, on the French-Italian border; 4807 m (15,771 ft).
Monte Carlo city, Monaco; pop. 11,600.
Monterrey city, NE Mexico; pop. 2,970,000.
Montevideo city, S Uruguay; cap.; pop. 1,197,000.
Montgomery city, E cen. Alabama; cap.; pop. 187,106.
Monticello estate and residence of Thomas Jefferson, near Charlottesville, Virginia.
Montpelier city, N cen. Vermont; cap.; pop. 8247.
Montréal city, S Québec, Canada; pop. 1,017,666 (met.).
Montserrat isl. of Leeward group, West Indies; pop. 13,000; cap. Plymouth.
Morocco country, NW Africa; pop. 25,061,000; cap. Rabat.
Moroni town, SW Grand Comoro, Comoros; cap.; pop. 24,000.
Moscow city, W Russia; cap.; pop. 8,838,000 (met.).
Mozambique country, SE Africa; pop. 15,656,000; cap. Maputo.
Munich city, SE Germany; pop. 1,631,000.
Murray River river, SE Australia; 3718 km (2310 mi) long.
Muscat and Oman See OMAN.
Myanmar, Union of country, SE Asia; pop. 41,675,000; cap. Yangon. Also **Burma**.

Nagoya city, S cen. Honshu isl., Japan; pop. 2,062,000.
Nagpur city, cen. India; pop. 1,787,000.
Nairobi city, SW Kenya; cap.; pop. 1,503,000.
Namibia country, SW Africa; pop. 1,781,000; cap. Windhoek. Formerly *South-West Africa*.
Nanjing city, E China; cap. 1928-1937 and 1945-9; pop. 2,625,000. Also **Nanking**.
Nantes city, W France; pop. 242,340.
Naples city, SW Italy; pop. 3,569,000.
Nashville city, N cen. Tennessee; cap.; pop. 510,784 (met. Nashville-Davidson).
Nassau city, E New Providence isl., Bahamas; cap.; pop. 163,000.
Nauru country, isl. in W Pacific; pop. 10,000; cap. Yaren. Also **Naoero**.
N'Djamena city, SW Chad; cap.; pop. 728,000. Formerly *Fort-Lamy*.
Nebraska state, cen. U.S.; pop. 1,578,385; cap. Lincoln.
Negev desert reg., S Israel. Also **Negeb**.
Nepal country, S Asia; pop. 18,916,000; cap. Katmandu.
Netherlands country, NW Europe; pop. 14,935,000; cap. Amsterdam, adm. cap. The Hague. Also **Holland**.
Netherlands Antilles 6 isls. belonging to the Netherlands, in the West Indies, N of Venezuela, including Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, and part of St. Martin. Aruba is a former member; pop. 189,000. Also **Dutch West Indies**.
Nevada state, W U.S.; pop. 1,201,833; cap. Carson City.
Newark city, NE New Jersey; pop. 275,221.
New Brunswick prov., SE Canada; pop. 723,900; cap. Fredericton.
New Caledonia and Dependencies Fr. Overseas terr.; SW Pacific; comprising the isl. of New Caledonia and nearby isls.; pop. 168,000; cap. Nouméa.
Newcastle Upon Tyne city, NE England; pop. 277,600.
New Delhi city, N cen. India; cap.; pop. 273,036.
New England NE section of the United States, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Newfoundland prov., E Canada; comprising the island of Newfoundland and Labrador on the mainland; pop. 568,474; cap. St. John's.
New Guinea isl., N of Australia; world's second largest island.
New Hampshire state, NE U.S.; pop. 1,109,252; cap. Concord.
New Haven city, S Connecticut; pop. 130,474.
New Hebrides See VANUATU.
New Jersey state, E U.S.; pop. 7,730,188; cap. Trenton.
New Mexico state, SW U.S.; pop. 1,515,069; cap. Santa Fe.
New Orleans city, SE Louisiana; pop. 496,938.
Newport News city, SE Virginia; pop. 170,045.
New York 1. state, NE U.S.; pop. 17,990,455; cap. Albany. **2.** city, SE New York; comprised of the boros. of Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island; pop. 7,322,564.
New Zealand country, isl. group SE of Australia; pop. 3,346,000; cap. Wellington.
Niamey city, SW Niger; cap.; pop. 583,000.
Nicaragua country, Central America; pop. 3,871,000; cap. Managua.
Nice city, SE France; pop. 335,240.
Nicosia city, N cen. Cyprus; cap.; pop. 160,000 (met.).
Niger 1. country, W cen. Africa; pop. 7,732,000; cap. Niamey. **2.** river, W Africa; ab. 4180 km (ab. 2600 mi) long.
Nigeria country, W Africa; pop. 108,542,000; cap. Lagos.
Nile river, E cen. Africa; rising in Lake Victoria in Uganda, it flows through Sudan and Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea; longest river in the world; 5584 km (3470 mi) long.
Niue isl., S Pacific, E of Tonga; pop. 3000.
Nizhny Novogord city, W Russia; pop. 1,462,000. Formerly *Gorkiy*, also *Gorky* or *Gorki*, (1932-1991).
Norfolk city, SE Virginia; pop. 261,229.
North America N continent of the Western Hemisphere.
North Carolina state, SE U.S.; pop. 6,628,637; cap. Raleigh.
North Dakota state, N U.S.; pop. 638,800; cap. Bismarck.
Northern Ireland adm. division of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; N reg. of Ireland; pop. 1,583,000; cap. Belfast.
Northern Marianna Islands, Commonwealth of isl. group, W Pacific; pop. 26,000; cap. Saipan.
North Korea *an alternate name*: See KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF.
North Sea part of the Atlantic betw. Great Britain and Europe.
Northwest Territories adm. division, N Canada; pop. 57,649; cap. Yellowknife.
Northwest Territory region awarded to the United States by Britain in 1783, including the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and E Minnesota.
Norway country, N Europe; pop. 4,242,000; cap. Oslo.
Nouakchott city, W Mauritania; cap.; pop. 762,000.
Nouméa town, SW New Caledonia isl., New Caledonia and Dependencies; cap.; pop. 77,000.
Nova Scotia prov., E Canada; pop. 899,942; cap. Halifax.
Nuku'alofa city, N Tongatapu isl., Tonga; cap.; pop. 25,000.

Oàhu isl., N cen. Hawaiian Islands.
Oakland city, W California; pop. 372,242.
Oceania isls. of Melansia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and sometimes the Malay Archipelago and Australasia.
Oder river, cen. Europe; 906 km (563 mi) long. Also **Odra**.
Odessa city, S Ukraine, pop. 1,185,000.
Ohio state, NE cen. U.S.; pop. 10,847,115; cap. Columbus.
Ohio River river, E cen. U.S.; 1579 km (981 mi) long.
Okeechobee lake, S cen. Florida.
Okinawa largest of the Ryukyu Isls.
Oklahoma state, S cen. U.S.; pop. 3,145,585; cap. Oklahoma City.
Oklahoma City city, cen. Oklahoma; cap.; pop. 444,719.
Olympia city, W Washington; cap.; pop. 33,840.
Olympus, Mount mt., N Greece; regarded in Greek mythology as the home of the gods; 2917 m (9570 ft).
Omaha city, E Nebraska; pop. 335,795.
Oman country, SE Arabian penin., in SW Asia; pop. 1,502,000; cap. Masqat. Formerly *Muscat and Oman*.
Ontario prov., SE Canada; pop. 10,084,885; cap. Toronto.
Ontario, Lake easternmost of the Great Lakes.
Oporto city, NW Portugal; pop. 327,368.
Orange River river, S Africa; ab. 2090 km (ab. 1300 mi) long.
Oregon state, NW U.S.; pop. 2,842,321; cap. Salem.
Orinoco river, Venezuela; ab. 2736 km (ab. 1700 mi) long.
Orkney Islands isl. group, N of Scotland comprising Orkney, a county of Scotland.
Orlando city, E cen. Florida; pop. 164,693.
Osaka city, S Honshu isl., Japan; pop. 8,520,000.
Oslo city, SE Norway; cap.; pop. 663,000.
Otranto, Strait of strait betw. the Adriatic and Ionian seas.
Ottawa city, SE Ontario, Canada; cap.; pop. 313,987.
Ouagadougou city, cen. Burkina Faso; cap.; pop. 413,000.
Outer Mongolia See MONGOLIA.
Oxnard city, SW California; pop. 142,216.
Oyster Bay city, SE New York; pop. 292,657.
Ozark Plateau highland region in SW Missouri, NW Arkansas, and NE Oklahoma. Also **Ozarks**.

Pacific Islands, Trust Territory of the isl. groups in W Pacific; U.S. Trust Terr.; now made up of the Palau islands; prior to the early 1980s this group also included all of the Caroline Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Marianas, except Guam. Also **Micronesia**.
Pacific Ocean ocean betw. W North and South America and E Asia and Australia and extending betw. the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
Pago Pago town, SE Tutila isl., American Samoa; cap.; pop. 3058. Formerly *Pango Pango*.
Painted Desert desert plateau in N cen. Arizona.
Pakistan country, S Asia; pop. 112,049,000; cap. Islamabad.
Palau Islands group, W Caroline Islands; adm. center Koror; pop. 15,222.
Palermo city, NW Sicily isl., Italy; pop. 714,246.
Palestine historic terr., E Mediterranean; divided (1947) by the United Nations into Israel and a terr. that became part of Jordan.
Panama country, S Central America; pop. 2,418,000; cap. Panamá.
Panamá city, S Panama, near Pacific end of Panama Canal; cap.; pop. 477,000. Also **Panama City**.
Panama, Isthmus a strip of land connecting North and South America.
Panama Canal ship canal connecting Atlantic and Pacific, extending across Isthmus of Panama.
Papua New Guinea country, isl., N of Australia; pop. 3,699,000; cap. Port Moresby.
Papeete city, NW Tahiti isl., French Polynesia; cap.; pop. 114,000.
Paraguay country, S cen. South America; pop. 4,277,000; cap. Asunción.
Paraguay River river, S cen. South America; ab. 2415 km (ab. 1500 mi) long. Also **Paraguai River**.
Paramaribo city, N Suriname; cap.; pop. 109,000.
Paraná river, S cen. South America; 3940 km (ab. 2450 mi) long.
Paris city, N cen. France; cap.; pop. 8,507,000.
Parnassus, Mount mt., cen. Greece; anciently regarded as sacred to Apollo and the Muses; 2457 m (8061 ft).
Pasadena 1. city, SW California; pop. 131,591. **2.** city, SE Texas; pop. 119,363.
Paterson city, NE New Jersey; pop. 140,891.
Patna city, N India; pop. 1,657,000.
Pearl Harbor inlet, S Oahu isl., Hawaii.
Pelopónnisos penin. betw. Aegean and Ionian seas; one of the main divisions of S Greece.
Pennsylvania state, E U.S.; pop. 11,881,643; cap. Harrisburg.

Peoria city, N cen. Illinois; pop. 113,504.
Persia See IRAN.
Persian Gulf inlet of the Arabian Sea betw. Iran and Arabia.
Persian Gulf States four states, on the Arabian shore of the Persian Gulf, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.
Perth city, SW Australia; pop. 1,062,000 (met.).
Peru country, W South America; pop. 21,550,000; cap. Lima.
Philadelphia city, SE Pennsylvania; pop. 1,585,577.
Philippines, Republic of the country, E Asian, coextensive with Philippines Islands in the Malay Archipelago; pop. 61,480,000; cap. Manila.
Phnom Penh city, S cen. Cambodia; cap.; pop. 967,000.
Pierre city, cen. South Dakota; cap.; 12,906.
Phoenix city, S cen. Arizona; cap.; pop. 983,403.
Pillars of Hercules two promontories on opposite sides of the E end of the Strait of Gibraltar.
Piraiévs port city, E Greece; pop. 196,389. Also **Piraeus**.
Pitcairn Island isl., S Pacific; Brit. col.; pop. 52.
Pittsburgh city, SW Pennsylvania; pop. 369,879.
Plymouth Colony colony on the shore of Massachusetts Bay founded by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620.
Poland country, cen. Europe; pop. 38,180,000; cap. Warsaw.
Polynesia isls. of Oceania in cen. and SE Pacific.
Pomona city, SW California; pop. 131,723.
Poona city, W India; pop. 2,447,000. Also **Pune**.
Port-au-Prince city, W cen. Haiti; cap.; pop. 1,031,000 (met.).
Portland city, NW Oregon; pop. 437,319.
Port Louis city, SW Mauritius; cap.; pop. 158,000.
Port Moresby city, SE New Guinea isl., Papua New Guinea; cap.; pop. 199,000.
Pôrto Alegre city, SE Brazil; pop. 3,124,000.
Porto-Novo port city, SE Benin; cap.; pop. 213,000.
Port Said city, NE Egypt; pop. 399,793.
Portsmouth city, SE Virginia; pop. 103,907.
Port of Spain city, NW Trinidad isl., Trinidad and Tobago; cap.; pop. 105,000 (met.).
Portugal country, SW Europe; pop. 10,525,000; cap. Lisbon.
Portuguese Guinea See GUINEA-BISSAU.
Prague city, W Czechoslovakia; cap.; pop. 1,294,000.
Praia city, SE São Tiago, Cape Verde; cap.; pop. 64,000.
Pretoria city, NE cen. South Africa; adm. cap.; pop. 443,059.
Prince Edward Island prov., NE Canada; pop. 129,765; cap. Charlottetown.
Prince Rupert city, W British Columbia, Canada; pop. 16,620.
Providence city, N Rhode Island; cap.; pop. 160,728.
Pueblo city, S cen. Colorado; pop. 98,640.
Puerto Rico isl., Greater Antilles; a Commonwealth of the United States; pop. 3,522,037; cap. San Juan.
Puget Sound inlet of the Pacific, NW Washington.
Pusan city, SE South Korea; pop. 3,514,798.
P'yŏngyang city, W North Korea; cap.; pop. 2,230,000.
Pyrenees mt. chain betw. France and Spain.

Qatar country, W coast of the Persian Gulf; pop. 486,000; cap. Doha.
Qingdao city, E China; pop. 1,412,000. Also **Tsingtao**.
Québec 1. prov., E Canada; pop. 6,895,963; cap. Québec. 2. city; E Canada; cap. of Québec; pop. 167,517 (met.).
Quemoy Islands two isls. of the Republic of China in Formosa Strait.
Quezon City city, cen. Luzon isl., Phillippines; cap. 1948-1976; pop. 1,587,140.
Quito city, N cen. Ecuador; cap.; pop. 1,241,000.
Qum city, cen. Iran; pop. 543,139. Also **Qom**.

Rabat city, N Morocco; cap.; pop. 1,068,000 (met.).
Rainier, Mount mt., W cen. Washington; highest point in Cascade Range; 4392 m (14,410 ft).
Raleigh city, cen. North Carolina; cap.; pop. 207,951.
Rangoon *an alternate name*: See YANGON.
Recife city, NE Brazil; pop. 2,492,000.
Red River 1. river in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana; ab. 1638 km (ab. 1018 mi) long. 2. river in U.S. and Canada; ab. 877 km (ab. 545 mi) long. Also **Red River of the North**.
Red Sea sea betw. Egypt and Arabia.
Regina city, W cen. Canada; cap. of Saskatchewan; pop. 179,178 (met.).
Reno city, W Nevada; pop. 133,850.
Réunion Fr. Overseas dept.; isl., E Indian Ocean, SE of Madagascar; pop. 592,000.
Reykjavík city, SW Iceland; cap.; pop. 146,000.
Rhine river, W cen. Europe; ab. 1320 km (ab. 820 mi) long.
Rhode Island state, NE U.S.; pop. 1,003,464; cap. Providence.
Rhodes Greek island of the Dodecanese group; SE Aegean.
Rhodesia See ZIMBABWE.
Rhône river, Switzerland and SE France; 813 km (505 mi) long. Also **Rhone**.
Richmond city, E cen. Virginia; cap.; pop. 203,056.
Rio de Janeiro city, SE Brazil; former cap.; pop. 10,714,000.
Río de la Plata estuary of the Paraná and Uruguay rivers betw. Argentina and Uruguay; 274 km (170 mi) long.
Rio Grande river betw. Texas and Mexico; 3034 km (1885 mi) long. Also **Río Bravo**.
Riga city, W Latvia; cap.; pop. 917,000.
Riverside city, SW California; pop. 226,505.
Riyadh city, E cen. Saudi Arabia; cap.; pop. 1,975,000.
Roanoke city, W Virginia; pop. 96,397.
Rochester city, W New York; pop. 231,636.
Rockford city, N Illinois; pop. 139,426.
Rocky Mountains mt. system, W North America, extends from NE British Columbia to cen. New Mexico. Also **Rockies**.
Romania country, SE Europe; pop. 23,200,000; cap. Bucharest. Also **Rumania**.
Rome city, W Italy; cap.; pop. 3,051,000.
Rosario city, E cen. Argentina; pop. 1,084,000.
Roseau city, Dominica; cap.; pop. 8279. Formerly *Charlotte Town*.
Rotterdam city, SW Netherlands; pop. 1,037,000.
Rouen city, N France; pop. 101,700.
Rumania *an alternate name*: See ROMANIA.
Russia country, E Europe and N Asia; pop. 148,263,000; cap. Moscow. Formerly *Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic*.
Rwanda country, cen. Africa; pop. 7,181,000; cap. Kigali.
Ryukyu Islands Japanese isl. group in W Pacific; chief isl. Okinawa.

Sacramento city, N cen. California; cap.; pop. 369,365.
Sahara desert area, N Africa from Atlantic Ocean to Red Sea.
Saigon See HO CHI MINH CITY.
St. Croix the largest of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
St. George's town, Grenada; cap.; pop. 4788.
St. Helena isl., South Atlantic; Brit. col.; pop. 7,000; cap. Jamestown.
St. John one of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
St. John's 1. city, SE Canada; cap. of Newfoundland; pop. 95,770. 2. city, on Antigua isl., Antigua and Barbuda; cap.; pop. 24,000. Also **St. Johns**.
St. Kitts country, Anguilla isl. group, Leeward Islands, West Indies; pop. 44,000; cap. Basseterre. Officially **Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis**. Formerly *St. Kitts (St. Christopher)-Nevis-Anguilla*, a former member of the *West Indies Associated States*.
St. Lawrence River river, SE Canada; the outlet of the Great Lakes system, flowing NE from Lake Ontario to the **Gulf of St. Lawrence**, an inlet of the N Atlantic; ab. 1200 km (ab. 745 mi.) long.

St. Lawrence Seaway a system of ship canals extending along the St. Lawrence River above Montreal to Lake Ontario.
St. Louis city, E Missouri; pop. 396,685.
St. Lucia country, isl. West Indies; pop. 151,000; cap. Castries.
St. Martin isl. of the Leeward group, West Indies; N part belongs to France, S part to the Netherlands and is part of the Netherlands Antilles. *Du.* **St. Maarten**.
St. Paul city, SE Minnesota; cap.; pop. 272,235.
St. Petersburg **1.** city, W Florida; pop. 238,629. **2.** city, NW Russia; pop. 5,115,000. Formerly *Leningrad* (1924-91) and *Petrograd* (1914-1924).
St. Pierre and Miquelon two isl. groups of France, N Atlantic; pop. 7000.
St. Thomas isl., West Indies, one of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
St. Vincent and the Grenadines country, isl. West Indies; pop. 116,000; cap. Kingstown.
Salem city, NW Oregon; cap.; pop. 107,786.
Salisbury See HARARE.
Salt Lake City city, N cen. Utah; cap.; pop. 159,936.
Salzburg city, W Austria; pop. 139,426.
Samoa isl. group, SW Pacific. See AMERICAN SAMOA and WESTERN SAMOA.
Sana city, cen. Yemen; cap.; pop. 363,000. Also **Sanaa**.
San Antonio city, S cen. Texas; pop. 935,933.
San Bernardino city, SW California; pop. 164,164.
San Diego city, SW California; pop. 1,110,549.
Sandwich Islands See HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.
San Francisco city, W California; pop. 723,959.
San Francisco Bay inlet of the Pacific, W California.
San Jose city, W California; pop. 782,248.
San José city, cen. Costa Rica; cap.; pop. 1,016,000 (met.).
San Juan city, NE Puerto Rico; cap.; pop. 426,832.
San Marino **1.** country, an enclave in NE Italy; pop. 24,000; cap. San Marino. **2.** city, San Marino; cap.; pop. 4,000.
San Salvador **1.** city, cen. El Salvador; cap.; pop. 593,000. **2.** isl., cen. Bahamas.
Santa Ana city, SW California; pop. 293,742.
Santa Cruz city, cen. Bolivia; pop. 529,200.
Santa Fe city, N cen. New Mexico; cap.; pop. 55,859.
Santiago city, cen. Chile; cap.; pop. 4,734,000.
Santo Domingo city, S Dominican Republic; cap.; pop. 2,203,000. Formerly *Ciudad Trujillo*.
São Paulo city, SE Brazil; pop. 17,395,000.
São Tomé city, NE São Tomé isl., São Tomé and Principe; cap.; pop. 51,000.
São Tomé and Principe country, isls. on the equator, W of Africa; pop. 121,000; cap. São Tomé.
Sapporo city, SW Hokkaido isl., Japan; pop. 1,537,000.
Sarajevo city, S cen. Bosnia and Hercegovina; cap.; pop. 319,017.
Sardinia isl., E cen. Mediterranean; with adjacent isls.; a region of Italy.
Saskatchewan prov., W cen. Canada; pop. 988,928; cap. Regina.
Saskatoon city, S cen. Saskatchewan, Canada; pop. 186,058.
Saudi Arabia country, Arabian penin, SW Asia; pop. 14,870,000; cap. Riyadh.
Savannah city, SE Georgia; pop. 137,560.
Scandinavia reg., N Europe; includes Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, and sometimes Finland and Iceland.
Scotland adm. division of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, N Great Britain, W Europe; pop. 5,130,735; cap. Edinburgh.
Seattle city, W cen. Washington; pop. 516,259.
Seine river, NE France; ab. 776 km (ab. 482 mi) long.
Semarang city, N Java isl., Indonesia; pop. 1,224,000.
Senegal country, NW Africa; pop. 7,327,000; cap. Dakar.
Seoul city, NW South Korea; cap.; pop. 10,979,000. Formerly *Kyŏngsŏng*.
Seville city, SW Spain; pop. 653,533.
Seychelles country, isl. group in Indian Ocean, NE of Madagascar; pop. 67,000; cap. Victoria.
Shanghai city, E China; pop. 10,787,000 (met.).
Shannon river, cen. Ireland; ab. 354 km (ab. 220 mi) long.
Shenyang city, NE China; pop. 4,763,000.
Shetland Islands isl. group, NE of the Orkney Islands, comprising Shetland, a county of Scotland.
Shreveport city, NW Louisiana; pop. 198,525.
Siam See THAILAND.
Siam, Gulf of part of the South China Sea betw. the Malay Peninsula and Indochina. Also **Gulf of Thailand**.
Siberia region, N Asia, in Russia, extending from the Urals to the Pacific.
Sicily isl. S Italy, in the Mediterranean.
Sierra Leone country, W Africa; pop. 4,151,000; cap. Freetown.
Sierra Nevada mt. range E California.
Sinai penin., NE Egypt, betw. the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.
Singapore **1.** country, isl. group in South China Sea off Malay penin.; pop. 3,003,000; cap. Singapore. **2.** city, S Singapore; cap.; pop. 2,723,000 (met.).
Skopje city, N Macedonia; cap.; pop. 408,143. Also **Skoplje**.
Slovenia country, SE Europe; cap. Ljubljana; pop. 1,891,864. Formerly part of *Yugoslavia*.
Smithtown city, SW New York; pop. 113,406.
Smyrna See İZMIR.
Society Islands a isl. group, S Pacific, part of French Polynesia.
Sofia city, W Bulgaria; cap.; pop. 1,190,000.
Solomon Islands country, isl. group, SW Pacific; pop. 321,000; cap. Honiara.
Somalia country, E Africa; pop. 7,497,000; cap. Mogadisho.
South Africa country, S Africa; pop. 35,282,000; adm. cap. Pretoria, legis. Cape Town.
South America S continent of the Western Hemisphere.
South Bend city, N Indiana; pop. 105,511.
South Carolina state, SE U.S.; pop. 3,486,703; cap. Columbia.
South China Sea part of the Pacific betw. SE Asia and the Malay Archipelago.
South Dakota state, N cen. U.S.; pop. 696,004; cap. Pierre.
Southern Yemen See YEMEN.
South Island one of the two main isls. of New Zealand.
South Korea *an alternate name*: See KOREA, REPUBLIC OF.
South Sea Islands isls. of the South Pole.
South Seas waters of the Southern Hemisphere, esp. the South Pacific Ocean.
South-West Africa See NAMIBIA.
Soviet Union *an alternate name*: See UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.
Spain country, SW Europe, pop. 38,959,000; cap. Madrid.
Spanish Guinea EQUATORIAL GUINEA.
Spice Islands See MOLUCCA ISLANDS.
Spokane city, E Washington; pop. 177,196.
Springfield **1.** city, cen. Illinois; cap.; pop. 105,227. **2.** city, SW Massachusetts; pop. 156,983. **3.** city, SW Missouri; pop. 140,494.
Sri Lanka country, isl. S of India; pop. 16,993,000; cap. Colombo. Formerly *Ceylon*.
Stamford city, SW Connecticut; pop. 108,056.
Staten Island isl. SE New York, at the entrance to New York Harbor; New York City boro.; pop. 378,977.
Sterling Heights city, SE Michigan; pop. 117,810.
Stockholm city, SE Sweden; cap.; pop. 1,662,000 (met.).
Stockton city, cen. California; pop. 210,943.
Strasbourg city, NE France; pop. 248,040. Also **Strassburg**.
Stratford-upon-Avon town, S cen. England; pop. 105,800.
Stuttgart city, SW Germany; pop. 1,316,000.
Sucre city, S cen. Bolivia; con. cap.; pop. 102,000.
Sudan country, NE Africa; pop. 25,204,000; cap. Khartoum.
Suez city, NE Egypt; pop. 326,820.
Suez, Gulf of inlet of the Red Sea; NE Egypt.
Suez, Isthmus of a strip of land joining Asia and Africa, betw. the Gulf of Suez and the Mediterranean; traversed by the Suez Canal.

Suez Canal ship canal across the Isthmus of Suez; ab. 163 km (ab. 101 mi) long.
Sulawesi *an alternate name*: See CELEBES.
Sumatra isl. of Indonesia, S of the Malay Peninsula.
Sunda Islands one of the isl. groups of the Malay Archipelago, betw. S China Sea and Indian Ocean; comprises the **Greater Sunda Islands**: Celebes, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and other small isls. and the **Lesser Sunda Islands**: isls. extending E from Bali to Timor.
Sunnyvale city, W California; pop. 117,229.
Superior, Lake largest of the Great Lakes.
Surabaya city, NE Java isl., Indonesia; pop. 2,383,000.
Surat city, NW India; pop. 1,634,000.
Suriname country, NE South America; pop. 422,000; cap. Paramaribo. Formerly *Dutch Guiana*.
Suva city, Viti Levu isl., Fiji; cap.; pop. 200,000.
Svalbard isl. group of Norway, W of Norway. Formerly *Spitsbergen*.
Swaziland country, SE Africa; pop. 768,000; adm. cap. Mbabane.
Sweden country, NW Europe; pop. 8,559,000; cap. Stockholm.
Switzerland country, cen. Europe; pop. 6,712,000; cap. Bern.
Sydney city, SE Australia; pop. 3,404,000 (met.).
Syracuse city, cen. New York; pop. 163,860.
Syria country, SW Asia; pop. 12,116,000; cap. Damascus.

Tabriz city, NW Iran; pop. 1,434,000.
Tacoma city, W Washington; pop. 176,664.
Tahiti isl., Society group.
Taipei city, N Taiwan isl., Republic of China; con. cap.; pop. 2,961,000.
Taiwan isl. of SE coast of China, Republic of China; adm. cap. Formerly *Formosa*.
Taiwan, Strait, strait, betw. China and Taiwan. Formerly *Formosa Strait*.
Tajikistan country, W Asia; cap. Dushanbe; pop. 5,303,000. Formerly *Tadzhik Soviet Socialist Republic*. **Tallahassee** city, N Florida; cap.; pop. 124,773.
Tallinn city, N Estonia; cap.; pop. 484,000.
Tampa city, W Florida; pop. 280,015.
Tananarive See ANTANANARIVO.
Tanganyika, Lake lake, E cen. Africa.
Tangier city, N Morocco; pop. 304,000 (met.). Also **Tanger**.
Tanzania, United Republic of country, E Africa; pop. 25,635,000; cap. Dar es-Salaam.
Tashkent city, NE Uzbekistan; cap.; pop. 2,037,000.
Tasmania 1. isl. S of Australia. **2.** a state of Australia comprising this isl. and other small isls.; pop. 456,663; cap. Hobart.
Tbilisi city, S cen. Georgia; cap.; pop. 1,309,000. Formerly *Tiflis*.
Tegucigalpa city, S cen. Honduras; cap.; pop. 775,000.
Tehran city, N cen. Iran; cap.; pop. 6,773,000. Also **Teheran**.
Tel Aviv-Jaffa city, W Israel; pop. 1,883,000. Also **Tel Aviv-Yafo**.
Tempe city, S cen. Arizona; pop. 141,865.
Tennessee state, SE cen. U.S.; pop. 4,877,185; cap. Nashville.
Tennessee River river, E U.S.; 1049 km (652 mi) long.
Teton Range range of the Rocky Mts. in NW Wyoming and SW Idaho.
Texas state, S U.S.; pop. 16,986,510; cap. Austin.
Thailand country, SE Asia; pop. 57,196,000; cap. Bangkok. Formerly *Siam*.
Thames river, S England; ab. 340 km (ab. 210 mi) long.
Thessaloníki city, NE Greece; pop. 406,413. Also **Salonika**.
Thimphu town, W Bhutan; cap.; pop. 17,000. Also **Thimbu**.
Thousand Islands group of ab. 1700 isls. in the St. Lawrence River.
Tianjin city, NE China; pop. 9,371,000. Also **Tientsin**.
Tiber river, cen. Italy; ab. 404 km (ab. 251 mi) long.
Tiberias, Lake freshwater lake; NE Israel. Also *Sea of Galilee*.
Tibet autonomous reg. of SW China; formerly independent; pop. 2,030,000; cap. Lhasa.
Tierra del Fuego 1. archipelago at S tip of South America, belonging to Chile and Argentina; separated from mainland by Strait of Magellan. **2.** largest isl. in this group.
Tigris river, SW Asia, ab. 1850 km (ab. 1150 mi) long.
Tijuana city, NW Mexico; pop. 429,500.
Tiranë city, cen. Albania; cap.; pop. 242,000. Also **Tirana**.
Togo country, W Africa; pop. 3,531,000; cap. Lomé.
Tokyo city, E cen. Honshu isl., Japan; cap.; pop. 18,107,000.
Toledo 1. city, NW Ohio; pop. 332,943. **2.** city, cen. Spain; pop. 487,844.
Tonga country, isl. group in South Pacific, SE of Fiji; pop. 95,000; cap. Nuku'alofa.
Topeka city, NE Kansas; cap.; pop. 119,883.
Toronto city, SE Canada; cap. of Ontario; pop. 635,395 (met.).
Torrance city, SW California; pop. 133,107.
Toulouse city, S France; pop. 345,780.
Trenton city, W New Jersey; cap.; pop. 20,586.
Trinidad and Tobago country, isls. off N Venezuela; pop. 1,227,000; cap. Port of Spain.
Tripoli 1. city, NW Lebanon; pop. 127,611. **2.** city, NW Libya; cap.; pop. 2,062,000 (met.).
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands *an alternate name*: See PACIFIC ISLANDS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE.
Tucson city, SE Arizona; pop. 405,390.
Tulsa city, NE Oklahoma; pop. 367,302.
Tunis city, NE Tunisia; cap.; pop. 1,636,000 (met.).
Tunisia country, N Africa; pop. 8,180,000; cap. Tunis.
Turin city, NW Italy; pop. 1,531,000.
Turkey country, partially in SE Europe and SW Asia betw. the Mediterranean and Black Seas; pop. 56,098,000; cap. Ankara.
Turkmenistan country, Central Asia; cap. Ashkhabad; pop. 3,670,000. Formerly *Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Turks and Caicos Island two Brit. isl. groups, SE of the Bahamas; pop. 10,000.

Uganda country, E cen. Africa; pop. 18,795,000; cap. Kampala.
Ukraine country, E Europe; cap. Kiev; pop. 51,857,000. Formerly *Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic*.
Ulan Bator city, N cen. Republic of Mongolia; cap.; pop. 472,000. Also **Ulaanbaatar**.
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics former multinational federal state, E Europe and N Asia; from 1940-1990, consisted of 15 constituent republics: Byelorussia, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenia, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Uzbekistan; 11 former republics now form the *Commonwealth of Independent States*. Also **Soviet Union**.
United Arab Emirates country, E Arabian penin.; pop. 1,589,000; cap. Abu Dhabi.
United Arab Republic See EGYPT.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland country, W Europe, consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland; pop. 57,411,000; cap. London.
United States of America country, North America; pop. 248,709,873; cap. Washington.
Upper Volta See BURKINA FASO.
Ural Mountains mt. system, cen. Russia, regarded as boundary betw. Europe and Asia. Also **Urals**.
Ural River river, S cen. Russia and W Kazakhstan; flowing from Ural Mts. to Caspian Sea; ab. 2535 km (ab. 1575 mi) long.
Uruguay country, SE South America; pop. 3,096,000; cap. Montevideo.
Uruguay River river, SE South America; ab. 1600 km (ab. 1000 mi) long.
Utah state, W cen. U.S.; pop. 1,722,850; cap. Salt Lake City.
Utrecht city, cen. Netherlands; pop. 230,496.

Uzbekistan country, Central Asia; cap. Tashkent; pop. 20,531,000. Formerly *Uzbekistan Soviet Socialist Republic*.

Vaduz town, E Liechtenstein; cap.; pop. 6,000.
Valletta town, NE Malta; cap.; pop. 14,000.
Valparaiso city, cen. Chile; pop. 273,213.
Vancouver city, SW British Columbia, Canada; pop. 471,844 (met.).
Vanuatu country, isls. S Pacific; pop. 147,000; cap. Vila. Formerly *New Hebrides*.
Varanasi city, N India; pop. 1,031,000. Formerly *Benares* or *Banaras*.
Vatican City papal state, within Rome, Italy; pop. 766.
Venezuela country, N South America; pop. 19,735,000; cap. Caracas.
Venice city, NE Italy; pop. 339,272.
Verde, Cape westernmost point of Africa; a peninsula.
Vermont state, NE U.S.; pop. 562,758; cap. Montpelier.
Versailles city, N France; pop. 95,240.
Vesuvius active volcano, W Italy.
Victoria **1.** city, W Canada, on Vancouver isl.; cap. of British Columbia; pop. 71,228 (met.). **2.** city, N Hong Kong isl., Hong Kong; cap.; pop. 5,448,000. Also **Hong Kong**. **3.** town, Mahé isl., Seychelles; cap.; pop. 41,000.
Vienna city, NE Austria; cap.; pop. 2,096,000.
Vientiane city, NW cen. Laos; adm. cap.; pop. 407,000.
Vietnam country, SW Indochina, pop. 66,200,000; cap. Hanoi. Also **Viet-Nam** or **Viet Nam**.
Vila city, cen. Vanuatu; cap.; pop. 25,000.
Vilnius city, SE Lithuania; cap.; pop. 593,000. Also **Vilnyus**.
Virginia state, E U.S.; pop. 6,187,358; cap. Richmond.
Virginia Beach city, SE Virginia; pop. 393,069.
Virgin Islands isl. group, West Indies, E of Puerto Rico.
Virgin Islands of the United States the W isls. of the Virgin Islands, comprising St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John; a U.S. terr.; pop. 101,809.
Volga river, W Russia; 3531 km (2194 mi) long.

Waco city, cen. Texas; pop. 103,590.
Wake Island isl., N Pacific; U.S. terr.; pop. 302.
Wales forming administratively a part of England and occupying a penin. of W Great Britain isl.; pop. 2,791,851; cap. Cardiff.
Wallis and Futura Islands Fr. Overseas terr., SW Pacific; pop. 18,000.
Warren city, SE Michigan; pop. 144,864.
Warsaw city, E cen. Poland; cap.; pop. 2,235,000.
Washington **1.** state, NW U.S.; pop. 4,866,692; cap. Olympia. **2.** city, E U.S.; cap. of U.S.; has same boundaries as District of Columbia; pop. 606,900.
Waterbury city, W Connecticut; pop. 108,961.
Waterford city, S Ireland; pop. 51,622.
Waterloo village, cen. Belgium; pop. 27,869.
Wellington city, S North Island, New Zealand; cap.; pop. 330,000 (met.).
Western Samoa country, isls. in S Pacific; pop. 164,000; cap. Apia.
West Germany See GERMANY.
West Indies series of isl. groups separating the North Atlantic from the Caribbean.
West Indies Associated States See ST. KITTS.
West Point U.S. military reservation, SE New York; seat of the U.S. Military Academy.
West Virginia state, E U.S.; pop. 1,793,477; cap. Charleston.
Whitehorse city, NW Canada, cap. of Yukon Territory; pop. 17,925.
White Mountains range of the Appalachians, N cen. New Hampshire.
Wichita city, S cen. Kansas; pop. 304,011.
Wight, Isle of isl. off the S coast of England.
Willemstad city, S Curaçao isl.; Netherlands Antilles; cap.; pop. 104,000.
Windhoek city, cen. Namibia; cap.; pop. 146,000.
Windsor city, SE Ontario, Canada; pop. 191,435.
Windward Islands isl. group, S Lesser Antilles.
Winnipeg city, cen. Canada; cap. of Manitoba; pop. 616,790.
Winston-Salem city, NW cen. North Carolina; pop. 143,485.
Wisconsin state, N U.S.; pop. 4,891,769; cap. Madison.
Worcester city, cen. Massachusetts; pop. 169,759.
Wrocław city, SW Poland; pop. 644,411.
Wuhan city, E cen. China; pop. 3,921,000.
Wyoming state, NW U.S.; pop. 453,588; cap. Cheyenne.

Yangon city, S Myanmar, cap.; pop. 3,295,000. Also **Rangoon**.
Yangtze river flowing from Tibet to the East China Sea; ab. 5470 km (ab. 3400 mi) long. Also **Chang Jiang** or **Ch'ang Chiang**.
Yaoundé city, S cen. Cameroon; cap.; pop. 768,000.
Yellowknife city, NW Canada, cap. of Northwest Territories; pop. 15,179.
Yellow River *an alternate name*: See HUANG HE.
Yellow Sea inlet of the Pacific betw. Korea and China.
Yemen country, S Arabian Penin.; pop. 11,282,000; cap. Sana. Formed by the merger of *People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (Southern Yemen)* and the *Yemen Arab Republic (Northern Yemen)*.
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of Also **Southern Yemen**. See YEMEN.
Yemen Arab Republic See YEMEN.
Yerevan city, E Armenia; cap.; pop. 1,222,000.
Yokohama city, cen. Honshu isl., Japan; pop. 3,190,703.
Yomoussoukro city, cen. Côte D'Ivoire; adm. cap.; pop. 120,000.
Yonkers city, SE New York; pop. 188,082.
Youngstown city, NE Ohio; pop. 95,732.
Yucatán penin., SE Mexico and NE Central America.
Yugoslavia country, SE Europe; pop. 9,897,986; cap. Belgrade. In 1992, the country divided into five separate divisions, each with its own capital, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (including the constituent republics of Serbia and Montenegro), Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Macedonia.
Yukon River river, NW Canada and cen. Alaska; 2897 km (1800 mi) long.
Yukon Territory terr., NW Canada; pop. 27,797; cap. Whitehorse.

Zagreb city, cen. Croatia; cap.; pop. 649,586.
Zaire, Republic of country, cen. Africa; pop. 35,562,000; cap. Kinshasa.
Zambezi river, S Africa; ab. 2600 km (ab. 1615 mi) long. Also **Zambesi**.
Zambia country, S cen. Africa; pop. 8,073,000; cap. Lusaka.
Zimbabwe country, S Africa; pop. 9,369,000; cap. Harare. Formerly *Rhodesia*.
Zürich city, NE Switzerland; pop. 346,018.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following is intended to be a sample list of commonly used abbreviations and acronyms. While modern usage (adopted in this work) tends toward the elimination of periods, other variations are often acceptable. Despite this trend, several abbreviations retain their punctuation in all cases and have been listed in this manner.

A ace; America(n); ampere
a or $\mathbf{A_2}$ acre; alto; answer; are (metric measurement); area
Å or **A** angstrom unit
AA Alcoholics Anonymous; antiaircraft; Associate in Arts
AAA American Automobile Association; antiaircraft artillery
AAAS American Association for the Advancement of Science
AAM air-to-air missile
A and M Agricultural and Mechanical (College)
A and R or **A & R** artists and repertory
AAU Amateur Athletic Union
AAUP American Association of University Professors
AAUW American Association of University Women
ab about; (times) at bat
AB Alberta (Canada); Bachelor of Arts (L *Artium Baccalaureus*); able-bodied seaman
ABA American Bar Association; American Basketball Association; American Booksellers Association; American Bankers Association
abbr or **abbrev** abbreviated; abbreviation
ABC American Broadcasting Company
ab int from the beginning (L *ab initio*)
abl ablative
ABM antiballistic missile
Abp archbishop
abr abridged; abridgement
abs absolute(ly)
abstr abstract
abt about
Ac actinium
AC before Christ (L *ante Christum*)
ac before meals (L *ante cibum*)
a/c or **A/C** account; account current
AC or **ac** alternating current
acad academic; academy
acc acceleration; account; accountant; accounting
acc or **accus** accusative
acct account; accountant; accounting
ack acknowledge; acknowledgment
ACLU American Civil Liberties Union
ACM Association of Computing Machinery
ACP American College of Physicians
ACS American Chemical Society; American College of Surgeons
ACT Australian Capital Territory
actg acting; actor
ACTH adrenocorticotropic hormone
AD active duty; assembly district; of the Christian era (L *anno Domini*, in the year of our Lord)
ADA Americans for Democratic Action; American Dental Association
add addenda; addition
addn or **addnl** additional
ad init at the beginning (L *ad initium*)
ad int in the meantime (L *ad interim*)
adj adjacent; adjective; adjutant
adj gen adjutant general
ad lib at will (L *ad libitum*)
ad loc at the place (L *ad locum*)
Adm or **ADM** Admiral
adm or **admin** administration; administrative
ADP automatic data processing
adv adverb; advertisement
ad val according to value (L *ad valorem*)
advt advertisement
AEC Atomic Energy Commission
AEF American Expeditionary Force(s)
aeq equal (L *aequales*)
aero or **aeron** aeronautical; aeronautics
aet or **aetat** at the age of; of age; aged (L *aetatis*)
AF Air Force
AF or **af** audio frequency
AF or **AFr** Anglo-French
AFB Air Force Base
AFC automatic frequency control; American Football Conference
afft affidavit
Alc Airman, first class
AFL American Federation of Labor; American Football League
AFL-CIO American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
AFM American Federation of Musicians
Afr Africa(n)
AFSCME American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
aft afternoon
AFT American Federation of Teachers
AFTRA American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
AG Adjutant General; Attorney General
Ag silver (L *argentum*); August
agcy agency
agr or **agric** agricultural; agriculture
agt agent
AH of the Muslim era (L *anno Hegirae*, in the year of the Hegira; 1 AH=AD 622)
AI artificial intelligence
AIA American Institute of Architects
AIC American Institute of Chemists
AID Agency for International Development
AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AIP American Institute of Physics
AK Alaska
aka also known as
AKC American Kennel Club
AL Alabama; American League; American Legion
Al aluminum
Ala Alabama
ALA American Library Association
Alas Alaska
alc alcohol
ald alderperson
alg algebra
ALGOL algorithmic language
alk alkali(ne)
alt alternate; altitude; alto
alt or **alter** alteration(s)
Alta Alberta (Canada)
alum aluminum
Am American
AM Master of Arts (L *Artium Magister*)
AM or **am** amplitude modulation; before noon (L *ante meridiem*)
AMA American Medical Association
amb ambassador
AMDG to the greater glory of God (L *ad majorem Dei gloriam*)
amdt amendment
AME African Methodist Episcopal
Amer America(n)
amp amperage; ampere
amt amount
amu atomic mass unit
AMVETS American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam
anat anatomical; anatomist; anatomy

anc ancient
ann annals; annual; annuity
anon anonymous(ly)
ANPA American Newspaper Publishers Association
ans answer
ANSI American National Standards Institute
Ant Antarctica
ant antenna; antonym
ANTA American National Theatre and Academy
anthrop anthropological; anthropology
antilog antilogarithm
antiq antiquarian; antiquity
ANZAC Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
A/O or **a/o** account of
A/P account paid; accounts payable
ap additional premium
AP American Plan; antipersonnel; Associated Press
Ap Apostle; April
ap or **Ap** apothecaries' (weight or measure)
APA American Philological Association; American Philosophical Assocation; American Psychiatric Association; American Psychological Association
APB all points bulletin
API American Petroleum Institute
APO Army Post Office
Apoc Apocalypse; Apocrypha; Apocryphal
app apparatus; appendix; apprentice
approx approximate(ly)
appt appoint; appointment
Apr April
apt apartment
A/R accounts receivable
Ar Arabic; argon
AR Arkansas
ar arrival; arrive(s)
ARC American Red Cross
arch archaic; architect; architectural; architecture
archaeol archaeology
archit architecture
arith arithmetic; arithmetical
Ariz Arizona
Ark Arkansas
Arm Armenian
arr arranged; arrival; arrive(d)
art article; artificial; artillery; artist
AS Anglo-Saxon; antisubmarine; in the year of salvation (L *anno salutis*)
As arsenic
ASCAP American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers
ASCII American Standard Code for Information Interchange
ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASME American Society of Mechanical Engineers
ASPCA American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
assn association
assoc associate; association
ASSR Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
asst assistant
ASTM American Society for Testing Materials
astrol astrologer; astrological; astrology
astron astronomer; astronomical; astronomy
ASV American Standard Version (of the Bible)
At astatine
at atomic
Atl Atlantic
atm atmosphere; atmospheric
at no atomic number
ATS American Temperance Society
att attached
att or **attn** attention
att or **atty** attorney
Att Gen or **Atty Gen** Attorney General
attrib attributive(ly)
ATV all-terrain vehicle
at wt atomic weight
AU astrononmical units; atomic unit(s)
Au gold (L *aurum*)
AUC from the founding of the city (L *ab urbe*)
aud audit; auditor
Aug August
AUS Army of the United States
Aust Austria(n)
auth authentic; author; authority; authorized
auto automatic; automobile; automotive
aux or **auxil** auxiliary
A/V according to value (L *ad valorem*)
AV Authorized Version (of the Bible)
av avenue; average; avoirdupois
A/V or **A-V** or **AV** audiovisual
AVC American Veterans Committee
avdp avoirdupois
ave avenue
avg average
A/W actual weight
awol or **AWOL** absent without leave
ax axiom
AZ Arizona
az azimuth

B bacillus; Bible; bishop; boron; British
b or **B** bachelor; base; baseman; bass; basso; book; born
BA Bachelor of Arts; British Academy; Buenos Aires
Ba barium
bal balance
b and w black and white
Bap or **Bapt** Baptist
bar barometer; barometric
Bar Baruch
Bart Baronet
BASIC beginner's all-purpose symbolic instruction code
bb ball bearing; base on balls
BBA Bachelor of Business Administration
BBB Better Business Bureau
BBC British Broadcasting Corporation
bbl barrel
BC before Christ; British Columbia (Canada); Bachelor of Commerce
bcd binary-coded decimal
BCE before the Common Era
BCS Bachelor of Commercial Science
BD Bachelor of Divinity
bd board; bond; bound
B/D or **BD** bank draft; bills discounted; brought down
bd ft board foot
bdl or **bdle** bundle
bdrm bedroom
BE Bachelor of Engineering; Board of Education
Be beryllium
B/E or **BE** bill of exchange
bef before
BEF British Expeditionary Force(s)
Belg Belgian; Belgium
bet between
BeV or **Bev** or **bev** billion electron volts
bf boldface
B/F brought forward
BFA Bachelor of Fine Arts
bg bag
BG Brigadier General
bhd bulkhead
bhp brake horsepower
Bi bismuth
Bib Bible
Bib or **Bibl** Biblical
bibl or **bibliog** bibliographer; bibliographical; bibliography
bid twice a day (L *bis in die*)

biog biographer; biographical; biography
biol biologic(al); biologist; biology
bk bank; block; book
Bk berkelium
bkg banking
bkgd background
bkpg bookkeeping
bks barracks
bkt basket; bracket
bl bale; barrel; black; block; blue
B/L bill of lading
bldg building
bldr builder
blk black; block; bulk
BLS Bachelor of Library Science
BLT bacon, lettuce, and tomato (sandwich)
blvd boulevard
BM Bachelor of Medicine; basal metabolism; bowel movement
BMR basal metabolism rate
bn or **Bn** battalion
BO body odor; box office
bo or **BO** branch office; broker's order; buyer's option
Bol Bolivia
BOQ bachelor officer's quarters
bor borough
bot botanical; botanist; botany; bottle
BP before the present; blood pressure; British Pharmacopoeia
bp bishop; boiling point
B/P or **BP** or **bp** bills payable
bp or **bpl** birthplace
bpi bits per inch; bytes per inch
BPOE Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
bps bits per second; bytes per second
br branch; brass; brown
Br Britain; British; bromine; Brother
B/R or **br** bills receivable
brig brigade; brigadier
Brig Gen Brigadier General
Brit Britain; British
bro brother
bros brothers
bs or **BS** balance sheet; bill of sale
BS or **BSc** Bachelor of Science
BSA Boy Scouts of America
bsh bushel
bskt basket
Bt Baronet
btry battery
Btu or **BTU** British thermal unit
bu bushel
Bulg Bulgaria(n)
bull bulletin
bur or **bu** bureau
bus business
BV Blessed Virgin
Bvt Brevet
BW black and white
BWI British West Indies
BX base exchange
bx box

C Cape; carbon; Catholic; Celsius; centigrade; Church; City; Corps; coulomb; Court
c or **C** carat; cent; century; chapter; circa; copy; copyright; cup
ca about; approximately (L *circa*); centiare
Ca calcium
CA California; chartered accountant; chief accountant; chronological age
CAB Civil Aeronautics Board
CAD Computer-Aided Design
CAD/CAM Computer-Aided Design/Computer-Aided Manufacturing
CAF cost and freight
CAI computer-aided instruction
cal calendar; caliber; calorie
Cal large calorie(s)
Cal or **Calif** California
calc calculate(d)
can canon; canto
Can or **Canad** Canada; Canadian
can or **canc** cancel(ed); cancellation
C and W country and western
Cant Canticle of Canticles; Cantonese
cap capacity; capital city; capitalize(d); capital letter
CAP Civil Air Patrol
caps capital letters; capsule
Capt or **CAPT** Captain
car carat
Card Cardinal
CARE Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc
cat catalog
CAT clear air turbulence
cath cathedral; cathode
Cath Catholic
CATV community antenna television
cav cavalry
CB citizens band
Cb columbium
CBC Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
CBD or **cbd** cash before delivery
CBS Columbia Broadcasting System
CBW chemical and biological warfare
cc chapters; cubic centimeter
cc or **CC** carbon copy
CCC Civilian Conservation Corps; Commodity Credit Corporation
CCTV closed-circuit television
ccw or **cckw** counterclockwise
Cd cadmium
cd candela(s); cash discount; cord
CD Civil Defense; compact disk
C/D or **CD** certificate of deposit
CDR Commander
Ce cerium
CE Chemical Engineer; Civil Engineer; Common Era; Corps of Engineers
CEA Council of Economic Advisors
CEC Commodity Exchange Commission
cen or **cent** central; century
cent centigrade
CEO chief executive officer
cert or **certif** certificate; certification; certified; certify
CETA Comprehensive Employment and Training Act
Cf californium
cf compare (L *confer*)
CF or **cf** cost and freight
C/F or **c/f** or **CF** carried forward
CFI or **cfi** cost, freight, and insurance
CFL Canadian Football League
CG center of gravity; Coast Guard; Commanding General; Consul General
cgs or **CGS** centimeter-gram-second
CH clearing-house; courthouse; customhouse
ch or **Ch** chain (measurement); champion; (television) channel; chaplain; chapter; child(ren); church
Chanc Chancellor; Chancery
chap chapter
chem chemical; chemist; chemistry
chg change; charge
Chin China; Chinese
chm chairman
Chron Chronicles
chron or **chronol** chronicle; chronological; chronology
CI certificate of insurance; cost and insurance
CIA Central Intelligence Agency
Cia Company (Sp *Compañia*)

CID Criminal Investigation Department (of Scotland Yard)
Cie Company (F *Compagnie*)
CIF cost, insurance, and freight
C in C Commander in Chief
CIO Conference of Industrial Organizations
cir or **circ** circa; circular; circulation
circum or **cir** or **circ** circumference
cit citation; cited; citizen
civ civil; civilian
CJ Chief Justice
ck cask; check
cl carload; centiliter; civil law; class; classification; clause; clearance; clerk; common law
Cl chlorine
cld called; cleared
CLEP College Level Examination Program
clk clerk
clo clothing
clr clear
CLU Chartered Life Underwriter; Civil Liberties Union
cm centimeter
Cm curium
cm² square centimeter
cm³ cubic centimeter
cmdg commanding
Cmdr Commander
cml commercial
C/N or **CN** circular note; credit note
CNO Chief of Naval Operations
CNS central nervous system
Co cobalt
CO Colorado; Commanding Officer; conscientious objector
c/o care of
Co or **co** company; country
C/O or **c/o** or **CO** or **co** cash order; carried over
COBOL common business oriented language
COD or **cod** cash on delivery; collect on delivery
C of C Chamber of Commerce
C of S Chief of Staff
cog cognate
Col Colonel; Colorado; Colossians
COL Colonel; cost of living
col colonial; colony; color(ed); column
col or **coll** collect(ed); college; collegiate
COLA cost of living adjustment
collat or **coll** collateral
colloq or **coll** colloquial
Colo Colorado
Com Commander; Commission; Commissioner; Committee; Commonwealth
com or **comm** command; commander; commerce; commercial; commission; committee; common
comb combination; combining
comdg commanding
Comdr Commander
Comdt Commandant
coml commercial
comp compilation; compiled; compiler; complete; composition; compositor; compound
comp or **compar** comparative
compd compound
con against (L *contra*)
Con Consul
conc concentrated
conf conference
Confed Confederate; Confederation
Cong Congregational; Congress; Congressional
conj conjugation; conjunction
Conn Connecticut
cons consonant
Cons Constable; Consul
consol consolidated
Const Constable; Constitution(al)
const constant
const or **constr** construction
cont containing; contents; continent; continental; continue(d); contract; contraction; control
contd continued
contemp contemporary
contg containing
contr contract; contraction; contralto
contrib contribution; contributor
CONUS continental United States
coop cooperative
cop or **copr** copyright
Cor Corinthians; Coroner
cor corner; corpus
cor or **corr** correct(ed); correction; correspond; correspondence; correspondent; corresponding
CORE Congress of Racial Equality
corp or **corpn** corporation
COS cash on shipment; Chief of Staff
cos cosine
cot cotangent
coul coulomb(s)
cp candlepower; chemically pure; compare; coupon
CP Command Post; Common Prayer; Communist Party
CPA Certified Public Accountant
cpd compound
CPFF cost plus fixed fee
cpi characters per inch
CPI Consumer Price Index
Cpl or **CPL** Corporal
CP/M control program for microcomputers
CPO Chief Petty Officer
CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
cps cycles per second; characters per second
CPT Captain
CPU central processing unit
CQ charge of quarters
Cr chromium
cr credit; creditor; crown
CRC Civil Rights Commission
cres or **cresc** crescendo
crim criminal
crit critic; critical; criticism
CRT cathode ray tube
cryst crystalline
cs capital stock; case
Cs cesium
CS Chief of Staff; Christian Science; Christian Scientist; Civil Service; county seat
C/S cycles per second
CSA Confederate States of America
CSC Civil Service Commission
csc cosecant
CST or **cst** Central Standard Time
ct carat; cent
CT or **ct** Central Time
Ct or **CT** Connecticut
Ct or **ct** count; county; court
ctf certificate
ctg or **ctge** cartage
ctn carton
ctr center
Cu copper (L *cuprum*)
cu cubic
cum cumulative
cur currency; current
cw clockwise
CWO Chief Warrant Officer
CWO or **cwo** cash without order
cwt hundredweight
cyc or **cycl** cyclopedia
cyl cylinder
CYO Catholic Youth Organization
CZ Canal Zone
Czech Czechoslovakian

d *Brit* penny (L *denarius*)
D December; Democrat(ic); Doctor (in academic degrees); Dutch
d or **D** date; daughter; day; deceased; degree; diameter; died; dose; drachma
DA Departments of Agriculture; District Attorney; Doctor of Arts; doesn't (or don't) answer
D/A or **DA** days after acceptance; deposit account
dag dekagram
dal dekaliter
dam dekameter
dam² square dekameter
dam³ cubic dekameter
Dan Daniel; Danish
DAR Daughters of the American Revolution
dat dative
DAT Differential Aptitude Test; digital audiotape
dau daughter
DB Bachelor of Divinity
db or **dB** decibel
dba doing business as
dbl double
DC from the beginning (Ital *da capo*); District of Columbia; Doctor of Chiropractic
DC or **dc** direct current
DD dishonorable discharge; Doctor of Divinity
D/D or **DD** days after date; demand draft
DDS Doctor of Dental Science; Doctor of Dental Surgery
DDT dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DDVP dichlorvos (dimethyldichlorovinyl phosphate)
DE Delaware
deb debenture
dec deceased; decorated; decrescendo
Dec December
decl declension
def defendant; defense; definite; definition
deg degree
Del Delaware
del delegate; delegation
del or **dely** delivery
Dem Democrat; Democratic
Den Denmark
dent dental; dentist; dentistry
dep or **Dep** depart; departure; deposit; depot; deputy
depr depreciation
dept or **Dept** department
der or **deriv** derivation; derivative; derive(d)
det detached
Deut Deuteronomy
dev deviation
DEW Distant Early Warning (Line)
DF damage free; direction finder; Federal District (Sp *Distrito Federal*)
DFC Distinguished Flying Cross
DFM Distinguished Flying Medal
DG by the grace of God (L *Dei gratia*); Director General
dg decigram
DH designated hitter
dia diameter
diag diagonal; diagram
dial dialect; dialectal; dialectic(al)
diam diameter
dict dictation; dictionary
diff or **dif** difference; different
dig digest
dil dilute
dim dimension; diminished; diminuendo; diminutive
dipl diplomat(ic)
dir or **Dir** director
disc discount
dist distance; district
distn distillation
distr distribute; distribution; distributor
div divided; dividend; division; divisor; divorced
DJ disk jockey; District Judge; Doctor of Laws (L *Doctor Juris*)
dk dark; deck; dock
dkg dekagram
dkl dekaliter
dkm dekameter
dkm² square dekameter
dkm³ cubic dekameter
dl deciliter
DLit or **DLitt** Doctor of Letters; Doctor of Literature (L *Doctor Litterarum*)
DLO Dead Letter Office
dlr dealer
DLS doctor of library science
dlvy delivery
dm decimeter
dm² square decimeter
dm³ cubic decimeter
DM Deutsche mark
DMD Doctor of Dental Medicine
DMus doctor of music
DMZ demilitarized zone
dn down
DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
do ditto
DO Doctor of Osteopathy
DOA dead on arrival
DOB or **dob** date of birth
doc document
DOD Department of Defense
DOE Department of Energy
dol dollar
dom domestic; dominant; dominion
DOS disk operating system
DOT Department of Transportation
doz dozen
DP data processing; dew point; displaced person
DPH Doctor of Public Health
dpt department
DR dead reckoning; dining room
dr debit; debtor; drachma; dram; drum
Dr. Doctor
Dr Drive
DS or **ds** days after sight; document signed; repeat from the sign (Ital *dal segno*)
DSC Distinguished Service Cross; Doctor of Surgical Chiropody
DSc doctor of science
DSM Distinguished Service Medal
DSO Distinguished Service Order
dsp died without issue (L *decessit sine prole*)
DST Doctor of Sacred Theology
DST or **dst** Daylight Saving Time
DT's delirium tremens
Du Duke; Dutch
dup duplex; duplicate
DV Douay Version (of the Bible); God willing (L *Deo volente*)
DVM Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
dwt pennyweight (*d* < L *denarius*)
DX distance
Dy dysprosium
dz dozen

E Earth; east(ern); energy; English; excellent
e electron
e or **E** eldest; engineer(ing); error
ea each
E & OE errors and omissions excepted
EBCDIC extended binary coded decimal interchange code
E by N east by north
E by S east by south
EC Economic Community; European Community
eccl or **eccles** ecclesiastic(al)
Eccles Ecclesiastes

Ecclus Ecclesiasticus
ECG electrocardiogram
ECM European Common Market
ecol ecological; ecology
econ economics; economist; economy
Ecua Ecuador
ed edited; edition; editor; education
ED Election District
EDA Economic Development Administration
EDD doctor of education
EDP electronic data processing
EDT or **edt** Eastern Daylight Time
educ education; educational
EE Early English; Electrical Engineer
EEC European Economic Community
EEG electroencephalogram
EENT eye, ear, nose, and throat
EEO equal employment opportunity
EEOC Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
eff efficiency
EFT electronic funds transfer
Eg Egypt(ian)
e.g. for example (L *exempli gratia*)
Egypt Egyptian
EHF extremely high frequency
EHS Environmental Health Service
EKG electrocardiogram
el elevation
elec or **elect** electric; electrical; electrician; electricity
elem element; elementary
elev elevation
ELF extremely low frequency
EM enlisted man
emer emeritus
emf or **EMF** electromotive force
Emp Emperor; Empire; Empress
emu or **EMU** electromagnetic unit
enc or **encl** enclosed; enclosure
ency or **encyc** or **encycl** encyclopedia
ENE east-northeast
eng engine; engineer; engineering
Eng England; English
engr engineer; engraved; engraver; engraving
enl enlarge(d); enlisted
Ens or **ENS** Ensign
entom or **entomol** entomological; entomology
env envelope
EOM or **eom** end of the month
EP European Plan
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
Eph Ephesians
Episc Episcopal(ian)
EPROM erasable programmable read only memory
eq equal; equation
eq or **equiv** equivalent
equip equipment
Er erbium
ERA earned run average; Equal Rights Amendment
ERIC Educational Resources Information Center
erron erroneous(ly)
ERV English Revised Version (of the Bible)
Es einsteinium
Esd Esdras
ESE east-southeast
Esk Eskimo
ESL English as a second language
ESP extrasensory perception
esp especially
Esq or **Esqr** Esquire
EST or **est** Eastern Standard Time
est estate; estimate; estimated
est or **estab** established
Esth Esther
ET or **et** Eastern Time
ETA estimated time of arrival
et al and others (L *et alii*)
etc et cetera (L, and the rest, and so on)
ETD estimated time of departure
et seq and the following (L *et sequens*)
ETV educational television
ety or **etym** etymological; etymology
Eu europium
Eur Europe(an)
eV or **ev** electron volt
EVA extravehicular activity
evap evaporate
evg evening
EW enlisted woman
ex example; except(ed); exception; exchange; executive; express; extra
Ex Exodus
exam examination; examiner
exc excellent; except; exception; excursion
exch exchange; exchanged; exchequer
excl exclamation; excluding; exclusive
exec executive
exec or **exor** executor
Exod Exodus
exp expenses; expire; export; exporter; express
expt experiment
exptl experimental
expwy expressway
ext extension; exterior; external(ly); extinct; extra; extract
Ezech Ezechiel
Ezek Ezekiel

F Fahrenheit; false; February; fluorine; French; Friday
f/ f number
f focal length; folio; following (page, etc); forte; function
f or **F** family; farad; female; feminine; franc; frequency
FAA Federal Aviation Agency
fac facsimile; factor; factory; faculty
FADM Fleet Admiral
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
FAS Foreign Agricultural Service
FAS or **fas** free alongside ship
fasc fascicle
fath fathom
fb freight bill
FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCA Farm Credit Administration
FCC Federal Communications Commission
fcp foolscap
fcy fancy
FD Fire Department
FDA Food and Drug Administration
FDIC Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
FDPC Federal Data Processing Centers
Fe iron (L *ferrum*)
FEA Federal Energy Administration
Feb February
fec he (or she) made it (L *fecit*)
fed or **Fed** federal; federated; federation
fedn or **Fedn** federation
fem female; feminine
FEPC Fair Employment Practices Committee
FET Federal Excise Tax
ff folios; following (pages, etc); fortissimo
FHA Federal Housing Administration
FIC Federal Information Centers
FICA Federal Insurance Contribution Act
FIFO first in, first out
fig figurative(ly); figure
fin finance; financial; finish
Fin Finland
Fin or **Finn** Finnish
FIO free in and out
1st Lt First Lieutenant
FL Florida

fl floor; florin; flourished (L *floruit*); fluid
Fla Florida
fl dr fluid dram
Flem Flemish
fl oz fluid ounce
fm fathom
Fm fermium
FM or **fm** frequency modulation
fn footnote
FO field office; field order; Flight Officer; Foreign Office; forward observer
fo folio
FOB or **fob** free on board
fol folio
fol or **foll** following
for foreign; forester; forestry
FOR free on rails
FORTRAN Formula translator
FOS free on steamer
FOT free on truck
fp or **FP** foot-pound; freezing point
FPC Federal Power Commission
FPC or **fpc** fish protein concentrate
fpm feet per minute
FPO field post office; Fleet Post Office
fps feet per second
fps or **FPS** foot-pound-second
Fr Father; France; francium; French; Friar; Friday
fr fragment; franc; from
freq frequency; frequent(ly)
Fri Friday
front frontispiece
FRS Federal Reserve System; Fellow of the Royal Society
frt freight
frwy freeway
FSLIC Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation
ft feet; foot
ft² square foot
ft³ cubic foot
Ft Fort
FTC Federal Trade Commission
ft-lb foot-pound
fur furlong
fut future
fv on the back of the page (L *folio verso*, the page being turned)
fwd forward
FWD four-wheel drive
FY fiscal year
FYI for your information

g acceleration due to gravity; gauge; good; gram
G gauss; German
Ga gallium
ga gauge
GA General Agent; General Assembly; general average; General of the Army; Georgia
Gael Gaelic
Gal Galatians
gal gallon
galv galvanized
GAO General Accounting Office
gar garage
GAR Grand Army of the Republic
GATT General Accounting Office
GAW guaranteed annual wage
gaz gazette; gazetteer
GB Great Britain
GCA ground-controlled approach
GCD greatest common divisor
GCF greatest common factor
GCT or **Gct** Greenwich civil time
Gd gadolinium
gd good; guard
gds goods
Ge germanium
gen gender; genus
Gen General; Genesis
gen or **genit** genitive
gen or **genl** general
Gen AF General of the Air Force
geog geographer; geographic(al); geography
geol geologic(al); geology
geom geometric(al); geometry
Ger German; Germany
ger gerund
GeV billion electron volts
GHQ general headquarters
GHz gigahertz
GI galvanized iron; gastrointestinal; general issue; government issue
gi gill
GIGO garbage in, garbage out
Gk Greek
GLCM ground launched cruise missiles
GM General Manager; Grand Master; guided missile
gm gram
Gmc Germanic
GMT or **Gmt** Greenwich mean time
GNP gross national product
GO general order
GOP Grand Old Party (Republican Party)
Goth Gothic
Gov Governor
gov or **govt** government
GP general practitioner
gp group
GPO general post office; Government Printing Office
GQ general quarters
gr grade; grain; gram; gravity; gross; group
Gr Greece; Greek
grad graduate; graduated
gram grammar; grammatical
Gr Brit Great Britain
GRE Graduate Record Exam
gro gross
gr wt gross weight
GSA General Services Administration; Girl Scouts of America
gt a drop (L *gutta*); great
GT gross ton
Gt Brit Great Britain
gtd guaranteed
gtt drops (L *guttae*)
GU Guam
guar guaranteed
gyn gynecology
Gy Sgt Gunnery Sergeant

H henry; hydrogen
h or **H** harbor; hard; hardness; height; high; hit; hot; hour; humidity; husband
ha hectare
Hab Habakkuk
Hag Haggai
Hb hemoglobin
HBM Her (or His) Britannic Majesty
HC Holy Communion; House of Commons
h.c. with due respect (L *honoris causa*, for the sake of honor)
HCF highest common factor
HCL or **hcl** high cost of living
hd hand; head
HD or **hd** heavy duty
hdbk handbook
hdkf handkerchief
hdwe hardware
He helium
HE high explosive; His Eminence; His (or Her) Excellency

Heb or **Hebr** Hebrew; Hebrews
her heraldry
HEW Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
hex hexagon; hexagonal
Hf hafnium
hf half
HF high frequency
hg hectogram
HG High German
Hg mercury (L *hydrargyrum*, water silver)
hgt height
hgwy highway
HH Her (or His) Highness; His Holiness
hhd hogshead
HHFA Housing and Home Finance Agency
HI Hawaii
Hind Hindi; Hindustani
hist historian; historical; history
HJ here lies (L *hic jacet*)
hl hectoliter
HL House of Lords
hm hectometer
HM Her (or His) Majesty
HMS Her (or His) Majesty's Ship
HN head nurse
Ho holmium
hon or **Hon** honorable; honorary
HOPE Health Opportunity for People Everywhere
hor horizon; horizontal
horol horology
hort horticultural; horticulture
Hos Hosea
hosp hospital
HP or **hp** high pressure; horsepower
HQ headquarters
hr hour
HR House of Representatives
HRH Her (or His) Royal Highness
hrzn horizon
HS High School
HST hypersonic transport
HST or **Hst** Hawaiian Standard Time
ht height
HT high-tension; high tide
Hts Heights
HUD Department of Housing and Urban Development
Hung Hungarian; Hungary
HV or **hv** high velocity; high voltage
hvy heavy
hwy highway
hyp hypotenuse
hyp or **hypoth** hypothesis; hypothetical
Hz hertz

I iodine; island; Isle
Ia or **IA** Iowa
ibid or **ib** in the same place (L *ibidem*)
IC integrated circuit
ICBM intercontinental ballistic missile
ICC Interstate Commerce Commission
Ice or **Icel** Iceland(ic)
ICJ International Court of Justice
ICU intensive-care unit
ID Idaho; identification; inside diameter; the same (L *idem*)
Ida Idaho
IE Indo-European; Industrial Engineer
i.e. that is (L *id est*)
IF intermediate frequency
IG association; trust (G *interessengemeinschaft*)
IGY International Geophysical Year
IHP indicated horsepower
IHS symbol and monogram for Jesus, derived from the Greek IH (ΣΟΥ) Σ, Jesus
IL Illinois
ILGWU International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Ill Illinois
ill or **illus** or **illust** illustrated; illustration; illustrator
ILS instrument landing system
IMF International Monetary Fund
imit imitative
imp imperial; import(ed); important
imp or **imper** imperative
imp or **imperf** imperfect
in inch
IN Indiana
In indium
in² square inch
in³ cubic inch
inc increase
Inc or **inc** incorporated
incl including; inclusive
incog incognito
incr increase(d); increasing
ind independence; independent; index; industrial; industry
Ind Indian; Indiana
indic indicative
inf below (L *infra*); infantry; inferior; information
inf or **infin** infinitive
infl influence(d)
infra dig undignified (L *infra dignitatem*)
init initial
INP International News Photo
in pr in the beginning (L *in principio*)
INRI Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews (L *Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum*)
ins inches; insurance
insol insoluble
insp inspected; inspector
Insp Gen Inspector General
inst instant
Inst or **inst** institute; institution
instr instructor; instrument; instrumental
int interest; interior; internal; international; intransitive
inter intermediate; interrogation; interrogative
interj interjection
internat international
INTERPOL International Criminal Police Organization
interrog interrogative
intl or **intnl** international
intr or **intrans** intransitive
intro or **introd** introduction; introductory
inv invoice
I/O input/output
IOOF Independent Order of Odd Fellows
IOU I owe you
IP innings pitched
IPA International Phonetic Alphabet
ips inches per second
IQ intelligence quotient
iq the same as (L *idem quod*)
IR information retrieval
Ir iridium; Irish
IRA individual retirement account; Irish Republican Army
IRBM intermediate range ballistic missile
Ire Ireland
IRO International Refugee Organization
irreg irregular(ly)
IRS Internal Revenue Service
IS Intermediate School
Is or **is** or **Isl** or **isl** island; isle
Isa Isaiah
ISBN International Standard Book Number
Isr Israel(i)
ital italic(s); italicized
Ital or **It** Italian; Italy
ITU International Telecommunications Union; International Typographical Union
ITV instructional television

IUD intrauterine device
IV or **iv** intravenous
IWW Industrial Workers of the World

J jack; Journal; Judge; Justice
J or **j** joule
Ja January
JA joint account; Judge Advocate
JAG Judge Advocate General
Jam Jamaica
Jan January
Jap Japan(ese)
Jas James
JCC Junior Chamber of Commerce
JCL job control language
JCS Joint Chiefs of Staff
jct or **jctn** junction
JD Doctor of Jurisprudence (L *Juris Doctor*); Doctor of Laws (L *Jurum Doctor*); Justice Department; juvenile delinquent
JDL Jewish Defense League
Je June
Jer Jeremiah; Jeremias
jg junior grade
JHS Junior High School
Jl July
jnt joint
Jon Jonah
Josh Joshua
jour journal
JP jet propulsion; Justice of the Peace
Jr Journal
jr or **Jr** junior
JRC Junior Red Cross
Jth Judith
Judg Judges
Judge Adv Gen Judge Advocate General
Jul July
Jun June
jun or **Jun** junior
Junc or **junc** junction
juv juvenile
JV junior varsity

k karat; kilo; kilogram; kitchen; kosher
K Kelvin; kilobyte; kindergarten; king; knit; potassium (L *kalium*); strikeout; thousand (*kilo-*)
Kans Kansas
KB king's bishop
KBP king's bishop's pawn
KC Kansas City; King's Counsel; Knights of Columbus
kc kilocycle
kc/s kilocycles per second
KD kiln-dried; knocked down
kg kilogram
KGB (Soviet) Committee of State Security (Rus *Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti*)
kg m kilogram meter(s)
kHz kilohertz
KIA killed in action
KJV King James Version (of the Bible)
KKK Ku Klux Klan
KKt king's knight
KKtP king's knight's pawn
kl kiloliter
km kilometer
km² square kilometer
km³ cubic kilometer
km/hr kilometers per hour
KN king's knight
kn knot
KNP king's knight's pawn
Knt Knight
KO knockout
K of C Knights of Columbus
KP king's pawn; kitchen police
kPa kilopascal
KPH or **kph** kilometers per hour
KR king's rook
Kr krypton
KRP king's rook's pawn
KS Kansas
kt karat
Kt knight
kV or **kv** kilovolt
kW or **kw** kilowatt
kWh or **kwhr** or **KWH** kilowatt-hour
Ky or **KY** Kentucky

L large; latin; left; *Brit* pound (sterling)
l or **L** lake; latitude; left; length; line; liter
La lanthanum
LA Los Angeles
La or **LA** Louisiana
Lab Labrador
Lam Lamentations
lam laminated
lang Language
Lat Latin
lat latitude
LB Labrador
lb pound (L *libra*)
LC Library of Congress
lc lower case
L/C or **l/c** letter of credit
LCD liquid-crystal diode; least common denominator; lowest common denominator
LCDR Lieutenant Commander
LCL or **lcl** less than carload lot
LCM least common multiple; lowest common multiple
LD lethal dose
ld load
Ld Lord
ldg landing; loading
LDS Latter Day Saints
lect lecture; lecturer
LED light-emitting diode
leg legal; legato; legend
leg or **legis** legislation; legislative; legislature
LEM lunar excursion module
Lev Leviticus
lex lexicon
lf lightface
LF low frequency
lg long
LG Low German
lg or **lge** large
LGk Late Greek
LH or **lh** left hand; lower half
LHD Doctor of Humane Letters (L *Litterarum Humaniorum Doctor*)
Li lithium
LI Long Island
lib library
Lieut Lieutenant
LIFO last in, first out
lim limited
lin lineal; linear
ling linguistics
liq liquid; liquor
LISP list processing
lit literally
Lith Lithuanian
lith or **litho** or **lithog** lithograph; lithographic; lithography
LittD or **LitD** Doctor of Letters; Doctor of Literature (L *lit(t)erarum Doctor*)
Lk Luke
LL Late Latin
ll lines
LLB Bachelor of Laws (L *Legum Baccalaureus*)

LLD Doctor of Laws (L *Legum Doctor*)
LM Legion of Merit; long meter; lunar module
LNG liquefied natural gas
loc cit in the place cited (L *loco citato*)
log logarithm
Lond London
long or **lon** longitude
loq he (or she) speaks (L *loquitur*)
LP long-playing record
LP or **lp** low pressure
LPG liquefied petroleum gas
LPGA Ladies Professional Golfers' Association
LPN Licensed Practical Nurse
Lr lawrencium
LR living room
LS left side; letter signed; place of the seal (L *locus sigilli*)
LSAT Law School Admissions Test
LSD lysergic acid diethylamide
LSS life-support system
LST landing ship, tank
LST or **lst** local standard time
lt light
LT long ton; low-tension
Lt or **LT** Lieutenant
LT or **lt** local time
Lt Col or **LTC** Lieutenant Colonel
Lt Comdr or **Lt Com** or **LTC** Lieutenant Commander
Ltd or **ltd** limited
Lt Gen or **LTG** Lieutenant General
Lt Gov Lieutenant Governor
Lt (jg) or **LTJG** Lieutenant junior grade
LTL or **ltl** less than truckload
ltr letter
Lu lutetium
lv leave
LXX Septuagint
LZ landing zone

M Mach; mass; Medieval; medium; Monday; Monsieur; thousand (L *mille*)
m meter
m² square meter
m³ cubic meter
M or **m** male; married; masculine; mile; minim; minute; month; moon; noon (L *meridies*)
MA Massachusetts; Master of Arts (L *Magister Artium*)
Macc Maccabees
Mach Machabees
mach machine; machinery; machining; machinist
MADD Mothers Against Drunk Driving
mag magazine; magnetism; magneto; magnitude
Maj or **MAJ** Major
Maj Gen Major General
Mal Malachi
Man Manitoba (Canada)
man manual
manuf manufacture(r); manufacturing
Mar March
mar maritime; married
marg margin; marginal
masc masculine
MASH mobile army surgical hospital
Mass Massachusetts
math mathematical; mathematician; mathematics
Matt Matthew
max maximum
MB Manitoba (Canada)
MBA Master of Business Administration
MC Marine Corps; master of ceremonies; Medical Corps; Member of Congress
mc megacycle
MCAT Medical College Admissions Test
MCPO Master Chief Petty Officer
MD Doctor of Medicine (L *Medicinae Doctor*)
Md mendelevium
Md or **MD** Maryland
M/D or **MD** or **m/d** months after date
mdnt midnight
mdse merchandise
ME Mechanical Engineer; Medical Examiner; Middle English; Mining Engineer
Me or **ME** Maine
meas measure
mech mechanical; mechanics
med median; medical; medicine; medieval; medium
MEd Master of Education
meg megohm
mem member; memoir; memorial
mep mean effective pressure
meq milliequivalent
mer meridian
Messrs. pl of *Mr.*
met metropolitan
metall metallurgical; metallurgy
meteorol meteorological; meteorology
MeV or **Mev** or **mev** or **MEV** million electron volts
Mex Mexican; Mexico
MF medium frequency; Middle French
MFA Master of Fine Arts
mfd manufactured
mfg manufacturing
mfr manufacture(r)
MG machine gun; Major General; military government
Mg magnesium
mg milligram
Mgr Manager; Monseigneur; Monsignor
mgt management
MHG Middle High German
MHz megahertz
MI Michigan; Military Intelligence
mi mile; mill
mi² square mile
MIA missing in action
Mic Micah
Mich Micheas; Michigan
MICR magnetic ink character
mid middle
mil military
min minim; minimum; mining; minister; minor; minute
Minn Minnesota
MIRV multiple independently targeted reentry vehicle
misc miscellaneous; miscellany
Miss Mississippi
mixt mixture
mk mark
Mk Mark
mks or **MKS** meter-kilogram-second
mkt market
mktg marketing
ML Medieval (or Middle) Latin
ml or **mL** milliliter
MLD minimum lethal dose
Mlle Mademoiselle
MM Maelzel's metronome (tempo indication); Messieurs (pl of *Monsieur*)
mm millimeter; necessary changes being made (L *mutatis mutandis*)
mm² square millimeter
mm³ cubic millimeter
Mme Madame
Mn manganese
MN Minnesota
Mo molybdenum; Monday
mo mouth
MO or **mo** mail order; Medical Officer; modus operandi; money order
Mo or **MO** Missouri

mod moderate; modern
mod or **modif** modification; modified
Mod E Modern English
modem modulator demodulator
mol molecular; molecule
MOM or **mom** middle of month
Mon Monday; Monsignor
Mont Montana
mp melting point
MP Member of Parliament; Metropolitan Police; Military Police(man); Mounted Police
MPG or **mpg** miles per gallon
MPH or **mph** miles per hour
Mr March
Mr. title prefixed to a man's surname (contraction of *Mister*)
Mrs. title prefixed to a married woman's surname (contraction of *Mistress*)
MS Master of Science; Mississippi; motor ship; multiple sclerosis
Ms. title prefixed to a woman's name regardless of her marital status
MS or **Ms** or **ms** manuscript
msec millisecond
msg message
MSG monosodium glutamate
Msgr Monseigneur; Monsignor
M Sgt or **M/Sgt** Master Sergeant
msl or **MSL** mean sea level
MST or **mst** Mountain Standard Time
MT Masoretic Time; metric ton; Montana
Mt or **mt** mount; mountain
MT or **mt** Mountain Time
mtg meeting
mtg or **mtge** mortgage
Mt Rev Most Reverend
mun or **munic** municipal
mus museum; music; musical; musician
MV motor vehicle
MVP most valuable player
MX missile experimental
My May
MYBP million years before the present
myth mythological; mythology

n born (L *natus*); neutron
N knight; Navy; New; Newton; nitrogen; normal (solution); Norse; north(ern); November
n or **N** name; net; neuter; nominative; noon; note; noun; number
NA National Association; North America; not applicable; not available
n/a no account
Na sodium (L *natrium*)
NAACP National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NAB National Association of Broadcasters
Nah Nahum
NAM National Association of Manufacturers
NAS National Academy of Sciences; Naval Air Station
NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASL North American Soccer League
nat native; natural
nat or **natl** national
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
naut nautical
nav naval; navigable; navigation
NB New Brunswick (Canada)
Nb niobium
NB or **nb** note well (L *nota bene*)
NBA National Basketball Association; National Boxing Association
NBC National Broadcasting Company
NBS National Bureau of Standards
N by E north by east
N by W north by west
NC North Carolina
N/C or **NC** no charge; no credit
NCAA National Collegiate Athletic Association
NCO noncommissioned officer
NCTE National Council of Teachers of English
NCV no commercial value
Nd neodymium
nd no date
ND or **NDak** North Dakota
NDEA National Defense Education Act
NE Nebraska; New England; northeast(ern)
Ne neon
NEA National Education Association
NEB New English Bible
Nebr Nebraska
NE by N northeast by north
NE by E northeast by east
neg negative
Neh Nehemiah
NEI or **nei** not elsewhere included
NES or **nes** not elsewhere specified
NET National Educational Television
Neth Netherlands
Neurol neurology
neut neuter
Nev Nevada
NF National Formulary; Newfoundland (Canada); Norman French
NF or **nf** no funds
NFC National Football Conference
NFL National Football League
Nfld Newfoundland (Canada)
NG National Guard
NG or **ng** no good
NGC New General Catalog (of Astronomy)
NGk New Greek
NH New Hampshire
NHI National Health Insurance
NHL National Hockey League
NHS National Health Service
Ni nickel
nick nickname
NIH National Institutes of Health
NJ New Jersey
nl it is not permitted (L *non licet*)
NL National League; New Latin
NLRB National Labor Relations Board
nm nautical mile
N/M no mark; not marked
NM or **NMex** New Mexico
NMI no middle initial
NNE north-northeast
NNW north-northwest
No nobelium
No or **no** north(ern); number (L *numbero*)
nom nominative
non obs not withstanding (L *non obstante*)
non seq it does not follow (L *non sequitur*)
Nor or **Norw** Norway; Norwegian
NORAD North American Air Defense Command
NOS or **nos** not otherwise specified
nos or **Nos** numbers
Nov November
NOW National Organization of Women; negotiable order of withdrawal
Np neptunium
np no pagination; no place (of publication)
NP notary public
NPN nonprotein nitrogen
NRA National Recovery Administration; National Rifle Association
NRC Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ns nanosecond
NS new style; Nova Scotia (Canada); nuclear ship

NS or **ns** new series; not specified
NSC National Security Council
nsec nanosecond
NSF National Science Foundation; not sufficient funds
NT New Testament; Northwest Territories (Canada)
NTP normal temperature and pressure
nt wt or **n wt** net weight
NU or **nu** name unknown
Num Numbers
num numeral
numis numismatic
NV Nevada
NW northwest(ern)
NW by N northwest by north
NW by W northwest by west
NWT Northwest Territories (Canada)
NY New York
NYC New York City
NZ New Zealand

O Ocean; October; Ohio; Old; order; oxygen
o/a on or about
OAS Organization of American States
OAU Organization of African Unity
ob dies (L *obiit*); incidentally (L *obiter*)
OB obstetrician; obstetrics
Ob or **Obad** Obadiah
OBE Officer of the Order of the British Empire
obj object(ive)
obl oblique; oblong
obs obsolete
OCAS Organization of Central American States
occ occupation
occas occasional(ly)
OCD Office of Civil Defense
OCR optical character recognition
OCS Officer Candidate School
Oct October
OD Doctor of Optometry
OD Officer of the Day; olive drab; overdraft; overdrawn; right eye (L *oculus dexter*)
od or **OD** outside diameter
OE Old English
OECD Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development
OED Oxford English Dictionary
OEO Office of Economic Opportunity
OEP Office of Emergency Preparedness
OES Order of the Eastern Star
off office; officer; official
OFM Order of Friars Minor
OFM Cap Order of Friars Minor Capuchin
OFr or **OF** Old French
og or **OG** original gum
OH Ohio
OHG Old High German
OJT on-the-job training
Okla or **OK** Oklahoma
OL left eye (L *oculus laevus*)
OMB Office of Management and Budget
ON Old Norse
Ont or **ON** Ontario (Canada)
Op or **op** opus
OP observation post; Order of Preachers
OP or **op** out of print
op cit in the work cited (L *opere citato*)
OPEC Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
opp opposite
opt optical; optician; optics; optional
OR operating room; Oregon
OR or **or** owner's risk
orch orchestra
ord order; ordnance
Ord Sgt Ordnance Sergeant
Ore or **Oreg** Oregon
org organic; organization; organized
orig origin; original(ly)
ornith ornithology
orth orthopedic; orthopedics
ORV off-the-road vehicle
OS left eye (L *oculus sinister*); Old Saxon; Old Style; ordinary seaman
os old series
Os osmium
o/s or **OS** out of stock
OSF Order of St Francis
OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OT Old Testament; overtime
OTB off-track betting
OTC over-the-counter
OTS Officers' Training School
oz ounce
oz ap ounce apothecaries'
oz av ounce avoirdupois

p page; participle; past; pence; penny; per; peseta; peso; pint; pitcher; population; pressure; proton
P pawn; phosphorus; purl; President
PA Parents Association; power of attorney; press agent; private account; public address (system); purchasing agent
Pa Pascal; protactinium
pa per annum
Pa or **PA** Pennsylvania
Pac Pacific
PAC political action committee
paleon paleontology
pam pamphlet
Pan Panama
P and L or **P & L** profit and loss
par paragraph; parallel; parish
paren parenthesis
Parl Parliament(ary)
part participial; participle; particular
pass passenger; passive; throughout (L *passim*)
pat patent(ed)
path or **pathol** pathological; pathology
pat pend patent pending
payt payment
Pb lead (L *plumbum*)
PBA Patrolmen's Benevolent Association; Permanent Budget Account; Professional Bowling Association
PBS private branch (telephone) exchange; Public Broadcasting Service
pc after meals (L *post cibum*); parsec; percent(age); petty cash; postal card
PC Peace Corps
PCB polychlorinated biphenyl
PCP phencyclidine
pct percent
pd paid; per diem; potential difference
Pd palladium
PD Police Department
PDT or **pdt** Pacific Daylight Time
PE physical education; Prince Edward Island (Canada); Professional Engineer; Protestant Episcopal
PE or **pe** printer's error
PEI Prince Edward Island (Canada)
PEN International Association of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, and Novelists
Pen or **pen** peninsula
Penn or **Penna** Pennsylvania
per period; person
Per Persia(n)
perf perfect; perforated
perh perhaps
perm permanent
perp perpendicular
Pers Persia(n)
pers person; personal
pert pertaining

Pet Peter
pet petroleum
pf pfennig
pf or **pfd** preferred
Pfc or **PFC** Private, first class
pg page
PG postgraduate
PGA Professional Golfers' Association
pharm pharmaceutical; pharmacist; pharmacy
PhB Bachelor of Philosophy (L *Philosophiae Baccalaureus*)
PhD Doctor of Philosophy (L *Philosophiae Doctor*)
Phil Philippians
phil or **philol** philological; philology
phil or **philos** philosophical; philosopher; philosophy
Philem Philemon
phon or **phonet** phonetics
photog photographer; photographic; photography
phr phrase
PHS Public Health Service
phys physical; physician; physicist; physics
physiol physiological; physiologist; physiology
pinx he (or she) painted it (L *pinxit*)
pk pack; park; peak; peck; pike
pkg package
pkt packet; pocket
pkwy parkway
pl plate; plural
Pl or **pl** place
PLO Palestine Liberation Organization
PM Paymaster; Police Magistrate; Postmaster; post-mortem; Prime Minister; Provost Marshal
pm premium
Pm promethium
PM or **pm** afternoon (L *post meridiem*)
pmk postmark
pmt payment
P/N or **pn** promissory note
pnxt he (or she) painted it (L *pinxit*)
PO petty officer; postal order; post office
Po polonium
POB post office box
POC port of call
POD pay on delivery; port of debarkation
POE port of embarkation; port of entry
Pol Poland; Polish
pol or **polit** political; politician; politics
POP point of purchase
pop population
POR or **por** pay on return
Port Portugal; Portuguese
POS point of sale
pos position; positive
poss possession; possessive; possible; possibly
pot potential
POW prisoner of war
pp pages; past participle; pianissimo
PP parcel post
ppd or **PP** postpaid; prepaid
ppm part per million
ppr or **p pr** present participle
PPS or **pps** additional postscript (L *post postscriptum*)
ppt precipitate
pptn precipitation
PQ Province of Québec (Canada)
pr pair; present; price; printed; pronoun
PR payroll; proportional representation; public relations; Puerto Rico
Pr praseodymium
prec preceded; preceding
pred predicate
pref preface; preference; preferred; prefix
prelim preliminary
prem premium
prep preparatory; preposition
pres present
Pres President
prev previous(ly)
prim primary; primitive
prin principal; principle
print printing
prn when needed (L *pro re nata*)
prob probable; probably; problem
proc procedure; proceedings
prod produce; produced; producer; product; production
Prof Professor
PROM programmable read-only memory
pron pronoun; pronounced; pronunciation
prop property; proposition; proprietary; proprietor
pros prosody
Prot Protestant
pro tem for the time being (L *pro tempore*)
Prov Proverbs
prov province; provincial; provisional; provost
prox in the next month (L *proximo mensa*)
ps picosecond
PS Public School
PS or **ps** postscript
Ps or **Psa** or **Pss** Psalm; Psalms
PSAT Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test
pseud pseudonym
psf pounds per square foot
psi pounds per square inch
PST or **pst** Pacific Standard Time
psych or **psychol** psychologist; psychology
pt part; payment; pint; point; port
Pt platinum
PT or **pt** Pacific Time
PTA Parent-Teachers Association
Pte *Brit* Private
ptg printing
PTO please turn over (a page)
PTV public television
pty proprietary
Pu plutonium
pub public; publication; published; publisher; publishing
PVC polyvinyl chloride
Pvt or **PVT** Private
PW prisoner of war
pwt pennyweight
PX post exchange

q quart; quire
Q queen
Q or **q** quarto; question
QB Queen's Bench; queen's bishop
QBP queen's bishop's pawn
QC Queen's Counsel
QED which was to be demonstrated (L *quod erat demonstrandum*)
qid four times a day (L *quater in die*)
QKt queen's knight
QKtP queen's knight's pawn
QM Quartermaster
QMC Quartermaster Corps
QMG or **QM Gen** Quartermaster General
QMS or **QM Sgt** Quartermaster Sergeant
QN queen's knight
QNP queen's knight's pawn
QP queen's pawn
qqv which (things) see (L *quae vide*)
qr quarter; quire
QR queen's rook
QRP queen's rook's pawn
qt quart
qt or **qty** quantity
qto quarto
qu question
quad quadrangle; quadrant
quart quarterly

Que Québec (Canada)
ques question
quot quotation
qv which see (L *quod vide*)
qy query

R King (L *rex*); Queen (L *regina*); Railroad; Railway; reigned; Republican; River; rook
r ruble; rupee
R or **r** radius; rare; right; run
r or **R** resistance; roentgen
Ra radium
RA Regular Army; Royal Academy
RAAF Royal Australian Air Force
rad radical; radio; radius
RADM Rear Admiral
RAF Royal Air Force
RAM random access memory
R and B or **R&B** rhythm and blues
R and D or **R&D** research and development
R and R or **R&R** rest and recreation; rest and recuperation
Rb rubidium
RBC red blood cell; red blood count
RBI run(s) batted in
RC Red Cross; Roman Catholic
RCAF Royal Canadian Air Force
RCCh Roman Catholic Church
rcd received; record
RCMP Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RCN Royal Canadian Navy
rct recruit
rd rod; round
RD rural delivery
Rd or **rd** road
Rdm Radarman
Re rhenium
REA Railway Express Agency; Rural Electrification Administration
Rear Adm Rear Admiral
rec receipt; record; recorder; recording; recreation
recd or **rec'd** received
recip reciprocal; reciprocity
Rec Sec Recording Secretary
rect receipt; rectangle; rectangular; rectified; rector; rectory
ref referee; reference; referred; refining; reformation; reformed; refund; refunding
refl reflective; reflex; reflexive
refr refraction
refrig refrigeration; refrigerator
Reg Regent; Registrar
reg region; register; registry; regular(ly); regulation
reg or **regd** registered
Reg or **Regt** Regiment
REIT real-estate investment trust
rel relating; relative; released
rel or **relig** religion
rep repair; repeat; report(ed); reporter; representative; republic
Rep Representative; Republic; Republican
repl replace(ment)
repr reprint(ed)
rept report
req request; require(d); requisition
res research; reserve(d); residence; resigned; resolution
resp respective(ly)
retd retained; retired; returned
Rev Revelation; Reverend
rev revenue; reverse; review; reviewed; revise(d); revision; revolution
RF radio frequency
RFD rural free delivery
RH relative humidity
Rh rhodium
RH or **rh** right hand
rhet rhetoric; rhetorical
Rh factor Rhesus factor
RI Rhode Island
RIP may he (or she) rest in peace (L *requiescat in pace*)
Riv or **riv** river
rm ream; room
Rn radon
RN registered nurse
RNA ribonucleic acid
rnd round
ROG receipt of goods
ROI return on investment
rom roman (type)
Rom Roman; romance; Romania(n); Romans
ROM Read Only Memory
ROTC Reserve Officers' Training Corps
rpm revolutions per minute
rps revolutions per second
rpt repeat; report
RR railroad; rural route
RS Recording Secretary; Revised Statutes; right side; Royal Society
RSV Revised Standard Version (of the Bible)
RSVP or **rsvp** please reply (F *répondez s'il vous plaît*)
RSWC right side up with care
RT radiotelephone
rt right
rte route
Rt Rev Right Reverend
Ru ruthenium
Rum Rumania(n)
Rus Russia(n)
RV recreational vehicle; Revised Version (of the Bible)
RW Right Worshipful; Right Worthy
Rwy or **Ry** Railway

S Saint; Saturday; School; Sea; Senate; September; small; South(ern); sulfur; Sunday
s scruple; second; section; series; shilling; signed; singular; son; stere(s); substantive
SA Salvation Army; seaman apprentice; sex appeal; Sociedad Anonima; Société Anonyme; South Africa
Sa Saturday
sa subject to approval; without year (or date) (L *sine anno*)
SAC Strategic Air Command
SADD Students Against Driving Drunk
SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SAM surface-to-air missile
Sam or **Saml** Samuel
S and L or **S&L** Savings and Loan (Association)
S and M or **S&M** sadism and masochism; sadist and masochist
sanit sanitary; sanitation
Sask Saskatchewan (Canada)
sat saturate(d); saturation
Sat Saturday
SAT Scholastic Aptitude Test
Sb antimony (L *stibium*)
SB Bachelor of Science (L *Scientiae Baccalaureus*)
sb substantive
SBA Small Business Administration
S by E south by east
S by W south by west
sc namely (L *scilicet*); scale; scene; science; small capitals
Sc scandium; Scots
SC South Carolina
Scand Scandinavia(n)
sch school
sci science; scientific
scil namely (L *scilicet*)
SCLC Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Scot Scotland; Scottish
SCPO Senior Chief Petty Officer
Script Scriptural; Scripture

SD special delivery; standard deviation
sd without setting a day (L *sine die*, without a day)
SD or **SDak** South Dakota
SDA Students for Democratic Action
SDS Students for a Democratic Society
Se selenium
SE southeast(ern)
SEATO Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
SE by E southeast by east
SE by S southeast by south
sec according to (L *secundum*); second; secondary; sector
SEC Securities and Exchange Commission
sec or **sect** section
Sec or **sec** or **Secy** or **secy** secretary
sel select(ed); selection
sem seminary
Sen or **sen** senate; senator; senior
sep separate(d)
sepn separation
Sept or **Sep** September
seq the following (one) (L *sequens*)
seqq the following (ones) (L *sequentia*)
ser serial; series; sermon
Serg or **Sergt** Sergeant
serv service
SF or **sf** science fiction
Sfc or **SFC** Sergeant First Class
SG Secretary General; senior grade; Solicitor General; Surgeon General
sgd signed
Sgt or **SGT** Sergeant
Sgt Maj Sergeant Major
sh share; sheet
SHAPE Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers (Europe)
SHF superhigh frequency
shpt shipment
shr share
sht sheet
shtg shortage
SI International System of Units (F *Système International d'Unités*); Staten Island
Si silicon
SIDS sudden infant death syndrome
sig signal; signature
sin sine
sing singular
SJ Society of Jesus
SJD Doctor of Juridical Science (L *Scientiae Juridicae Doctor*)
SK Saskatchewan (Canada)
Skt Sanskrit
SL salvage loss
sl without place (L *sine loco*)
Slav Slavic
SLCM sea launched cruise missiles
sld sailed; sealed
SM Master of Science (L *Scientiae Magister*); Society of Mary
Sm samarium
sm small
SMaj or **SM** Sergeant Major
SMSgt Senior Master Sergeant
Sn tin (L *stannum*)
SO or **so** seller's option; strikeout
So or **so** south(ern)
soc social; socialist; society
sociol sociological; sociology
Sol solicitor; Solomon
sol soluble
sol or **soln** solution
Song Song of Solomon
SOP standard operating procedure; standing operating procedure
soph sophomore
SP Shore Patrol; Specialist
Sp Spain
sp special; species; specimen; spelling; spirit; without offspring (L *sine prole*)
Sp or **Span** Spanish
SPCA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SPCC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
spec special; specifically; specification
specif specific(ally)
sp gr specific gravity
spp species (pl)
Sq or **sq** squadron; square
sq km square kilometer(s)
sq mi square mile(s)
SR Seaman Recruit; shipping receipt
Sr Senior; Sister; strontium
SRO standing room only
SS Saints; steamship; Sunday School; sworn statement
SSA Social Security Administration
SSE south-southeast
SSG or **SSgt** or **S Sgt** Staff Sergeant
ssp subspecies
SSR Soviet Socialist Republic
SSS Selective Service System
SST supersonic transport
SSW south-southwest
St Saint; State; Strait; Street
st short ton; stanza; statute; stitch; stone
sta station; stationary
stat immediately (L *statim*); statute
STB Bachelor of Sacred Theology (L *Sacrae Theological Baccalaureus*)
stbd starboard
STD Doctor of Sacred Theology (L *Sacrae Theologiae Doctor*)
std standard
Ste Saint (F *sainte*)
ster or **stg** sterling
STOL short takeoff and landing
STP standard temperature and pressure
stud student
Su Sunday
sub subscription; subtract; suburb(an); subway
subj subject; subjunctive
suf or **suff** suffix
suff sufficient
Sun Sunday
sup supra (L, above)
sup or **super** superior
sup or **superl** superlative
supp or **suppl** supplement(ary)
Supt or **supt** superintendent
supvr supervisor
surg surgeon; surgery; surgical
Surg Gen Surgeon General
surv survey; surveying; surveyor
sv under the word (L *sub verbo* or *sub voce*)
svc or **svce** service
svgs savings
SW shipper's weight; shortwave; southwest(ern)
Sw or **Swed** Sweden; Swedish
SW by S southwest by south
SW by W southwest by west
Switz Switzerland
syl or **syll** syllable; syllabus
sym symbol; symmetrical
syn synonym; synonymous; synonymy
synd syndicate(d)
syr Syriac
syst system

T tablespoon; Territory; Testament; time; Township; transit; true; Tuesday
t teaspoon; temperature; tense; ton; transitive; troy
Ta tantalum
TA transactional analysis

TAC Tactical Air Command
TAG The Adjutant General
tan tangent
Tb terbium
TB tuberculosis
TB or **tb** trial balance
TBA to be announced
tbs or **tbsp** or **tb** tablespoon
TC Teachers College
Tc technetium
TD touchdown; Treasury Department
TDY temporary duty
Te tellurium
tech technical(ly); technician; technological; technology
tel telegram; telegraph; telephone
teleg telegraphy
temp in the time of (L *tempore*); temperature; temporary
ten tenor
Tenn Tennessee
Ter or **ter** terrace
ter or **terr** territorial; territory
TESL teaching English as a second language
Test Testament
test testator; testimony
Teut Teuton(ic)
Tex Texas
Th thorium; Thursday
THC tetrahydrocannabinol
ThD Doctor of Theology (L *Theologiae Doctor*)
theat theatrical
theol theologian; theological; theology
therm thermometer
Thess Thessalonians
Thurs or **Thur** or **Thu** Thursday
Ti titanium
tid three times a day (L *ter in die*)
Tim Timothy
Tit Titus
tk tank; truck
TKO technical knockout
Tl thallium
TL or **tl** total loss; truck load
TLC tender loving care
Tm thulium
TM trademark; transcendental meditation
TMO telegraph money order
TN Tennessee
tn ton; town; train
tng training
tnpk turnpike
TNT trinitrotoluene
TO telegraph office
TO or **to** turn over
Tob Tobias; Tobit
topog topographical; topography
tot total
Tp or **tp** township
tp title page
tpk or **tpke** turnpike
tr transitive; translated; translation; translator; transpose; transposition; treasurer; troop; trustee
trans transaction; transitive; translated; translation; translator; transportation; transverse
transl translated; translation
transp transportation
Treas or **treas** treasurer; treasury
trib tributary
trop tropic(al)
TSgt Technical Sergeant
tsp teaspoon
Tues or **Tue** or **Tu** Tuesday
Turk Turkey; Turkish
TV television
TVA Tennessee Valley Authority
Twp or **twp** township
TWX teletypewriter exchange
TX Texas
typ or **typo** or **typog** typographer; typographical; typography

U union; unit; university; unsatisfactory; upper; uranium
UAR United Arab Republic
UAW United Automobile Workers
uc upper case
UFO unidentified flying object
UH or **uh** upper half
UHF ultrahigh frequency
UK United Kingdom
Ukr Ukrainian
UL Underwriters' Laboratories
ult ultimate(ly)
ult or **ulto** last month (L *ultimo mense*)
UMT universal military training
UMTS Universal Military Training Service
UMW United Mine Workers
UN United Nations
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund (original name, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)
uninc unincorporated
univ universal
Univ or **univ** university
UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UPC universal product code
UPI United Press International
UPS United Parcel Service
us as above (L *ut supra*); where mentioned above (L *ubi supra*)
US United States
USA United States Army; United States of America
USAF United States Air Force
USAREUR United States Army, Europe
USCG United States Coast Guard
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
USES United States Employment Service
USIA United State Information Agency
USLTA United States Lawn Tennis Association
USM United States Mail
USMC United States Marine Corps
USN United States Navy
USO United Service Organizations
USP United States Pharmacopeia
USS United States Ship
USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
USTA United States Tennis Association
usu usual(ly)
UT universal time; Utah
ut sup as above (L *ut supra*)
UV ultraviolet
UW or **U/W** underwriter
ux wife (L *uxor*)

V vanadium; vector; victory; volt
v velocity; verb; verse; version; versus; vide (L, see); voice; voltage; volume; vowel
VA Veterans Administration; Vice Admiral
Va or **VA** Virginia
VADM Vice Admiral
val valuation; value; valued
var variable; variant; variation; variety
VAT value added tax
vb verb
VC Vice-Chancellor; Vice-Consul; Vietcong
VCR videocassette recorder
VD venereal disease
Ved Vedic
vel vellum; velocity
Ven Venerable
ver verse; version

vert vertical
VF video frequency; visual field; voice frequency
VFD volunteer fire department
VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars
VG very good; Vicar General
VHF very high frequency
vi see below (L *vide infra*); verb intransitive
VI Virgin Islands; volume indicator
Vic Vicar; Victoria
vic vicinity
Vice Adm Vice Admiral
Vice Pres Vice President
vil village
VIP very important person
vis visibility; visual
VISTA Volunteers in Service to America
viz namely (L *videlicet*)
VL Vulgar Latin
VLF very low frequency
VOA Voice of America
voc or **vocat** vocative
vocab vocabulary
vol volume; volunteer
vou voucher
VP verb phrase; Vice-President
vs see above (L *vide supra*); verse; versus
vss verses; versions
V/STOL vertical short takeoff and landing
vt verb transitive
Vt or **VT** Vermont
VTOL vertical takeoff and landing
VTR video tape recorder; video tape recording
Vulg or **Vul** Vulgate
vv verses; vice versa

W tungsten (G *wolfram*); water; watt; Wednesday; week; weight; Welsh; west(ern); wide; width; wife; with
w/ with
WA Washington
WAC Women's Army Corps
WAF Women in the Air Force
war warrant
Wash Washington
WATS Wide Area Telecommunications Service
WAVE Women in the United States Navy (original name, Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)
W/B or **WB** waybill
WBA World Boxing Association
WBC white blood cell; World Boxing Council
W by N west by north
W by S west by south
WC or **wc** water closet; without charge
WCTU Women's Christian Temperance Union
Wed Wednesday
wh which
WHA World Hockey Association
whf wharf
WHO World Health Organization
whse or **whs** warehouse
whsle wholesale
WI West Indies; Wisconsin
wi when issued
wid widow; widower
Wis or **Wisc** Wisconsin
Wisd Wisdom
wk week; work
wkly weekly
WL water line; wavelength
wmk watermark
WMO World Meteorological Organization
WNW west-northwest
WO Warrant Officer
w/o without
WP word processing
WPM or **wpm** words per minute
wpn weapon
wrnt warrant
WSW west-southwest
wt weight
WVa or **WV** West Virginia
WW World War
Wyo or **WY** Wyoming

X Christ; Christian
x or **X** experimental; extra; times
X-C cross-country
xd or **XD** or **xdiv** without dividend
Xe xenon
xi or **XI** or **xin** or **xint** without interest
XL extra large
Xmas Christmas
Xn or **Xtian** Christian
Xnty or **Xty** Christianity
x-ref cross-reference

y yard; year; yen
Y yttrium
YB yearbook
Yb ytterbium
yd yard
yd² square yard
yd³ cubic yard
YMCA Young Men's Christian Association
YMHA Young Men's Hebrew Association
YOB year of birth
yr year; your
yrbk yearbook
yrs years; yours
YT Yukon Territory (Canada)
YTD year to date
YWCA Young Women's Christian Association
YWHA Young Women's Hebrew Association

Z atomic number; zenith distance
z or **Z** zero; zone
Zach Zacharias
Zech Zechariah
Zeph Zephaniah
Zn zinc
zool zoological; zoology
ZPG zero population growth
Zr zirconium